FIRST FRIDAY COMES TO CEDARVILLE

The first Friday of every month from June-October brings celebration to downtown Cedarville on the eastern side of Modoc County. Main Street is blocked off to cars during the celebration, replaced by live music, games for both kids and adults, arts and crafts booths, street food vendors and business booths line the street while local restaurants and shops extend their hours for the event. The community has enthusiastically welcomed the chance to meet in person and connect with each other now that Covid restrictions have started to ease.

Modoc County resident, Sheila Cotton spearheaded the idea for a First Friday event after reading an article about using the innovative idea to encourage the community to come together once a month, support local businesses and help to grow the economy. Sheila shared the First Friday article earlier this year through social media seeking feedback from the community about the idea. The response from the community was positive and with an eager group of volunteers the first event launched on June 1st.

Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) staff shared a booth with Plumas Bank employees during the August event. AFWD staff offered information for both job seekers and employers at the booth while Plumas Bank setup a “pin the tail” on Plumie the Plumas Bank mascot and handed out slices of sweet, cold watermelon. In a neighboring booth, TEACH Adult Education offered information about Diploma/GED attainment, ESL tutoring and other services. AFWD staff is excited to be back in the community working with their partners!
ON-THE-JOB TRAINING IN HEALTHCARE

Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) offers services in six Northern California counties which include Butte, Lassen, Modoc, Nevada, Plumas, and Sierra counties. The importance of Healthcare industry is recognized by AFWD as a priority sector for our communities. The AFWD Business Service team assists employers on many levels including recruitment assistance, candidate referrals, and On-The-Job Training (OJT) partnerships. AFWD also networks between our six counties to meet the needs of both job seekers and employers. The AFWD Business Service staff in Alturas recently worked with Modoc Medical Center (MMC) to place two recent Lassen Community College Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN) graduates, Krystin Barnard and Kasey Wilder, into OJT partnerships.

Krystin and Kasey had been receiving assistance from a Career Center Advisor (CCA) from the AFWD office in Lassen County while they attended the one-year LVN program at Lassen Community College. After successfully graduating from the LVN Program, they began job searching. Modoc Business Service staff connected with the Lassen AFWD staff to share the LVN openings at MMC. Krystin and Kasey both expressed interest and applied for LVN positions. MMC was willing to hire the recent LVN graduates with the funding and support of the OJT program and offered both Krystin and Kasey full-time LVN positions. The OJT program offers MMC a 50% reimbursement of their trainee’s wages during the OJT contract period. Additionally, AFWD Business Service staff will meet with the LVN trainees and their trainers monthly to evaluate progress to assure that training is successful. OJT partnerships are win-win for all!

LASSEN-MODOC ADULT EDUCATION CONSORTIUM ANNUAL PLAN RETREAT

Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) staff from Modoc, Lassen and Butte counties recently attended the Lassen-Modoc Adult Education Consortium (LMAEC) Annual Plan Retreat in Susanville in early August. Consortium members from Modoc and Lassen school districts, TEACH Adult Education/Advancing Modoc Youth and five AFWD staff members attended the meeting. This was the first in-person meeting in quite some time due to Covid and all present were excited for the chance to meet, learn and connect with each other.

Mitch Rosin from LMAEC presented an overview of the California Adult Education Program (CAEP) titled “CAEP 101 – Clearing up the Myths.” Kristine Zua Zua, Executive Director for AFWD shared Labor Market Information with the group and answered questions about alternative, in demand careers for Lassen County residents to look at to replace careers at the California Correctional Center prison which is slated to close. Other topics covered included Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment Systems (CASAS) Data Review and a look at the 2022-25 Three Year Plan.

Sarah Merrick from TEACH Adult Education shared the successes which her students have achieved in Modoc County through Diploma/GED attainment, ESL tutoring and partnering with AFWD to support Modoc County residents attending the Shasta College Commercial Driver’s License program. Additionally, Tanja Ramming from TEACH/Advancing Modoc Youth shared information from North State Together regarding the $18.13 million Regional K-16 Education Collaborative grant awarded for ten Northern California counties to create occupational pathways that include accelerated degree/credential programs and work-based learning opportunities in healthcare and education within its 10-county network. Funding from this grant will be used for both youth and adults.
One of the perks of living in Modoc County is our clean air and blue skies. Modoc is also one of the rural counties in California that does not require the biennial smog check certification that many urban counties require. Even so, given our geographic location near the borders of Oregon and Nevada, many Modoc residents choose to purchase a vehicle in Klamath Falls, Oregon, or Reno, Nevada for example. Once the new car is driven into California, the DMV requires a smog check even for brand-new cars. This rule meant that new car buyers would then need to travel to Susanville or Burney for smog testing as Modoc County had no smog testing center in the County and these were the closest locations available requiring 80-90 miles of travel one way.

Thankfully, due to the vision and hard work of entrepreneur Tara Grimme of Alturas, Modoc County residents no longer need to travel for hours to have their car smog tested. Customers can set up a testing appointment with Tara in Alturas and bring their car to her garage or arrange to have Tara pick it up and return it after testing for those unable to travel to her shop. The actual test process is quick and easy, especially with appointments being scheduled in advance. Tara stated that she asks questions and inspects each vehicle before hauling it up for testing. She can usually determine that a car will likely not pass the test and direct the owner to their mechanic before testing to save them money. She does not currently have a mechanic on the premises to make repairs but has not ruled out the idea for the future as she expands her vision.

Tara opened Warner Mountain Smog in December of 2021. She wanted to run the business herself and be able to spend time with her two young sons. Opening Warner Mountain Smog has allowed her to do both. She reported that her six-year-old is already asking to help and being trained on how to run the business when he is older. Business Service staff from Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) recently spoke to Tara about her business needs. She indicated that her main need currently is finding ways to spread the word further about her services. She has had a good response through word of mouth but was looking for new ideas for greater exposure. Discussion about utilizing social media and Google identified that Tara had not yet added her business to Google. She quickly rectified the situation. Now, Warner Mountain Smog instantly appears after googling “Smog Alturas” or “Smog Modoc County” and also appears on other Google matches for those word searches. Even just one small step like this can benefit a new business owner. Google searching for her business is now easy even if the customer does not know the name of her shop. It also allows happy customers to leave a review for Warner Mountain Smog and help Tara to build her business. Congratulations, Tara!
WORKING TOGETHER WORKS

Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) and TEACH Adult Education began their new fiscal year on July 1st with fresh partnership ideas for the new year along with reflection on the prior year’s successes.

A graduation celebration was held for successful graduates of the Shasta College Commercial Driver’s License program. AFWD and TEACH partnered together to assist these individuals during the program, providing financial and other types of support as needed. The graduation event was hosted by TEACH and each graduate was given the opportunity to walk in the ceremony to receive both a certificate of completion and a trucking pin to commemorate their success. Three of the graduates had already passed the DMV test and obtained their Class A licenses while the remaining students will be testing soon.

In keeping with the focus of supporting the priority Healthcare sector in Modoc County, AFWD will be partnering with TEACH Adult Education to provide support to students enrolling in the Aztec Pharmacy Technician Preparation course which will be available in August. TEACH is actively looking at other courses to add to their catalog for Modoc County residents.

Last, but not least, AFWD staff in Alturas have also been collaborating with TEACH staff from Adult Education and Advancing Modoc Youth to brainstorm ideas for utilizing grant funding which was recently awarded to the North State region. Ten counties will be sharing the 18 million in grant funding in collaboration with North State Together. “The focus of the grant is to promote K-16 education collaboratives that create streamlined pathways from high school to postsecondary education into the workforce.” We are looking forward to an exciting new fiscal year with our partners moving Modoc forward!

RESPONSIBLE BEVERAGE SERVICE TRAINING PROGRAM ACT

The passage of Assembly Bill 1221 in 2017 created the Responsible Beverage Service Training Program Act. AB 1221 required the Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) to create the Responsible Beverage Service Training Program and mandated a new training requirement for on-premises alcohol servers and their managers. Beginning July 1, 2022, any ABC licensee who has an “ABC On-Premises License” will be required to ensure specific staff (alcohol servers and managers of alcohol servers) have received training from an ABC-approved RBS Training Provider within 60 days of employment. This includes staff employed prior to July 1, 2022.

In response to learning of these requirements, Business Service staff at the Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) office in Alturas prepared a list of local businesses with alcohol servers employed. Those businesses were contacted and provided with information about the certification training. They were also offered the use of the AFWD computer lab for their employees to use for the online certification process. Additionally, AFWD produced a flyer that was shared through AFWD social media channels to reach all AFWD offices.
MODOC COUNTY
AFWD Q1 Statistics

Unemployment Information
UNEMPLOYMENT RATES AS OF 9/22:

CALIFORNIA: 4.1%
MODOC COUNTY: 4%

TOP 3 AFFECTED INDUSTRY SECTORS:
1. AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, FISHING & HUNTING
2. ACCOMMODATION & FOOD SERVICES
3. ADMINISTRATIVE, SUPPORT, WASTE MGMT., & REMEDIATIVE SERVICES

Modoc County Q1 Statistics

ONE STOP VISITORS: 371
BUSINESSES SERVED: 35
TOTAL AFWD CLIENTS ENROLLED: 519

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