



*Alliance For
Workforce Development, Inc.
Providing pathways to success*

PLUMAS COUNTY

Community Coordinator Report

Q2 | OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER 2022

RILEY'S JERKY - A GRAND REOPENING



Since 1981, Riley's Jerky has been a staple within Plumas County. Nestled in the wonderful community of Greenville CA, Riley's has taken a small-town approach in perfecting the quality of their jerky and providing their customers with hospitality you only find in rural communities. Seven classic and unique flavors make up their product line, but what makes their beef jerky stand out from competitor brands, is the love and quality control that goes into their products. Riley's uses whole muscle beef that is hand cut, giving you thick cuts and full flavors. Delicious!

Family owned and operated, their unique products and warm and welcoming staff attribute to why Riley's continues down the path of success. However, they are not without their share of challenges. On August 4th 2021, the Dixie fire had made its way towards Greenville. Within 30 minutes of the fire approaching, not only did Riley's lose their original building, the Greenville neighborhood was unrecognizable as most of the community was devastated by the burn. With optimism in their hearts and determination in their veins, Riley's owner; Kaley Bentz, along with other Greenville community members decided to not let the Dixie fire defeat them. They would rebuild in the town they have all known and love.

On November 19th 2022, Riley's Jerky hosted their Grand Opening Ceremony, celebrating not only their ability to overcome an enormous hurdle but honoring the people and businesses of Greenville as a whole. What an incredible turn out it was! Over 3,000 guests had attended to show their support and tour the pristine facility where Riley's Jerky is produced and distributed. 485 days after Riley's Jerky was lost to the Dixie Fire, they are officially back in business! For 41 years Riley's has stood the test of time, going through different adversities but remaining unshakable in their determination to present an amazing and enjoyable Beef Jerky that everyone loves. With the leadership and love of a family, I know Riley's has an astounding future ahead of them and I look forward to still enjoying their mouthwatering Jerky for years to come.

REACHING THE COMMUNITY IN TAYLORSVILLE



Reaching community members affected by the Dixie Fire can be challenging due to the geography of Plumas County. The community of Taylorsville invited the Chester Dixie Fire Recovery Office of Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) to attend their community event in the early Fall. There were several agencies in attendance including Plumas Rural Services Dixie Fire Case Managers, The North Valley Catholic Services and several more.

People came to Indian Valley from all over to collect necessities provided by various organizations including a food box distribution containing fresh vegetables, canned foods, rice, and milk. One merchant displayed prefabricated dwellings made of 2x4 steel frames that could be constructed in just 4 months which encouraged onlookers. Currently, there are roughly 6 homes being built in Greenville with more slated to be built in the upcoming year.

These community gatherings allow AFWD and other local organizations to help individuals who need it the most and share valuable resources and services available to them.

NELLZ GRAND OPENING

Due to the Dixie Fire, Greenville has been without a gas station for more than 18 months. The distance from Greenville to the closest petrol station is 40 miles in each direction. Nellz Town Pump launched in late November 2022. People were buying so much gas just to help the new station.

Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) was present to assist jobless individuals who came from all over Plumas County. In a very short period of time, AFWD had 8 unemployed job seekers who may be eligible for the Temporary Job Creation (TJC) program. Two of the applicants stopped in from Quincy and hoping to begin work as soon as possible once a job site opens in Quincy.

Candidates gathered in a line to ask about employment possibilities, share their career goals, and express their gratitude that AFWD was on site to help and available to help. Candidates were given the information for the AFWD Offices in Quincy and Chester in case they needed assistance or resources to work on applications and resumes.

BACK TO PLUMAS COUNTY

Keenen Corley Pennington was living in Quincy at the time of the Dixie Fire which claimed his home and personal belongings. Keenen relocated to Tehama County due to a lack of employment and acquired a travel trailer to live in with hopes of one day returning to Plumas County.

Keenen and his girlfriend Alizabeth walked into the Chester office seeking assistance after being unsuccessful in their search for work and housing in Plumas County. The Chester office staff welcomed the couple with open arms and sat down to hear their story and see how they could help.

The Resource Coordinator took notes and gathered documentation, our Career Center Advisor got to work on eligibility packets, while the Business Service Representative discussed potential work sites and Temporary Job Creation. As a workforce team, they provided hope and insight into a brighter future of employment for the couple. By the end of the meeting, Keenen was offered a position with a new worksite located right here in Chester. Keenen began working in October 2022 and is still employed at the worksite with a great team. With AFWD's assistance he is also securing permanent housing in Plumas County.



WESTWOOD COMMUNITY EVENT

The Westwood Chamber of Commerce organized a gathering of local Westwood residents in the late fall. Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc.'s (AFWD) Chester Dixie Fire Recovery Office staff were present to provide information about our services to the general public. Numerous Dixie Fire organizations offered their services and products to the locals. The Fire Safe Council distributed leaflets with advice on securing homes and details on promoting healthy tree development. Boxes of basic food items and directions to where to go for other forms of assistance were delivered by Plumas Rural Services.

Arts and crafts sellers were also on hand, while musicians played upbeat music to create a joyful atmosphere. For the purpose of raising money for the children affected by the Dixie Fire, homemade cookies and cupcakes were sold. AFWD shared details on short-term cleanup jobs that pay well and aid in returning the neighborhood to its pre-fire state. Many people in the community took information for persons they knew who would be seeking work soon.

Many attendees expressed their gratitude for having all the agency offerings in one location. Both the vendors and the attendees thought the event was a huge success. Through the outreach event AFWD was able to raise awareness of well-paying job opportunities in the area that could one day lead to long-term employment.

NEW LOOK FOR TRUMAN COLLINS SPORTS COMPLEX

Our municipal parks took a significant hit from the Dixie Fire's extensive destruction and the Truman Collins Sports Complex in Chester was no exception. Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc.'s (AFWD) Dixie Fire Recovery Office was able to supply temporary labor to aid in helping get the local park back in top shape.

Dan Smith, on behalf of Almanor Recreation and Park District (ARPD), guided participant Justin Lambert as he started to pick up numerous building skills. A concrete slab serving as the base for the chess/checkerboard table and benches was constructed and he mastered the skill of positioning enormous landscape stones to help elevate the park entrance. Many members of the public have remarked on how lovely the park looks.





PLUMAS COUNTY AFWD Q2 Statistics

Unemployment Information

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES AS OF 12/22:

CALIFORNIA: 4.0%

PLUMAS COUNTY: 6.2%

TOP 3 AFFECTED INDUSTRY SECTORS:

- 1 ACCOMODATION & FOOD SERVICES
- 2 ADMINISTRATIVE, SUPPORT, WASTE MGMT., & REMEDIATIVE SERVICES
- 3 CONSTRUCTION



Plumas County Q2 Statistics

ONE STOP
VISITORS:
364

TOTAL AFWD
BUSINESSES
SERVED:
1,499

TOTAL AFWD
CLIENTS
ENROLLED:
63

QUINCY

7 Quincy Junction Rd.
(530) 283-1606

CHESTER

328 Main St.
(530) 258-3866

A proud partner of America's Job Center of CaliforniaSM network.