

APPEAL-DEMOCRAT

Marysville-Yuba City, California • Monday, March 06, 2006

Print Page

Finding the right job

By Josh Kendrix/Appeal-Democrat

Job seekers from Yuba, Sutter and Colusa counties connected with employers Tuesday at the Job and Career Expo 2006 at the Yuba-Sutter Fairgrounds.

The fair was two events - a job fair and a career center, said Linda Baker, the organizer and fair co-chairperson.

At least 78 employers were on hand to distribute applications to the hundreds of job seekers who filled the fairgrounds. All of the businesses at the fair had positions that needed to be filled, Baker said.

As employers answered questions and distributed business cards, applicants sat at tables on the sides of the hall to fill out applications.

"This is our biggest (job fair) yet," she said, claiming to have at least 1,000 registration forms, and having almost all of them filled out by noon.

"We're here to connect employees with job seekers," she said. "There's a lot of success that comes from (these fairs)."

The turnout for the fair was "fabulous," said Patti Clary, the event's co-chairperson. "We had people wanting to come in before we had opened."

Employers were receiving a large application pool from the fair, Baker said.

A job fair "is a good start for some," said Sam Steadman, staffing and training director at Colusa Resort and Casino.

"We've seen those with truly good experience apply, and we've seen those on the entry level applying," he said.

The casino had between 25 and 30 open positions for job seekers.

Fremont-Rideout Health Group had 123 open positions, according to the group's recruitment technician, Gloria Lees.

Most of the available jobs were in nursing, but at least 55 were not.

Fremont-Rideout sent recruiters to many local job fairs, Lees said.

"We try to give them as much information as possible," she said. "Most of our applications come from (the Internet)."

Job fairs provided a lot of success in recruiting for the Yuba-Sutter Gold Sox, said Allyson Moran, a team representative.

"Many (people here) are just filling out applications to see what's available to them," she said.

The California Highway Patrol always received a lot of interest at job fairs, said CHP recruiter



Chris Kaufman/Appeal-Democrat
Lt. Jerri Ramirez, right, with the Leo Chesney Center, interviews Vickie Fox of Marysville on Tuesday during Job Center and Career Expo 2006 at the Yuba-Sutter Fairgrounds.

Brian Dabalos.

"Many of our inquiries are from high school students," he said.

The CHP attended as many job fairs as possible to answer questions and assist those in considering a job in law enforcement.

Fedex Express recruiter Deb Betley said her company also attended many job fairs.

"(Job fairs) are a good way of getting your foot in the door," she said.

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