

WorkSource offers another job fair for displaced workers

By **BRIANNA LOPER**
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Driven by success at its June job fair, WorkSource Mason County scheduled another event to connect employers with job seekers.

However, this event will take the idea of a job fair one step further, according to the office's business services outreach coordinator, Ryan Dahlstrom.

"This is not just a job fair or a career fair," Dahlstrom said. "This is a hiring event, where attendees could actually get hired that same day."

The hiring fair is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Oct. 14 at the Mason Transit Authority's Transit-Community Center, 601 W. Franklin St. in Shelton.

WorkSource, partnering with the Economic Development Council of Mason County, Shelton Mason County Chamber of Commerce, Mason Transit Authority and Pacific Mountain Workforce Development Council, plan to bring at least 50 employers to the event, ranging from entry-level homeware and bus driver positions up to senior-level positions with major companies.

Dahlstrom said he's still solidifying the list of businesses that plan to attend, but it should be available later this week.

In addition to bringing dozens of employers together in one place, Dahlstrom said the event will have assistance available to help job seekers apply for jobs and build resumes.



Journal file photo

Jerrett Pinczer, right, speaks with Jose Perry about jobs offered through the company he works for, Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, during the job fair on June 10. A similar hiring event is scheduled to take place on Oct. 14 at the Mason Transit Authority Transit-Community Center.

"This event is all about interactivity," he said. "We're helping people to apply onsite."

At the event, potential employees can find a job they'd like to apply for, and then move to a separate room next door where they can receive help applying for that job.

"They can walk back out and say to the employer, 'OK, I applied. What else do you need from me?'" Dahlstrom said.

In addition, services will be available to help job seekers fine-tune their resumes. Information will also be available for those looking to start their own business.

The event is building off another job fair that the organizations put on in June, which connected more than 400 job seekers with 54 employers, Dahlstrom said.

The June job fair took place in response to the closure of Simpson Lumber

IF YOU GO

WHAT: Hiring Event for five-county region

WHEN: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Oct. 14

WHERE: Mason Transit Authority's Transit-Community Center, 601 W. Franklin St., Shelton

COST: Free

BRING: Job seekers should dress as though they are attending an interview. Resume and references are optional, but encouraged

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Call Ryan Dahlstrom at WorkSource Mason County, 427-7026

Co., which closed its Shelton operations after Sierra Pacific Industries bought the mill earlier this year. Due to the closure, more than 270 employees were out of work and looking for employment in Mason County, according to the Economic Development Council of Mason County.

Many of the businesses at the job fair had positions available that required similar skills to those required to work in the lumber mill. Aerospace,

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manufacturing, machining and other industrial employers showcased their positions. However, other employers, such as two local casinos and financial advisors, also hosted booths at the fair. Dahlstrom said similar employers are expected to attend the upcoming fair.

“That previous fair was directed at Simpson employees, but now we want people to know that anyone is welcome,” he said. “We’ll have a wide range of options.” Another job fair is planned for March, when Olympic Panel Products is scheduled to close its doors. Dahlstrom said job seekers should dress as though they are attending a job interview. He also recommends that attendees bring copies of their resume

or references, but it is not required. For more information on the hiring event, call Dahlstrom at 427-7026, or email rdahlstrom@esd.wa.gov.

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