



— Photo by Cindy Shegan Keeley/Daily News

South Allegheny High School sophomore Mackenzie Hafen is interviewed by Kennywood Entertainment assistant human resource manager Ron Wabby.

Kennywood conducts interviews at SA

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South Allegheny sophomore Mackenzie Hafen is hoping for a job at a lemonade stand at Kennywood this summer.

"It would be a good first job for me and I want to save up to buy a car," she said.

Assisted by students in South Allegheny's The Future is Mine program, Mackenzie and approximately 50 others were interviewed for potential jobs by Kennywood Entertainment representatives on Thursday.

South Allegheny TFIM coordinator Ed Makay and guidance counselor Chad Smith arranged the session after they learned that several students looking for jobs were having

difficulty finding employment.

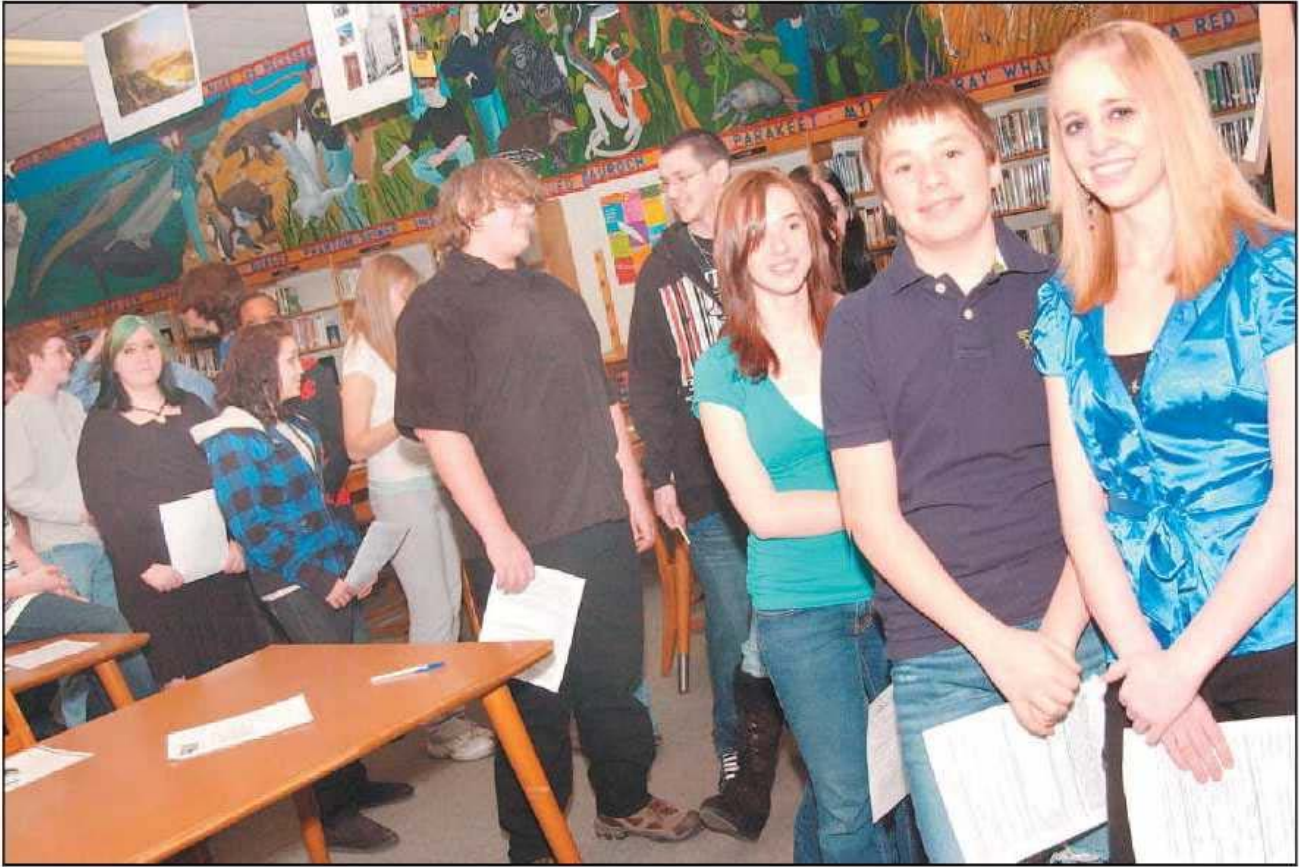
"We had students coming into the guidance office saying they needed jobs," Makay said. "We thought to call Kennywood and they came here for the first time last spring to do interviews. We're the only school they come to."

Kennywood was looking for students age 15 and older to fill positions for rides, games, guest services, refreshments and cafeteria workers, as well as for food and beverage, guest services and life guard positions at Sandcastle.

"We love hiring South Allegheny students," said Joe Barron, Kennywood's human resources director.

"The administration and Ed Makay are really cooperative. We like the type of team members we get out of South Allegheny. We

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— Photo by Cindy Shegan Keeley/Daily News

South Allegheny students wait for their turn during Thursday's Kennywood job interviews.

—Kennywood

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jumped at the opportunity to come out here instead of having the kids come to us."

He said the park will employ approximately 1,500 people this season.

Makay and 15 TFIM students prepared the Kennywood applicants for their interviews by creating a questionnaire with job-related questions.

They also provided a list of interviewing dos and don'ts and performed mock interviews.

"We told them to look the interviewer in the eye and be able to answer their questions with confidence," TFIM President Jared Barnes said. "It went well. There were some students who might not have been interviewed before or didn't do well on past interviews. I hope it helped them."

"We're looking, above all, for applicants who are personable and get along with people," Barron said.

"We also like the applicants to be involved in activities."

He said involvement in after-school or other activities shows that applicants are likely to relate better to people.

Mackenzie said she prepared for her interview by going over beforehand what she was going to say, and by wearing her favorite color, yellow.

TFIM is a school organization for students looking toward their future careers and is sponsored by the Consortium for Public Education.

"It's a career exploration civic engagement leadership initiative," said Gina Barrett, who is involved with TFIM at the consortium.

Makay said TFIM students have to perform three projects — preparing for what they want to do in the future, preparing classmates for what they want to do in the future, and preparing younger peers for their future.

He said this project fits into the second category.

Barrett said she likes that South Allegheny's TFIM projects are "real world."

"It's great going into the community and reaching out to businesses to show the students opportunities out there," she said. "It makes it 'real world' when they know a real business is going to hire some of them."

Makay said the long-term goal of this project is preparing students for job interviews after high school and college.