

## Finding work is hard work

[By Ashley Gebb/Appeal-Democrat](#)

June 18, 2009 - 3:49PM

Job seekers stood elbow to elbow in the Veterans Memorial Hall in Yuba City on Thursday in hopes of landing a steady paycheck.

The employment fair, hosted by Sutter County One-Stop, featured 37 employers, down from 80 booths a year ago. But that didn't stop more than 850 residents from chatting with recruiters and collecting company brochures and hiring details.

Many of the booths were governmental or corporate agencies, such as the National Guard, U.S. Forest Service, Lowe's and Del Taco. But local businesses such as Sunsweet, Colusa Casino Resort and Fremont Rideout Hospital also caught residents' attention.

Nancy Cheso, 21, was searching for a certified nursing assistant job at the fair after receiving her CNA certification in January.

"It just sucks because I need to get a job," she said. "I went to that class and got certified and it's like, what do I do now?"

As a stay-at-home mom, Cheso has no previous job to put on her resume, she said.

"They say they want experience but you can't get experience if no one gives you a chance," she said.

But the Marysville resident refuses to let the job market get her down.

"Everybody says 'There's no jobs, no jobs, no jobs,' but there are if you dig for them," she said.

Marysville resident James McMillan, 35, feels the same way.

"Phew, I've been looking for a job for a long time," he said. "And when this economy started crushing down, it was hard, real hard."

The job fairs help, McMillan said.

"They are still talking about more openings coming," he said. "It's still promising. There is still something to hold on to."

On Thursday, he tuned in to possibilities with Sunsweet, the California Highway Patrol and the U.S. Forest Service.

"(You) see how many different opportunities you have for different skills that you have that you don't even know that you got," he said.

Linda Baker, One-Stop business and workforce specialist, encouraged the seekers to be enthusiastic and work the room. "Don't tell them 'I need a job,' say 'I'm ready to start work,'" Baker said. "And don't go up and say 'I need anything' because 'anything' is not a job title."

Marysville resident Patrick Shira, 28, has worked at Sierra Vista for six years. Now that the Yuba

City home for the developmentally disabled will close by 2010, he is trying to get a leg up on his impending unemployment.

"I don't think I will be able to find a job right away," he said. "If I can be put on a waiting list or anything, I'll wait."

Marysville resident Michelle Pennington, 31, is no stranger to waiting. She has been looking for a job since October.

But as a convicted felon, Pennington has had little luck.

She refuses to give up. She checked out Cambridge Junior College, RUSH Personnel and the Colusa casino at the job fair, continuing to introduce herself to potential employers and gather hiring information.

"I want to make myself known so they cannot forget me," she said. "Eventually, someone will say yes."