Sierra Pacific Industries Co-Generation Power Plant in Loyalton Closes its Doors

Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI) announced on August 20th, 2010 that it has sent a notice to NV Energy in Nevada stating
that SPI will suspend operations at its Loyalton, CA power plant immediately. The Sierra Work Connection in Loyalton held a rapid response for the fifteen affected workers at the Loyalton Senior Center on August 23rd, 2010, Mindy Nahlen from the California Employment Development Department and Lori McGee from Sierra County Human Services was also in attendance to answer any questions.

Mr. Mark Pawlicki from SPI states in his press release that "As a result of these events beyond SPI's control, SPI has been unable to procure sufficient Supplies of suitable fuel to operate its power plant in compliance with legal requirements of federal, state, and local law. Notwithstanding these events, SPI is exploring opportunities that might allow it to reopen the facility."

Submitted by: Kathy Norris

Sierra Work Connection Welcomes New Career Center Advisor

Sierra Work Connection welcomes Jennifer Johnson to the team as a Career Center Advisor. Jennifer joined in September, adding more experience and knowledge to an already experienced staff. Jennifer has lived in the Sierraville area for 28 years and had her own medical billing business for 12 years. She is currently the Assistant Cubmaster for
the Loyalton Cubscout Pack, Chair for the Sierra Valley District Hospital and sits on the EPHC Leadership Council. Jennifer says “I am very committed to our County and I am excited to bring this commitment to the next level by joining the fantastic team at Sierra Work Connection.”

Submitted by: Jennifer Johnson

Sierra County Seeking Occupational Services
Program Ends

The businesses of Sierra County have seen the end of the subsidized employment program, Sierra County Seeking Occupational Services (ECF), at least for now. The official end of the program was originally going to be September 30th, however due to budget constraints with the State of California, they were told to complete the program by September 9th, 2010. We are now waiting to see what is going to happen with the State Budget to see if the program grant will be renewed into Sierra County. We had a total of 45 workers in Loyalton, 10 workers in Downieville, and 6 in Alleghany.

The Sierra Work Connection hosted a “rapid response” meeting for the affected workers along with Lori McGee from Sierra County Social Services, Wayne from the EDD Quincy office and Tamara Powers, Program Coordinator for this program, on September 13th, 2010 at the Loyalton Social Hall. A lot of questions were answered for the affected employees.

On a happier note, eight of the ECF workers were hired at their location of subsidized employment. All eight workers will be kept on
a year around basis (not seasonal) and we can see from the businesses that this program has assisted them in expanding and making their business more profitable.

Submitted by: Kathy Norris

Seeking Occupational Services Worker Gets Hired at Sierra Work Connection

Sierra Work Connection would like to officially welcome Joy Penn of Loyalton in the receptionist position. Joy worked for the Sierra Work Connection as a SOS (ECF) worker for the last six months learning new computer and customer service skills. Joy is such a fast learner that she picked up all duties extremely quickly and was able to assist clients with everything from resume and cover letter writing to job search and internet based governmental application. Joy is a wonderful addition to the team and we all look forward to working with her as an official Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. employee.

Submitted by: Kathy Norris

Sierra Work Connections Resource Coordinator goes to SHRM

The Society for Human Resource Managers (SHRM) was held this year in San Diego, CA.

Kathy Norris, Sierra Work Connections
Resource Coordinator, was in attendance. "SHRM is a wonderful conference, boasting incredible speakers and wonderful workshops that are extremely helpful in assisting our businesses and clients alike here in Sierra County." Kathy stated. Some of the workshops she attended were Small Businesses and Health Care Reform, Customer Service "Enjoy the Ride", and Human Resource Development. This year SHRM brought in over 11,000 HR professionals from across the country with their opening guest speaker, Steve Forbes. Held at the San Diego Conference center, SHRM was a four day whirlwind of a plethora of information that Kathy was able to absorb and take back for the benefit of Sierra County.

Submitted by: Kathy Norris

Rotary Hoagie Booth and Yard Sale

Rotary International is an organization of professionals and private citizens that is now the largest “club” in the world, having chapters in over 275 countries. Our primary objective is to “put service above self” and assist our local and global communities in a variety of ways.

On September 19th the Loyalton Rotary (Sierra Work Connections Resource Coordinator, Kathy Norris is a member) did a hoagie booth and yard sale at the Eastern Sierra Chamber of Commerce’s Farmers Market in Loyalton. All proceeds from the Hoagies went to scholarships for local youth at the Loyalton High School and all proceeds from the yard sale goes to the “polio plus” project, where we assist in funding Polio vaccinations around the world. The Rotary International club has made it possible for numerous countries to virtually wipe out polio. We are now down to the last four countries where Polio is still an issue.

Submitted by: Kathy Norris
Business is Muy Bueno in Downieville!

La Cocina De Oro has opened its doors to a very warm welcome from Sierra County residents and visitors alike. This authentic mexican restaurant, located on Main Street in Downieville, CA next door to Wells Fargo, is a shining star as to what a motivated entrepreneur can do with a little bit of drive and a lot of great food! Feather Ortiz, owner and operator, has hired three people so far in this small mountain town. We are looking forward to seeing this business move forward and thrive.

Submitted by: Kathy Norris

Sierra City School House, Art and Wine in a Updated Landmark!

Schoolhouse Gallery located on Highway 49 in Sierra City opened recently in the historic Schoolhouse building on Highway 49. Built in 1868, the Schoolhouse served to educated the area’s children until 1952, when it closed after experiencing its third avalanche. Its stunning space now serves as a showcase for the work of nationally recognized local artists. Owners Nora Prince and Ryan Hemphill are a mother/son team that have revamped the old Schoolhouse and created a gallery experience this is not to be missed. Boasting numerous local artists in photography, oil, watercolor, stained glass and quilting. The Old Schoolhouse Gallery is a must see in the Sierra County area.
Iron Will - Ironworkers Union Hires from Sierra County

Nicholas Zilsdorf came to the Sierra Work Connection after finding that his Local Union in Oregon had no positions available for him to finish his apprenticeship. Nick moved back to his home town of Loyalton and started working with Kathy Norris of the Sierra Work Connection to find a position within the local area. Kathy encouraged Nick to start speaking to the local Ironworkers Union to finish out his last two classes to get his Journeyman Ironworker certificate. Nick was able to get reinstated after being on hold with the Union for a year. At his initial interview prior to reinstatement he met the forman for the new 580 Washoe Bridge Project, Dave Landry. Dave was so impressed with Nick’s drive that he offered him a job on the spot. Nick went to work with Mr. Landry in September at prevailing wage and is doing great!

Submitted by: Kathy Norris

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 8th - Customer Service Workshop @ The Loyalton
Social Hall, 305 Beckwith St., Loyalton, CA

November 9th - Sexual Harassment Prevention @ The Loyalton Senior Center, 302 First St., Loyalton, CA

January 24th - Labor Law Workshop @ The Loyalton Senior Center, 302 First St., Loyalton, CA