

A Special Supplement to Siuslaw News

Careers & Employment

FLORENCE COMMUNITY JOB FAIR

JOB FAIR WEATHER

Spring the perfect season for Three River Casino Resort's Community Job Fair



COURTESY PHOTOS

2016's inaugural Community Job Fair featured local and regional businesses offering applications for available jobs in healthcare, service industries, school districts, offices, youth opportunities and more.

BY CHANTELE MEYER
Siuslaw News

Three Rivers Casino Resort is bringing back its highly successful Community Job Fair from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. this Thursday, March 23, at its event center at 5647 Highway 126 in Florence. The event is free and open to the public.

Last year, 28 businesses and community partners participated, with attendees coming in from both Washington and Oregon. People interacted with businesses, left resumes and formed connections.

"This year I am pleased to announce that we will have 34 vendors participating from all areas of work force in the community, and something of interest for job seekers of all ages," said event organizer Pam Hickson, recruitment specialist for Three Rivers Casino Resort and the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians (CTCLUSI).

The event will offer resources for guidance into a new career.

Participants will have access to numerous local employers all in one convenient place. The job fair will also feature on-hand assistance to job seekers provided by Worksource Lane and its

Employment Department.

"Local businesses and applicants both know the challenges when applying for jobs and locating resources as well. The Community Job Fair brings all those parties and resources together to form a network in our local community. It's a 'one-stop shopping' event that is free and open to the public — and a great opportunity to meet one-on-one with locals who are currently hiring and actively recruiting for the upcoming season," Hickson said.

The Community Job Fair will also feature networking opportunities and resources. Tables from various local and regional employers will showcase jobs in healthcare, service industries, school districts, offices, youth opportunities and more.

"Come prepared for people who are actively hiring," Hickson said.

Job seekers of all ages and stages of life are welcome at the fair.

There will be several computers available on a first come, first served basis for completing online applications, as well as a table where applicants can complete paper applications. Serious applicants can prepare for the event as though it is an interview, with a prepared resumé and cover letter, as well as professional attire for a

good first impression.

For more information, contact Hickson at 541-902-6504 or stop by the event.

Representatives will be from these agencies:

- Avon By Kym • Berkshire Hathaway Home Services NW Real Estate • Bi-Mart Corporation • City of Florence • Driftwood Shores Resort • Elderberry Square • Florence Area Community Coalition • Fred Meyer • Heceta Head Lighthouse Bed & Breakfast/Ona Restaurant & Lounge • Johnston Motor Company • Lane Community College • Lane County Government • Les Schwab Tire Center • New Horizons In-Home Care • NW Youth Corps • Oregon Department of Transportation • Oregon Home Care Commission • Oregon National Guard • Oregon Pacific Bank • Oregon State Police • PeaceHealth Peace Harbor Medical Center • Regency Florence • Safeway • Shangri-La • Shorewood Senior Living • Siuslaw News • Siuslaw School District • Siuslaw Valley Fire & Rescue • Spruce Point Assisted Living & Memory Care • Three Rivers Casino Resort & CTCLUSI • Two Rivers Community Development — Native Procurement Technical Assistance Center • U.S. Coast Guard • Western Lane Ambulance District • Worksource Lane & Partners.

Part-time jobs for retirees

Upon retiring, many newly minted retirees find themselves looking for ways to fill their free time. Hobbies may not take up too much time, and travel can stretch retirees' budgets.

One way to make great use of free time and make a little extra money is to find part-time employment. Part-time jobs can help retirees maintain their connections with their communities, whether it's their professional community or the community in which they live, while also providing a sense of purpose. Retirees interested in finding part-time work may want to consider the following jobs.

• Consulting work: Many retirees have long résumés, and that experience is still valuable even after retirement. Consulting firms often hire experienced business people on a project or contract basis, which can be great opportunities for retirees to fill their time and make sizable amounts of money without having to commit to long-term employment.

• Teaching: Retirees can also put their professional experience to work in the classroom. Inquire about teaching opportunities at a nearby university or even the local high school. Such opportunities may only be available on a volunteer basis, but some might pay part-time salaries or small stipends. Either way, many retirees find that working with young people helps them stay young, and passing on lessons learned to younger generations can provide a strong sense of purpose.

• Seasonal work: Seasonal work is another great way for retirees to fill their time and make a little extra money along the way. Come the holiday season, retirees should have no trouble finding seasonal retail work at their local malls or shopping centers. In warmer months, retirees may find seasonal employment at area beaches, golf courses or parks.

• Sports teams: Retirees who live in cities with professional sports teams may be able to find work with their favorite franchise. Professional sports franchises often rely on retirees to staff in-game positions like ushers and concessions employees, and some may even hire retirees to greet fans. While the pay might not be great, such positions are ideal for retirees who happen to be big sports fans.

• Crafts: Retirees with a love of crafting can turn their hobby into income. For example, Etsy.com makes it easy for creative entrepreneurs to post their creations and sell them to buyers all over the globe. Sellers often dictate how quickly they can make and ship products, so retirees need not feel worried about being rushed.

• Encore entrepreneurs: partnering with local economic development initiatives such as Oregon RAIN (Regional Accelerator and Innovation Network) can allow people to mentor new businesses or create their own.

Many retirees still work even after calling it a career, and opportunities abound for men and women looking to fill their time and make a little extra money along the way. — Metro

LAND THAT FIRST JOB

There is a good hiring market for new grads, but members of recent high school and college graduating classes should still expect a competitive job market in which companies can afford to be patient as they attempt to find the best possible candidate for each opening.

Oftentimes the best candidate, especially for entry-level positions, is the one who combines some experience with a willingness to learn and do whatever it takes to help a company succeed. Many candidates boast such experience and enthusiasm, but there are some additional steps new graduates can take to improve their chances of landing their first jobs out of college.

Gain some relevant experience

While college is the best time to gain some experience that's relevant to your field, that does not mean you can't still earn an internship now that you have donned your cap and gown and received your diploma. Many businesses look to recent graduates to fill their internships, as recent grads have years of study under their belts and, because they are no longer enrolled in classes, more flexibility than current students. If the job market in your chosen field is tepid, start looking for internships. These can be a great way to start making some professional contacts, and many people find themselves ultimately working full-time for the company where they first landed an internship.

Establish an online presence

Another way for recent graduates to get noticed is to establish a positive online presence. Something as simple as creating



COURTESY PHOTO

While some jobs require additional training or schooling, recent graduates are perfect candidates for many job positions.

a profile on the professional networking site LinkedIn can help recent graduates get noticed by prospective employers. Even if you have little or no relevant professional experience, create a profile that includes your education history, interests, accolades or awards you earned while in school and even a brief summary of your career goals.

Another way to establish an online presence is to begin a blog. The blog should not be used as a tool to discuss your personal life, but rather to express your thoughts on topics relevant to the career you hope to pursue. Demonstrating an understanding or even just a passion for the industry can be a great way to show prospective employers that you are looking for a career and not just a job.

Join a professional organization

Other options to network and

improve your chances of landing your first job can be attained by joining a professional organization. Many such organizations welcome new members, even those with relatively little or even no professional experience. Your university may even sponsor such an organization and host regularly scheduled forums relevant to your industry. Such forums often feature lectures or talk sessions with already established professionals who can provide advice on landing a first job or internship or furnish grads with industry contacts who might offer similar help. Memberships in such organizations are often free or inexpensive, so take advantage of this opportunity if it presents itself.

Use the resources at your disposal

Many college graduates are unaware that they have valuable resources at their disposal that

can greatly increase their chances of securing a job out of college. The career services office at the university is an invaluable resource that is plugged into the business community in its town or city. Such an office can connect you with alumni, many of whom want to help their fellow graduates establish their careers.

A career services office also can help new graduates fine tune their resumes and cover letters so they have a greater chance of landing a job.

Your community is also a great resource in your job hunt. Your parents and friends may have a career's worth of professional contacts who might be able to help you land a job. Don't be hesitant to ask for help.

Getting a first job out of college is rarely easy. But there are some strategies motivated grads can employ to greatly increase their chances of finding a job and starting their careers. — Metro