GREENVILLE RESIDENTS GAIN ACCESS TO FREE TOOLBANK SERVICES

The ToolBank opened their doors on Thursday, June 1, in Greenville, after months of planning and anticipation. Hunter Hardware's Suzy Hunter will offer the service for free at The Spot but aims to move it to her hardware store once it is operational. Residents will have access to an array of battery-powered tools, including drills, miter saws and even a jackhammer, as well as hand tools for woodworking and yard maintenance.

However, borrowers must understand two crucial points. First, the tools are only on loan and must be returned. To secure the return of the tools and ensure that Suzy doesn't incur any costs she will hold a refundable deposit while the tool is loaned out. Although this may be an issue for expensive tools it is necessary to safeguard Suzy who is acting as a volunteer and not profiting from the service.

Secondly, the tools may not be used for commercial or financial gain as required by ToolBank's donors, who fund the program for disaster recovery. Therefore, borrowers must agree to these terms to participate in the program.
BRINGING BACK SUMMER FUN

Jessica is employed by Central Plumas Parks & Recreations in Quincy, California, under a Temporary Job Creation (TJC). Jessica originally requested our help in November 2022. Jessica, a single mother with three kids, has had a very difficult time finding full-time work since the Dixie Fire.

Jessica is a friendly and content customer. Jessica was fascinating to say the least during our initial conversation. She was grinning ear to ear while knee deep in the pool’s deep green water. I was made aware of the pool problem and the team’s diligent efforts to fix it in time for swim team season and summer pool hours. Jessica played a significant role in the procedure by volunteering to enter the green water pool first, remove as much of the green water as she could, and then bucket it out.

She works tirelessly to keep the park operating, which is admirable. Jessica claims that working in a fantastic park for Quincy’s children and families is more than just a job; it is a joy. Every time I see her, I anticipate seeing her smile.

DETERMINATION LEADS TO SUCCESS

Danielle had recently been laid off and was collecting unemployment but she knew she was determined to become a Registered Nurse (RN). She came to Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc (AFWD) in Quincy for WIOA assistance with Classroom Training. Danielle had previously worked in the Healthcare Sector and admired the way RN’s interacted with their patients and she knew that was what she wanted to do. She had already received a certificate in Medical Assisting, so she was familiar with working in a healthcare setting. She researched her schooling options, completed her pre-requisites and passed her TEAs and enrolled in the RN program at Butte College. Danielle worked with her Career Center Advisor (CCA) to evaluate her education goals and create a training plan. Danielle completed the Classroom Training and began studying for the NCLEX exam, she endured a lot of stress and anxiety but never gave up, she was determined to succeed. She passed her test! She was then offered a position with Adventist Health. Once she had been offered the position, she stated to her CCA “It’s one of the few times in my life that I feel like everything I worked so hard for actually came together with purpose and in the best way possible!” All of the anxiety and stress she endured throughout the education and licensing process was well worth the end result!

SAVORING EXCELLENCE: THE GENESEE STORE

Located in the picturesque town of Taylorsville, CA, the Genesee Store is a hidden gem renowned for its exceptional dining experience. Nestled amidst a breathtaking landscape of rolling meadows, towering mountains and lush trees, this charming establishment offers a truly idyllic setting. What sets the Genesee Store apart is their commitment to quality, particularly when it comes to their Wagyu beef. Unlike conventional practices, the store raises their own cattle right on the property, ensuring that every cut of meat is carefully tended to and grass-fed. The result is an unparalleled flavor and tenderness that can only be achieved through such dedicated craftsmanship.

When you step inside the Genesee Store, you’re greeted with an ambiance that is warm and inviting with the surrounding natural beauty. The menu proudly showcases a wide array of delectable dishes, with a strong emphasis on locally sourced ingredients. From the farm-fresh, locally grown produce to the mouth-watering steaks, every item is a testament to the region’s rich agricultural history. Given its well-deserved reputation, it’s no surprise that the restaurant has been a seasonal destination, serving visitors far and wide for the past 150 years. The Genesee Store makes every visit an unforgettable culinary experience!
HELPING RESTORE BEAUTY BACK TO OUR SMALL TOWN

On Tuesday, May 25, Christopher Stockton began his work. He is now employed by Greenville Cemetery as part of a Work Experience program (WEX). While we were taking this picture, he told me how proud he is to be able to work at the location where his family is interred. Then he pointed out Greenville to me and recounted the town’s appearance during the fire, saying it was the worst thing he had ever gone through. He continued by expressing his pride and gratitude at having a career that allows him to contribute to restoring some of the town’s beauty.

To assist his family, Christopher returned during the Dixie Fire. He detailed the horrifying scene of our beautiful town of Greenville when residents returned to see what the fire had destroyed while we talked on the hillside. I could only sense grief as this continued for a few minutes.

Before I left, I enquired as to whether Christopher needed any additional help on his first day. He then turned to face me and expressed his gratitude for our program, noting that in addition to helping him find work, we also helped him find a job he would like to go to and where he could picture himself working for a very long time. I feel very fortunate to work for a business where we can assist a client in returning to work as well as in making them enthusiastic and happy to report for duty.

LIFE CHALLENGES RESULT IN UNLIKELY NEW CAREER PATH

When Alejandro Rincon came into the Chester Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) Office, he had moved back to Plumas County to be with family. He was looking for a job in any field. He had not thought of a career path. Alejandro enrolled in our program willing to take any temporary labor position. Soon after arriving, his truck broke down and he was now borrowing his sister’s car to get back and forth to Chester.

A nearby masonry company was seeking a trainee. The Dixie Fire had a significant impact on his company and there is now a lot more work in the neighborhood as companies repair the damage caused by the fire. Alejandro spoke with the company’s owner, Ed Bishop, looking for a new career path rather than just a “job.” Alejandro has no prior experience in the masonry industry, but was eager to learn. Alejandro said, “I had no idea this was even a trade, so I am grateful to AFWD for giving me this chance. Although laborious, this is very rewarding.”

Alejandro is witnessing advancements in many areas of his life as he embarks on a fantastic new career path. He enjoys his work and never imagined that what started as a short-term Work Experience (WEX) job would develop into a new career. Ed Bishop, the owner is very happy with him. Ed said, “He is a reliable worker and learns quickly”.

SPECIAL MEETING IN GREENVILLE

Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) was present with the Greenville community as the Plumas County Board of Supervisors chose their hometown as the location for the special meeting. The board met in Greenville on Tuesday, April 25, from 4 to 7 p.m. and walked to several different locations of town where the fire impacted buildings, listening to the stories from the Dixie Fire Collaborative.

A walking tour, supper, and combined workshop about the Dixie Fire affected areas of Greenville, Indian Valley, Canyon Dam, Indian Falls, and Warner Valley, as well as other burn scar areas, was included and was hosted at “The Spot” in Greenville. Sharing Visions of Rebuilding and Options to collaboratively move forward with county and community impacts and needs.
NEW ORGANIZATION ESTABLISHES INNOVATION HUB

Innovation hubs are groups that bring together entrepreneurs, researchers, designers, and technology enthusiasts to collaborate and create solutions for economic growth in a community. These centers, which are frequently connected to technology, aim to promote experimentation and economic growth in a community. The Indian Valley Innovation Hub (IVIH) group has been meeting with potential business owners and interested public.

They have now introduced a part of their support program dubbed “Entrepreneur Rallies” for fostering business relationships and accelerating economic expansion. Making the rebuilding of Greenville economically viable is part of the proposal.

Beyond Greenville, the IVIH encompasses all of the towns that were affected by the Dixie Fire burn scars. Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) attended one such meeting in Greenville where many established and brand-new microbusinesses were in attendance. The programs offered by AFWD are intended to assist small firms with staffing challenges and were welcomed by attendees.

The IVIH hopes to provide access to resources like training programs, grants, networking opportunities, and mentoring. They foster the expansion of businesses and community economic development.

Collaboration with innovation centers can be a great method for businesses to advance innovation and growth while remaining at the forefront of their respective markets. AFWD is honored to collaborate with this young, expanding organization that promotes economic growth in Plumas County and beyond.

PLumas County Learns of Small Business Grants

An informational conference on the grants available for small and micro enterprises in Plumas County was held by the county of Plumas in collaboration with the Sierra Small Business Development Center (SBDC) of Northern California. For small and micro businesses with five or fewer employees, the awards provide financing for specified projects. Business and nonprofit organizations would share the overall revenue equally, according to Terrey Ferguson, the Planning Director for Plumas County. According to SBDC representative, Clint Koble, the application process is quite straightforward. Any firm can get assistance from the SBCD to complete the application.

Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) was on hand to support the businesses. Many business owners were interested in learning more about the numerous initiatives that were available to aid in their recruitment efforts. Several delegates from non-profit organizations expressed interest in a potential Work Experience (WEX) program due to their extremely limited staffing budgets.

The county grant involves reviewing and evaluating eligibility requirements and proposals. This involves assessing the project’s feasibility, cost-effectiveness, and impact on business development. Attending these meetings allows delegates to have insights into how funds can support critical community development activities. This is a crucial process that helps to promote socio-economic growth and development within local communities. It ensures the best use of scarce resources, prioritizes projects that align with community needs and interests, and promotes transparency and accountability in the allocation of public funds.

Plumas County businesses can expect several additional small and micro business developments in the near future for years 2023 and 2024.
PLUMAS COUNTY
AFWD Q4 Statistics

Unemployment Information
UNEMPLOYMENT RATES AS OF 6/23:

CALIFORNIA: 4.5%
PLUMAS COUNTY: 6.9%

TOP 3 AFFECTED INDUSTRY SECTORS:
1. HEALTH CARE & SOCIAL ASSISTANCE
2. NA
3. NA

Plumas County & AFWD Stats Through Q4

ONE STOP VISITORS: 1,023
TOTAL AFWD BUSINESSES SERVED: 688
TOTAL AFWD CLIENTS ENROLLED: 754

QUINCY
7 Quincy Junction Rd.
(530) 283-1606

CHESTER
328 Main St.
(530) 258-3866