



# Family Self-Sufficiency

## From *the* Office

While the calendar says spring has officially arrived, the weather is acting as if winter is here to stay for awhile. Here's looking forward to blue skies and warmer days in the near future.

A couple of reminders to on-going FSS participants. It is your responsibility to contact the FSS office monthly at douglasd@butte-housing.com or at 895-4474, extension 231.

If you are attending school, I need a copy of your class schedule each semester. If you

are not working and not attending school, you must fill out a monthly FSS Work Search Log and turn it in to the office at the end of each month.

These documents are required to be on file in your FSS file to verify your participation in job related activities as set forth in your FSS Contact of Participation.

In the Summer of 2010, FSS workshops were held in Paradise, Oroville, and Chico for FSS participants to explain upcoming changes to Housing Authority

subsidy standards. For most of you these changes have yet to go into effect. As you complete the recertification process this year, your voucher size may be reduced to reflect these new subsidy standards.

As a reminder, subsidy standards are being reduced due to budget cuts and to allow the Housing Authority to continue to serve as many families as possible in Butte County. If you have any questions, please be sure to ask your Occupancy Specialist at your recertification appointment.

## IRS Tips for Filing Tax Returns

The Internal Revenue Service has some tips – double-check your return for accuracy, use the free IRS resources if you need tax help, consider electronic options for filing and paying, and don't miss the filing deadline – Tuesday, April 17."Resist the temptation to put off

your taxes until the very last minute," advised Clay Sanford with the IRS in Dallas. "Rushing to meet the filing deadline may cause you to overlook potential sources of tax savings and will likely increase your risk of making an error. "Go to [IRS.gov](http://IRS.gov) and make "1040 Cen-

tral" your first stop to check for the latest news and find answers to your questions about tax filing. Let Free File do the hard work with brand-name tax software or online fillable forms. It's available exclusively at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov). Everyone can find an

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Effective 3/1/2012  
Section 8 Participant Walk-In  
Hours are:  
**Tuesday—Thursday**  
**1:00 pm to 4:00 pm only**  
**or by appointment.**  
Contact your Case Worker to  
schedule an appointment!

# Interviewing Tips

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For those of you in the process of looking for work, spring time is the perfect time to get

your resumes out in the job market.

It can be a little scary, but with the proper preparation success is just one interview away. Below are some general tips on focusing on what I consider to be the most critical step in the hiring process- the interview. Good luck.

**Interview Tip 1:** Plan Ahead - Do a little homework! Research

the company and the position if possible, as well, the people you will meet with at the interview. Review your work experiences. Be ready to support past career accomplishments with specific information targeted toward the companies needs. Have your facts ready!

**Interview Tip 2:** Role Play - Once you have finished studying, begin role playing (rehearsing). Write down answers if it helps to make your presentation more concise. Try to keep your answers specific to the information your new employer will want to know.

**Interview Tip 3:** Eye Contact - Maintain eye contact with your interviewer. Show you want the

job with your interest.

**Interview Tip 4:** Be Positive - In particular, avoid negative comments about past employers.

**Interview Tip 5:** Adapt - Listen and adapt. Be sensitive to the style of the interviewer. Pay attention to those details of dress, office furniture, and general decor which will afford helpful clues to assist you in tailoring your presentation.

Job Interview Preparation Workshops are held on a regularly scheduled basis at both the Chico and the Oroville One-Stop offices. For more information see the article, "One-Stop Offers Help" on page 3.

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## IRS TIPS *(continued from page 1)*

option to prepare their tax return and e-file it for free. If you made \$57,000 or less, you qualify for free tax software that is offered through a private-public partnership with manufacturers. If you made more than \$57,000 and/or are comfortable preparing your own tax return, there's Free File Fillable Forms, the electronic versions of IRS paper forms. Visit [www.irs.gov/freefile](http://www.irs.gov/freefile) for options. Try IRS e-file. Last year, 79 percent of taxpayers - 106 million people - used IRS e-file, which is the safest, easiest and most common way to file a tax return. If you owe taxes, you can file imme-

diately and pay later (by the April 17 tax deadline). Using e-file in combination with Direct Deposit is the fastest way to get your refund. Taxpayers may file and pay on time electronically until midnight of the deadline day. E-filers may pay by authorizing a no-fee electronic funds withdrawal from a checking or savings account. Taxpayers filing electronic returns using a personal computer enter the data from the forms into the electronic filing software themselves. This is similar to the attachment of Forms W-2, W-2G, and 1099-R to the face of paper tax returns. "Another benefit of e-filing your taxes is that you do

not need to send your W-2 or 1099 forms, but you should keep them in a safe place with a copy of your tax return," Sanford added. People who file on paper should check their math on all computations, especially subtractions, and should be sure to get the correct tax amount from the tax table. The other numbers to be most careful about are the identification numbers – usually Social Security numbers – for each person listed on the return. Be sure to sign the tax return; both husband and wife must sign a joint return, even if only one had income.

# One-Stop Offers Employment Help

Are you looking for a new job? A better job? Or a whole new career? The One-Stop can help you reach your goal. Services offered include but are not limited to:

**Career Counseling and Planning:** Resource Specialists in each One-Stop are available to assist with career planning. A number of tools and assessment inventories are utilized. Resource Specialists can work with you on a continuing basis to advance your career.

**Job Search Workshops and Supervised Job Search:** The One-Stops offer three-week Job Search Workshops open to the general public. The main focus is on preparing the job seeker for employer contacts and job search activities. The first two weeks consist of classroom instruction on skills assessment, resume writing and employer expectations. The third week con-

sists of a supervised job search.

**Vocational Assessment:** The One-Stops offers a wide range of tools to assist you in determining your individual vocational path. This can be done on an informal basis by using self-assessment software or by participating in a structured Vocational Assessment Workshop.

**Job Interview Preparation** Resource Specialists in each of the One-Stops are available to assist you in developing strategic skills for job interviews. It is recommended that you have a current resume prior to contacting a Specialist.

**The One-Stop in Oroville can be found at 78 Table Mountain Blvd or by calling 530-538-7301.**

**The Chico One-Stop is located at 2445 Carmichael Drive or by calling 530-895-4364.**

## Program Contact

### Monthly

Please remember to contact the FSS Office monthly in person, by telephone or email to report your monthly progress towards program goals.

### Quarterly Reports:

Quarterly family Reports for the time period January –March 2012 have been mailed. Please take the time to complete and return no later than April 30, 2012.

## 2012 Class Schedules Reminder

All students enrolled in institutions of higher education or career technical training, please remember to turn in a copy of your spring 2012 class schedule to the FSS office if you have not yet done so.

# Project Homeless Connect on April 18



Project Homeless Connect is a one day free Service Fair that offers a range of services to all who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Held in Chico at the Silver Dollar Fairgrounds on April 18 from 10am to 3pm, people who visit the event can get immediate help from government programs, social service agencies, and volunteer patrons. Area Service providers will be offering a comprehensive community response to those in need. On-site services available will include: Health Screening and Care; Housing Assistance; Clothing and Food; Dental

and Vision; Mental Health Services; Job Assistance; Legal Services; Social Services; Veteran's Services; Pet Care; DMV and Social Security; Bike and wheelchair repair; Massage and haircuts. Child Care will be available.

The results from the 2011 Butte County Homeless Census and Survey indicate that there are at least 1,772 people in Butte County who are experiencing homelessness. For more information including volunteer registration, please contact Meagan Meloy at 895-4474 extension 208 or meaganm@butte-housing.com or Carol Zanon at 538-6035.

## Section 8 Wait List

The Section 8 Waiting list will be open from April 1st through April 30th, 2012. Applications for the Section 8 waiting list will only be available online. Please refer all inquiries to the **Housing Authority of the County of Butte web site for application information** at [www.butte-housing.com](http://www.butte-housing.com).



# News You Can Use

## Spring Jamboree

Families with children in pre-school through third grade may take part in a free tradition put on Saturday, April 7, 2012 through the Chico Area Recreation and Park District at Caper Acres in Bidwell Park.



The 49th annual Spring Jamboree will have egg hunts at three times for three age groups, art projects, a bouncy house, and a visit with the Easter Bunny.

Hours are at 10:00 a.m. for pre-school age children; 10:45 a.m. for kindergarten through first grade children and 11:30 a.m. for second and third graders.

## Free Shriners Clinic

Shriners Hospital for Children is providing a free screening clinic April 14, 2012 for children under 18 who might have orthopedic problems.

Shriners Hospitals treat such problems as club foot, scoliosis, bowed legs, hand or back problems, spina bifida, and problems associated with burns.

To seek eligibility, children under 18 may be brought to Chico Masonic Center, 1110 W. East Avenue, Chico for an evaluation from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

For information contact Brad Azevedo at 879-9199 or email [brad.azevedo@edwardjines.com](mailto:brad.azevedo@edwardjines.com).



## Educational Resources

### EOPS

(Equal Opportunity Programs)

Butte College: 895-2555

Chico State: 895-2455

### DSPS

(Disabled Students Programs and Services)

Butte College: 895-2555

Chico State: 898-65959

### Resource Centers

Butte College: 895-2511

Chico State: 898-4636

### Adult ROP

(Regional Occupation Programs)

Butte County: 879-7457

# The Dangers of Second-Hand Smoke

Children are especially sensitive to the dangers of secondhand smoke. Children who breathe secondhand smoke have more ear infections, are more likely to develop asthma, and are more likely to suffer from pneumonia, bronchitis and other lung diseases. For children with asthma, secondhand smoke increases the number and severity of asthma attacks. We encourage families to understand the many effects of secondhand smoke and create smoke-free environments for their children. You can create a smoke-free environment by deciding not to smoke in your home, car or around your children and by asking others to not smoke around your children.

The Surgeon General has concluded that there is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke. Breathing

even a little secondhand smoke can be harmful. The Surgeon General has concluded that the only way to fully protect yourself and your loved ones from the dangers of secondhand smoke is through 100% smoke-free environments.

Opening a window, sitting in a separate area, or using ventilation, air conditioning, or a fan cannot eliminate secondhand smoke exposure.

You can protect yourself and your loved ones by:

- Making your home and car smoke-free.
- Asking people not to smoke around you and your children.
- Making sure that your children's day care center or school is smoke-free.
- Choosing restaurants and other businesses that are smoke-free. Thanking businesses for being smoke-free.

Letting owners of businesses that are not smoke-free know that secondhand smoke is harmful to your family's health.

- Teaching children to stay away from secondhand smoke.
- Avoiding secondhand smoke exposure especially if you or your children have respiratory conditions, if you have heart disease, or if you are pregnant.
- Talking to your doctor or healthcare provider more about the dangers of secondhand smoke.

If you are a smoker, the single best way to protect your family from secondhand smoke is to quit smoking. In the meantime, you can protect your family by making your home and vehicles smoke-free and only smoking outside. A smoke-free home rule can also help you quit smoking.