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Tribal Land Days:

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[Johnny Depp Adopted by the Comanche Nation Indian Tribe](#)

[- ...www.hollywoodreporter.com/.../johnny-depp-adopted-by-comanche...](#)

With the star set to play *Tonto* in a big screen reboot of "The Lone Ranger," the New Mexico-based tribe formally made him one of their own.

[Johnny Depp tells EW origins of Tonto makeup from 'Lone Ranger ...](#)

[insidemovies.ew.com/.../johnny-depp-reveals-origins-of-tonto-make...](#) Apr 22, 2012 – *Johnny Depp* is no stranger to unfamiliar faces -- but what exactly is the origin of his black-and-white painted warrior in *The Lone Ranger*?

[Johnny Depp Talks "Tonto" Inspiration In 'The Lone Ranger' - YouTube](#)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=2UArL0r4vSc](#) Apr 23, 2012 - 2 min - Uploaded by ClevverMovies
[http://bit.ly/clevvermovies](#)

[http://www.mcsweeneys.net/articles/an-open-letter-to-johnny-depps-tonto](#)

Inspired Educators Speak the Work: Reflections from the Field

Below are excerpts from an ongoing series of insightful reflective essays published recently by *Community Works Journal*. These essays share themes of *hope*, *professional practice*, and *student potential*. Together they help to weave a map to a distinctively bright future for education.

These essays were written by veteran K-16 and community educators who generously share the ways that they've found to engage both their students and themselves in important *academic work connected to their local community*. We thank each of them for sharing their thoughts and experiences. Additional educator-written essays and curriculum exemplars can be found on CWI's web site at: [www.communityworksinstitute.org](#)

What We Love, We Come to Care For

By JEFF GROGAN, Stowe Middle School

I use the natural environment behind the school each fall for studies. I see kids inspired, engaged, and often intrigued by what they discover back there. For me, when they discover the richness of the environment, that nurtures a conservation ethic in them because they know what is there and they want to keep it there and help it survive and sustain. What we understand we come to love, and what we love we want to care for. [read more](#)

Moving Beyond the Walls in Los Angeles

By PAULA COHEN, Los Angeles Unified SD

At CWI's Summer WEST, I met like minded educators who could see beyond the limitations, who thought outside the box, who were willing to ask big questions and delve deep into the answers. It felt like coming home. When we talk about resiliency in young people, feeling like a part of something important and valuable is a crucial piece. Our school has been going through many of the tumultuous transitions that all public schools are going through. [read more](#)

The Soul of a Teacher

By CYNTHIA HUGHES, Springfield School District

It's our job to help kids learn to read and to write, to learn math and spelling conventions, to give them ways to discover their thinking and to find the best home for their unique talents and abilities. Somewhere in all of that lies the soul—the part of each of us that can't be measured with a rubric, scale or test score. The unique experience of each person's interactions with each other, each thing, each learning opportunity, each conversation, each perception, we simply cannot know that by testing it. We need to take the time to listen for it, and to allow and encourage it to be expressed. [read more](#)

Swimming Upstream Against the Current: Changing the School Improvement Paradigm

By DAVID SOBEL, Antioch University

This story captures one of those ineffable aspects of what makes a good teacher and school leader, and what leads to constructive school change. The leader genuinely respects each child and knows that each parent and family can contribute to enhancing the learning environment of the school. The school leader reaches out to find community partners, connects parents with social services, creates opportunities for parents and teachers to learn together. [read more](#)

Vesting Learners, Facilitating Voice

By IYAUNNA TOWERY-AJIDUAH, M.Ed., ESP Project Los Angeles

I remember the night before the first day of the Institute I could not sleep. I had gotten this anxious feeling, the feeling that one might get when they knew something was about to happen. I really did not know exactly what to expect. Honestly, what could really happen in just a week's time? Well, I can now say that a lot can happen: inspiration; intensity; purpose; and transformation. [read more](#)

Teaching Students to Leave a Legacy

By STEVE BUZZELL, Stowe Middle School

I learned that Service-Learning is really a teaching strategy that combines academics and social education to meet a community's needs, and that a truly good project will improve the quality of life for all—both current and future generations. That's really cool! Teaching the kids to leave a legacy. We can now see how to tie the old abandoned village of Little River State Park into sustainability and it will provide students with a great foundation for the rest of the school year, and beyond! [read more](#)

Digging a Hole: Clinical Teaching and the Journey of Learning

By STUART GRAUER, Founder of The Coalition for Small Preparatory Schools

As educators and students, what gets us ready to commit to an endeavor, to a class or study, to a purpose, rather than grazing half-heartedly through another class? What makes us tap in to something larger? What causes us to cast off our timid shadows and engage fully in life and the largest purposes we can find for it? At some point, we believe that probably all the best lessons really are journeys; we hope our students can somehow experience new worlds and that a great lesson is like an expedition. [read more](#)

The Grief Outreach Initiative: University Students Help Grieving Children in the Community

By TRICIA MCCLAM and MARY ALICE VARGA, University of Tennessee

She told him that her mother had died on Valentine's Day. She still wanted to read the book, but Dean Rider could not forget the memory and how the child's grief affected her. She was held back in school because she could not adjust socially and academically. Right then and there, sitting outside Mrs. McCoy's room at the school on a carpeted staircase, I was lost for words," said Rider. [read more](#)

Making Sustainability and Service-Learning Mesh in the Classroom

By NATALIE LAROSE, Sustainability Academy, Vermont

One way in which my classroom is going to improve the quality of life for all is through a service-learning project that I have designed that aligns with the first history unit I will be delivering, North Street Then and Now. Over the course of the unit students will learn about the history of the street on which their school is located, an area with rich cultural diversity and history but also traditionally an economically challenged area of the city. [read more](#)

Connect with Educators Who Share Your Passion for the Work!

at CWI's 2012 Summer Institutes for K-16 Educators

Limited Space, Register Now [more information](#)

MORE Inspired Educators Speak www.communityworksjournal.org

Community Works Institute (CWI) is a non profit educational organization dedicated to supporting educators in creating curriculum with *place as the context, service-learning as the strategy, and sustainable communities as the goal.* [learn more](#)

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History fo the day:

Problems on the Frontier

An energetic traveler going west of the Appalachian Mountains in 1750 would discover a land inhabited by Native American tribes who had no desire to release their territory to colonial or European settlers. The Iroquois and other tribes of the region had traded and allied with both the English and the French, depending on who offered the best "deal" at the time.

Beginning in the 1740s, English and French interests in this region began to come into conflict. Land speculators from Virginia and other colonies began to acquire land in the Ohio Valley, and they tried to broker further treaties with Native Americans who resided there. French colonial officials viewed this with alarm, as their ultimate aim was to connect Canada and Louisiana with a series of forts and settlements through much of the same region.

In 1754, delegates from seven northern and middle colonies met at the **Albany Congress**, at which the colonies attempted to coordinate their policies concerning further westward settlement

and concerning Native Americans. While the representatives couldn't agree on several main points, Governor Robert Dinwiddie of Virginia sent a young militia officer to attempt to stop the French construction of a fort at what is now the city of Pittsburgh. The young officer, George Washington, was defeated in battle there. Several Native American tribes, noting the incompetence of Washington and the colonial army, decided to cast their lot with the French. After hearing of this defeat in early 1756, the British sent a seasoned general, Edward Braddock, to stop the French construction of Fort Duquesne. Braddock's army was routed by the French, and he was killed in the battle. When London heard of this, war was officially declared against the French. This was the beginning of the Seven Years War (called the **French and Indian War** in American textbooks).

- <http://www.education.com/study-help/article/resistance-rebellion-revolution-17501775/>

Indians also factored into the gentry's decision to lead the way for independence in more than one respect. After mid-century, it seemed that every planter's favorite investment scheme was real estate: specifically, the lands west of the Appalachian Mountains. [Land speculators](#) began staking claims in the Ohio River Valley and Kentucky. These claims brought the gentry into direct conflict with a number of parties: the western settlers who were already living out there and working the land as their own; tribes such as the Mingos, Shawnees, Delawares, and Cherokees, who lived and hunted throughout those regions; and the British government, which often disputed such claims and then shut them down entirely with the Proclamation of 1763 that forbade any settlement west of the Appalachians. While they may have resented the gentry for laying claim to the lands they were already working, western settlers had one major commonality with the colonial elites: both groups wanted free reign to expand westward beyond the Proclamation Line of 1763. Independence offered a means of obtaining the coveted land. In this respect, as in the others previously discussed, elites sometimes opted for independence out of personal interest, as did the poorer farmers and settlers.

<http://www.shmoop.com/american-revolution/economy.html>

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS OFFICE OF STRATEGIC INITIATIVES
101 INDEPENDENCE AVENUE SE WASHINGTON, DC 20540

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The **Digital Preservation Outreach and Education (DPOE) program** of the Library of Congress, in partnership with the Indiana State Archives and Indiana State Library, is pleased to announce a call for applications to participate in the DPOE Train-the-Trainer Workshop, Midwest Region. The workshop is made possible by a grant from The Institute of Museum and Library Services.

The DPOE Train-the-Trainer workshop, Midwest region will take place August 21 - 24, 2012 in Indianapolis, Indiana. There is no charge to participate in the workshop for selected applicants. Travel and lodging during the workshop will be provided free of charge.

The workshop will prepare attendees to deliver digital preservation training, based on the DPOE Baseline Digital Preservation Curriculum, to working professionals in their communities. All attendees who successfully complete the workshop are recognized as DPOE Trainers and join the DPOE National Trainer Network.

As this is a regional workshop, DPOE welcomes applications from the states listed below. A total of 24 applicants will be selected to participate in the workshop.

- * Illinois
- * Indiana
- * Iowa
- * Kansas
- * Kentucky
- * Michigan
- * Minnesota
- * Missouri
- * Nebraska
- * North Dakota
- * Ohio
- * South Dakota
- * Wisconsin

The DPOE Baseline Digital Preservation Curriculum consists of 6 topics:

Identify: What digital content do you have?

Select: Which portion of that content is your responsibility to preserve?

Store: How should digital content be stored for the long term?

Protect: What steps need to be taken to protect your digital content?

Provide: How should digital content be made available?

Manage: What provisions should be made for long-term management?

Workshop objectives:

- * Train participants in the Baseline Digital Preservation Curriculum.
- * Explore essential issues for developing and presenting well-formed workshops.
- * Apply workshop management principles to planning DPOE workshops.
- * Provide a brief practice session for each trainer, including thoughtful feedback.

After the workshop:

DPOE Trainers receive a package of readymade presentations, trainer notes, a list of resources for each topic, and a comprehensive guide for how to deliver a training event.

All DPOE Trainers agree to teach at least one topic of the DPOE Baseline Digital Preservation Curriculum within 6 months of completing training. DPOE will support DPOE Trainers with logistical support, promotion of events, and providing lines of communication are to allow trainers to share lessons learned and collaborate on training event delivery.

Application Process:

Applications will be accepted from Monday, May 21 through Friday, June 8, 2012.

Complete packages consist of a resume, a cover letter, and a nomination letter provided by the applicant's supervisor.

Your cover letter should be no more than 300 words and address these two questions:

- * What experience do you have with digital collections?
- * What is your experience with training and presenting?

Applicants should submit a resume and cover letter to the Digital Preservation Outreach and Education program at dpoe@loc.gov. Please use "Train-the-Trainer Application" as your email subject. In your cover letter, please include the name of the person who is nominating you. Nominators should also send letters to dpoe@loc.gov.

The deadline for applications is Friday, June 8, 2012.

Acceptance letters will be sent out to selected participants by Friday, June 29, 2012. If you are accepted we will need a response from you by close of business on Friday, July 6, 2012. Confirmation of acceptance will require a Library of Congress agreement signed by the workshop attendee and supervisor committing the attendee to deliver at least one training event within 6 months of completing training.

Any inquiries can be addressed to dpoe@loc.gov.

We thank you for your interest in this exciting opportunity to spread digital preservation education!

More information on the Call for Applications can be found at <http://www.digitalpreservation.gov/education/call.html> and more information on the DPOE program can be found at <http://www.digitalpreservation.gov/education/index.html>.

For more information about the Institute of Museum and Library Services, please visit <http://www.ims.gov/>

Ronald Reagan's Blood Sold at Auction Angers Supporters - Simple Reaganomics says Seller *(Some may find terrific irony. sdc)*

By [Ewan Palmer](#): Subscribe to Ewan's [RSS feed](#) May 22, 2012
Ronald Reagan's blood is currently on sale at PFC Auctions. (wikipedia)

Ronald Reagan's foundation has expressed outrage towards a British auction house for selling a vial of the former US President's blood in an online auction.

Guernsey-based PFC Auctions announced it was selling the vial of blood last week - which was taken following the failed assassination attempt against Reagan in 1981 - with the auction set to end of 24 May.

The via was taken at George Washington University Hospital on March 30, 1981, after Reagan was wounded by John Hinckley Jr. in Washington, DC. It is said to have come from a person whose late mother had worked at a medical lab.

John Heubusch, executive director of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation, said in a statement: "If indeed this story is true, it's a craven act and we will use every legal means to stop its sale or purchase."

[Bids above £7000 have already been made for the vial](#), which has a label bearing Reagan's name, and supporting documents.

"These articles have actually been in my family's possession since 03/30/1981, the day that President Reagan was shot in Washington D.C.," the seller writes in the letter of provenance.

The seller also claims he had been contact by the [California](#)-based Ronald Reagan Library and Museum, which is run by the late president's foundation, and was told the Reagan family would like the vial given to them.

"I told him that I didn't think that was something that I was going to consider," the seller writes.

"I was a real fan of Reaganomics and felt that President Reagan himself would rather see me sell it rather than donating it."

Reagan suffered a punctured lung and internal bleeding after he was shot by Hinckley outside the Washington Hilton Hotel.

Hinckley was later found not guilty by reason of insanity and is currently being treated at a psychiatric hospital.

Reagan died in 2004 aged 93 having served two terms as president.

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To report problems or to leave feedback about this article, e-mail: e.palmer@ibtimes.co.uk

To contact the editor, e-mail: editor@ibtimes.com

But the very next day.....

Auction of Ronald Reagan blood vial cancelled [By GREGORY KATZ Associated Press](#)

LONDON (AP) -- A European auction house Thursday cancelled the planned online sale of a vial containing dried blood residue said to be from Ronald Reagan after complaints from the late U.S. president's family and foundation.

The PFC Auction house said in a statement that the seller had withdrawn the item, which was linked to the 1981 assassination attempt on Reagan, and plans instead to donate it to the former president's foundation.

The statement said the seller, who has remained anonymous, had obtained the vial at a U.S. auction earlier this year.

The decision not to sell the controversial item was praised by the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation in California, which had earlier announced plans to try to stop the sale through legal means.

"We are very pleased with this outcome and wish to thank the consignor and PFC Auctions for their assistance in this matter," said John Heubusch, executive director of the foundation. He added that he was pleased the late president's blood will be kept "out of public hands."

The item being donated is a five-inch (12.5-centimeter) glass vial that is one half-inch in diameter and has a green rubber stopper. The auction house said it clearly contains traces of dried blood. It is said to have been taken from a laboratory that tested Reagan's blood for lead in the days after he was seriously wounded by a would-be assassin.

"While we contend that the removal of the vial from the hospital laboratory, and the U.S. auction sale in February 2012, were not legal acts in our opinion, we are grateful to the current custodian of the vial for this generous donation to the Foundation," Heubusch said.

Reagan's family, his foundation and his surgeon had earlier this week criticized the proposed sale. They said it was a violation of the family's privacy for medical items linked to his treatment to be sold on the open market.

Online bidding on the item had reached more than \$30,000 when the sale was suspended. It had been set to conclude Thursday evening.

In its statement, the auction house, which is based in the Channel Islands between England and France, revealed new details about the aborted sale.

It said the seller had purchased the item at a public auction in the United States earlier this year for \$3,550. It quoted the seller as saying he was a serious collector of presidential memorabilia who had donated to museums in the past.

"I would personally be delighted to see this important artifact put on public display by the Foundation," the seller said.

Reagan required emergency surgery after he was shot by John Hinckley Jr. outside the Washington Hilton Hotel shortly after speaking to labor union officials on March 30, 1981. Hinckley fired six shots at the president from close range. All six missed, but one bullet ricocheted and hit Reagan.

The president was wounded just two months after taking office. He suffered a punctured lung and severe internal bleeding that required life-saving surgery.

His popular press secretary, James Brady, was left paralyzed after being shot. Two people protecting Reagan also were wounded.

Hinckley was found not guilty by reason of insanity. He remains in a psychiatric facility in the Washington area but has been allowed to spend some time outside the facility with his family.

As gambling becomes widespread, clearly more of the money comes from locals.

The United States of Gambling

[Froma Harrop NationofChange](#) / Op-Ed Tuesday 22 May 2012

A surprising fact: Gamblers spent more last year at commercial casinos in Indiana than they did at non-Indian casinos in all but three other states — not surprisingly, Nevada, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. The 11 casinos and two racinos (horse racing tracks with [slots](#)) are the Hoosier State's third-largest source of tax revenues.

Clearly, the idea that gambling is sinful has vanished in much of the heartland — Iowa has 18 casinos — and increasingly on the coasts. Or let's just say that the immorality attached to the activity and to preying on the working [class](#), lonely elders and other vulnerable groups that flock to casinos has faded before the god of lower taxes. But that easy-come of living off gamblers seems to be vanishing as nearby states get in on the action.

Indiana has relied on attracting players from neighboring Kentucky and Ohio. Kentucky still doesn't allow casinos, but Ohio has succumbed. The [Horseshoe Casino](#) in Cleveland just opened, the Hollywood Toledo is about to debut, and the Horseshoe Casino Cincinnati is a mere year away. Like Indiana, Ohio sits just over the river from Kentucky and will be competing for its gamblers. As result, Indiana expects to lose about \$100 million of the \$800 million it had been collecting in gambling tax revenue.

And that's the casino story. In the beginning (the Great Depression), there was only Nevada. After five more decades, New Jersey let in casinos to bring ailing Atlantic City back to life. New Jersey is now losing customers to Pennsylvania. And as California becomes home to big new [Indian casinos](#), Las Vegas will lose [business](#), as well. More than half the states currently have casino gambling.

The Foxwoods Resort Casino in semi-rural eastern Connecticut is the biggest casino in our hemisphere.

The [Mohegan Sun casino](#) 14 miles away is the second-largest casino in our hemisphere. When Mohegan Sun opened, some envisioned the two tribe-run casinos [eating](#) into each other's business. But they both did well because the bordering states of New York, Massachusetts and Rhode Island didn't permit casino gambling. Players from out of state have provided about half the \$6 billion of gambling taxes that have gone into Connecticut's coffers since Foxwoods became a full-blown casino 20 years ago.

Last fall, New York state opened a casino at the Aqueduct racetrack in Queens. Gov. Andrew Cuomo seeks to build a hotel and a giant [conventioncenter](#) there. Meanwhile, Massachusetts recently passed a law allowing three major casinos. And Rhode Island's [slot](#) parlor on a former greyhound racing track has significantly cut into the Connecticut casinos' business. Slots are where the big money comes from, providing over 70 percent of gambling revenues at most casinos.

To keep up and add sexiness to what resembled a giant shopping mall in the Connecticut woods, Foxwoods built a new luxury hotel project. MGM Grand at Foxwoods opened with 800 new rooms, 1,400 more slots and a theater seating 4,000 — just in time for the 2008 financial meltdown. Foxwoods now owes its [lenders](#) a burdensome \$2.3 billion. The enterprise could consider restructuring the debt, except it remains unclear whether a casino on sovereign tribal land can avail itself of federal Chapter 11 [bankruptcy](#).

As gambling becomes widespread, clearly more of the money comes from locals. That is money the same people could have spent in other parts of the economy. Some state officials argue that with casinos flashing lights smack across their borders, they must already cope with the problems and costs of gambling, so they might as well enter the game. They may have a point, but it's a shabby scene nonetheless.

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"How smooth must be the language of the whites, when they can make right look like wrong, and wrong like right."

- Black Hawk of the Sauk Nation

<http://jimthorpegames.com/>

2012 EWU Pow Wow www.flickr.com Teen Traditional Dancer

Many state jobs in Nevada go begging

By Ed Vogel LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL CAPITAL BUREAU May 21, 2012 |

CARSON CITY - State jobs used to be in great demand in Nevada.

Working for the state used to mean a decent paycheck, good benefits and never worrying about the future. Work 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. for 30 years, and take a nice retirement.

But at a time when Nevada leads the nation in un-employment, the state is having trouble filling its government jobs. It has 1,456 openings. That's almost one in 11 state jobs, 8.8 percent of the government's total permanent authorized workforce.

Why?

State officials cite a variety of reasons, such as low pay, bleak prospects for future pay raises, even competition from higher paying mines in rural areas.

But the main reason appears to be a misconception that state government has a hiring freeze.

State officials are trying to get the word out. They said they have seen an increase in applications in recent months, but nothing phenomenal.

A small group of job seekers showed up for testing Friday at the Sawyer Building in downtown Las Vegas.

Las Vegas resident Renee Lindquist, 29, planned to test for an auditor's position. She found out about the job opening on the state website.

Lindquist had an accounts receivable position at a company in New Jersey but quit that job in October 2010 because her husband, who is in the Air Force, received orders to go to Korea. She decided to go home to Washington.

The couple moved to Las Vegas in February, and Lindquist has been looking for work since then.

She has been interviewed for two other state accounting jobs. She did not get one but still is in the running for the other.

"The process is quite lengthy," she said.

Las Vegas resident Larry Swift, 58, also came to test for an auditor's position Friday.

He is employed as a janitor at University Medical Center but was injured on the job and is receiving workers' compensation.

"Not being one to sit around, I signed up for this," he said.

Like Lindquist, he learned about the job opening on the state website. He also has tested for several accounting positions.

"I'm just going to keep applying," he said. "We'll see what happens."

The goal of his job search: "To make enough money to pay my bills with as little aggravation as possible."

Swift speculated that others aren't seeking state jobs because either they aren't qualified, or they don't know they're qualified.

JOBS GO BEGGING

There are 79 openings at the Nevada Highway Patrol. A lot of veteran troopers retired recently, and there is no quick method of replacing them, said Chris Perry, director of the Department of Public Safety.

A trooper can retire after 25 years, and they realize pay raises are unlikely in the near future, so they see no value in continuing, he said.

Perry added that only 2 percent to 3 percent of the applicants end up as troopers.

"It is a terrific job, but there are a myriad of reasons why they don't qualify. No felonies, no gross misdemeanors, financial problems, no use of narcotics. We want the best the state has to offer."

And the Nevada Department of Transportation has 121 vacancies and can't even fill all the highway maintenance positions needed in rural Nevada.

"We can't compete with the mines," said Scott Magruder, a spokesman for the Department of Transportation. "They go to the mines because they pay three times as much."

For the record, highway maintenance workers earn \$27,000 a year. All state workers, including the Highway Patrol, where the starting pay is \$46,624, have taken pay cuts for three straight years. In the current two-year budget period, all state employees must take a pay reduction and six furlough days, cutting their pay by 4.8 percent per year. Eighteen troopers will graduate from a training academy this summer, but the next class won't be conducted until winter.

But more than pay, the reason more people don't apply is they are under the false impression the state isn't hiring, according to Lee-Ann Easton, administrator of the state Human Resource Management Division.

"There is a perception that there is a hiring freeze," he said.

The state had a hiring freeze for three years.

But no longer.

BATTLING MISPERCEPTION

Easton is trying to change that perception. She is increasing advertising on state job openings and has put the state's help wanted list on several websites.

State Budget Director Jeff Mohlenkamp also has sent memos to agency directors telling them they can hire workers on their own, meaning without going through a centralized process.

To reduce state vacancies, he hired a full-time recruitment officer whose job is to work with state agencies to fill open positions.

As budget director, Mohlenkamp heads the state Department of Administration, which oversees the Human Resources Management Division. Until last year, that agency was known as the Department of Personnel.

The division also has expanded testing hours in Las Vegas and Carson City for applicants taking job tests and has reduced the number of tests they must take.

Mohlenkamp said state agencies no longer have to fill jobs only with candidates who scored in the top three or five on tests. Administrators now are allowed to fill jobs with candidates of their own choice who pass the tests.

While that might allow directors to start filling jobs with friends, Mohlenkamp said, "Some people just aren't good at taking tests." The change will lead to filling positions more quickly, although filling medical jobs always will be difficult, he added.

LEGISLATIVE PRESSURE

Mohlenkamp is under pressure from legislators to reduce the number of vacancies.

He was criticized by state Senate Majority Leader Steven Horsford, D-Las Vegas, during an April 24 legislative hearing for contributing to the 12 percent statewide unemployment rate by not filling state jobs.

Mohlenkamp promised a "marked improvement" would come quickly. That improvement apparently has begun.

He pointed out the number of vacancies in permanent, full-time jobs stood at 1,456 as of Monday, down 74 from 1,530 three weeks earlier.

Besides these vacancies, there are about an additional 1,000 vacancies in seasonal and temporary jobs. The Transportation Department hired 100 temporary workers for seasonal highway projects last week. Counting them, the number of current vacancies is more than 2,000. But states do not consider seasonal and temporary workers in figuring their job vacancy rates, only permanent, authorized employees.

The current 8.8 percent state job vacancy rate is lower than the rates at this time of the year in four of the past five years. In May 2011, the vacancy rate was 9.63 percent.

While Mohlenkamp believes the state can fill several hundred jobs in the next few months, he doubts the vacancy rate will get much lower. A 7 percent to 8 percent vacancy rate is reasonable, according to Mohlenkamp.

"We have turnover. We have retirements. We are moving in the right direction, but it is not reasonable to expect us to fill all the positions. I think you will see the same rate of vacancies in large private companies."

That may not be the case.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported May 8 that there is an overall 2.5 percent job vacancy rate for businesses in Western states. Vacancy rates in the 7 percent range were common in the 1970s and 1980s.

One state agency that has reduced its vacancies is the Department of Corrections. It filled 44 jobs in the past three weeks, although it still has 178 openings.

Back in January, Deputy Director Sheryl Foster complained during a legislative hearing about the department's difficulty in filling 200 correctional officer positions. Officers did not want to work in prisons in Ely and Lovelock and the starting pay of \$37,563, was too low, she said.

But Easton said filling rural prison correctional officer positions isn't as hard as finding applicants for professional positions in rural prisons, such as psychologists, nurses and caseworkers. Her agency now is seeking psychiatric nurses throughout the state and their pay ranges from \$52,817 to \$79,114 a year. Licensed psychologists are paid \$66,002 to \$99,684. Clinical social workers' pay ranges from \$44,412 to \$66,002.

The number of current vacancies in other agencies include: Division of Child and Family Services, 146; Division of Mental Health and Development Services, 128; Health Division, 74,

Division of Welfare and Supportive Services, 71; Department of Motor Vehicles, 63; Rehabilitation Division, 56; Parole and Probation; and attorney general's office, 20.

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