

Local military manufacturer cuts jobs See Page 7A

THE NEWS HERALD

75 cents **FRIDAY** SEPTEMBER 21, 2012 Vol. 127 Pub. No. 228

www.morganton.com

© The News Herald

Published daily for loyal reader Willie Annas and all of Burke County

1,000 seek jobs



MARY ELIZABETH ROBERTSON/THE NEWS HERALD

Job seekers stop by the Lowe's Home Improvement booth Thursday at the Mission Transition Job Fair on the Western Piedmont Community College campus to talk with employers.

Fair lends hope for employment

BY MARY ELIZABETH ROBERTSON
mrobertson@morganton.com

MORGANTON — A sea of hundreds gathered outside and in the hallways of Western Piedmont Community College for Thursday's Mission Transition Job Fair.

The fair featured 40 employers and an estimated 1,000 job seekers.

"In this area, I do think (the economy) is improving," said Holly Kidd of Convergys. "We are seeing new jobs come into the area."

Convergys representatives were available at the job fair to talk with interested individuals about openings at their call center and in sales.

"(We are looking) for at least a high school diploma, someone who is at least 18, who is proficient with computers and has at least six months sales experience," she said.

The economy was on the mind of many employers at the job fair.

"(The economy) hasn't affected the

See **JOBS**, Page 3A

Jobs

From Page 1A

Marines," Sgt. Kyle Wade said. "We are looking for the highly qualified, looking to serve their country with one of the most elite branches."

When asked if President Barack Obama's call to cut defense funding had any impact on Marine

recruiting, Wade made a case for the importance of his job.

"There's always going to be a need for the Marines. We've proved it time and time again. We need Marines," he said.

Wade said by Thursday afternoon he had spoken with roughly 25 males and four females interested in joining the Marines.

At Lowe's Home Improvement, the economy has little effect

on the need for home project materials.

"If you need to fix something in your bathroom, you need to fix your bathroom," Kerri Arguello of Lowe's Home Improvement in Morganton said. "The election doesn't matter."

Lowe's Home Improvement was looking for positive personalities to fill positions.

"We love to have people with

customer service and cashier experience, who are well-spoken and have a positive attitude," Arguello said.

"The biggest challenge we face in recruitment is our computerized applications."

Some companies at the job fair do not require experience.

"It depends, like on the production lines, we do our own training," said Hector Velez,

Case Farms human resources manager. "Case Farms is a very solid company. On average, we take 75 to 100 applications on a weekly basis."

Angela Turner, unit director for Bojangles, trains employees to any position.

"We are hiring every day," she said. "They don't have to have any (experience) because we train. It's all in hard work."