

# It's summer, so get to work

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Laura van der Meer/Appeal-Democrat

Brandon Bowers knows what he is doing this summer — installing window coverings and trying to get his 1966 Volkswagen Beetle running.

"I plan on just basically hanging out and making some money," the Yuba County Career Preparatory student said Thursday.

The 17-year-old, who will be working with his grandfather for Shutter-Up Window Coverings in Yuba City, is bucking the trend for youth employment as the economy recovers.

According to a summer 2012 report from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 48 percent of people between the ages of 16 and 24 were employed in July, the month when youth employment usually peaks. Those figures were 59 percent five years ago and 63 percent 10 years ago.

Searching for jobs

The Yuba County One Stop, geared to people who meet certain income criteria, has 187 people enrolled in its Workforce Investment Act youth program.

"We have no shortage of youth looking for work," training and employment counselor Sheila Moore said, adding some students who have been sponsored for training, and even some who have graduated from Yuba College, are coming back because they can't find work.

"Kids are getting pushed aside for adults who will take any type of job," she said.

Moore said 19 people completed the Youth Build program this spring. Twelve graduated with high school diplomas, she said, and one received a GED. Teichert Construction hired seven of them as flaggers for the Marysville road project.

The Sutter County One Stop has free workshops, open to the public, for work readiness skills. Toni Costales-Servin, business workforce specialist in the youth department, encourages teens to not give up on their job searches.

"They need to put forth an effort," she said.

Brynda Stranix, president and chief operating officer of Yuba-Sutter Economic Development Corp., recommends young people start looking for summer jobs early and not wait until June.

The Yuba City Parks and Recreation Department and Collins Lake have already hired for the season. The lake's general manager, Lincoln Young, said about 25 employees this summer are in high school or are college age.

#### Hiring youth

Bishop's Pumpkin Farm in Wheatland hired 350 people for fall festivities last year. Anne Bishop estimates 200 of them were students.

"We actually start the hiring process Aug. 1, and they begin in September when we open," Bishop said.

The Outgoing Students program — which partners with the Appeal-Democrat and the Sacramento Bee — recruits high school students to sell newspaper subscriptions.

Sales manager Aaron Westphal said the jobs are commission-based. The average commission is \$6 to \$12, with cash bonuses and incentives.

"I only attempted to hire kids on campus ... they've talked to their friends, and that's who I've been hiring," Westphal said.

So far, he has hired one student from Edgewater and six from Olivehurst.

Kyle Summers, 16, of Olivehurst, said he has sold about 40 subscriptions so far.

He heard about the program through a friend.

"It's a pretty fun job. I enjoy meeting new people every day," he said. "I enjoy it, but I've always wanted to weld."

Read more: <http://www.appeal-democrat.com/articles/summer-125648-brandon-knows.html#ixzz2Vqfx0Qw3>