



The Brunswick News



Michael Hall/The Brunswick News

Emily McBride, left, and Sally Woodward take advantage of some down time at Mullet Bay for some laughs. Jobs at places that have heavy summer tourism business often hire teens to work during their summer vacations.

# GET TO WORK!

## Tips for finding that perfect summer job

By **MELISSA McBRIDE**  
The Brunswick News

The search for summer jobs is nothing new to the teenagers of the Golden Isles. Every summer, high schoolers are faced with the difficulty of finding their ideal job.

But what makes the perfect summer job?

Rising Frederica senior Zach Johnston, who works as a cook at Loco's Deli, has a couple characteristics in mind.

"There needs to be good pay and something to learn from it," he said.

Nicole Crouch, a sales associate at Tamary's Fine Apparel for Women, agrees.

"[I look for] good pay and something I actually want to do."

Frederica graduate Emily McBride, a hostess at Mullet Bay, also knows what she's looking for.

"Nobody really minds working hard at their job as long as it's fun, something you enjoy and people are nice to you. It also helps when you get paid well," Emily said.

Employers look for specific things, too, when hiring new staff.

"When we hire new people, it is important for them to be enthusiastic, punctual, dressed well and neat. Neatness is really important," said Tami Stogner, owner of Tamary's.

"I look for someone who has a great personality, good math skills, who is very creative. They should be able to do displays and market the clothes. Just good, honest people," added Mindy Overly, owner of Meo's Suite in the Village.

Do employers look for people who are a certain age? Yes. Though the federal minimum age requirement is 14 years, most businesses look for students at least 15 or 16.

"As long as they can get to work, they're eligible. I would say 15 is the age limit here," said Stogner.

Overly usually looks for older girls.

"I like the girls to be at least 17," she

### Things to consider

Here are some things to consider when seeking a job, from the Web site [www.gotajob.com](http://www.gotajob.com)

• **TYPE OF WORK:** Pursue jobs based on your likes and interests, such as if you enjoy the outdoors or meeting new people.

• **TIME CONSIDERATIONS:** Part-time jobs vary in hours. Most employers are looking for around 20 hours a week. Be sure your schedule allows for flexibility and getting to work on time.

• **TRAVEL DISTANCE:** The farther you must travel to get to work, the more money you spend getting there.

• **COMPENSATION:** Take a look at your budget. Decide how much you'll need to make each week and look for jobs that will help you reach this goal. And don't be afraid to ask for more money by explaining your needs.

said.

What about compensation? How much do teenagers make when they start new jobs? What do they use the money for?

"None of my friends mind working hard as long as they get paid well for it," said Emily, who is saving for college.

"I'm definitely hoping to make a lot of money this summer," Zach told us. "I was saving for traveling and for music equipment, but now I'm saving for a car."

Nicole also looks to make some extra cash.

"I need money just for life and fun stuff," she said.

And, with the minimum wage steadily increasing, teens have a greater chance at starting out well-paid.

When she began hostessing, Mullet Bay paid Emily a starting salary of \$7. Zach makes \$7.50 an hour working in the Loco's kitchen.

Nicole made \$7 an hour when she began as a Tamary's sales associate.

Along with responsibility, finding work during the summer teaches students how to be self-reliant.

"You learn how to budget yourself," Emily told us. "Having a job gives you independence because you work for your money, making you more responsible. You use your money on things that matter like buying a car or for gas or saving for college. It builds character."

"What you are doing now matters because it helps you prepare for your future professionally," Zach added.

Tami Stogner said that teens need to be focused on their performance, courteous to everyone and willing and available to help customers when on the job. She also said that employees must be able to fulfill their time commitments and take charge.

"They need to work when they say they can," she said. "They also need to take initiative when performing tasks and not always wait for someone to tell them what to do. Be proactive!"

Mindy also advises teens to have good references and lots of good retail skills.

"They should be familiar with the store and market the clothes. And they MUST have good math skills and good verbal and writing skills. They should also have good organizational skills," she said.

While students have their own ideas about what they want, employers will be surprised to find that money is not the only important thing.

Zach wants to work at a job where he can learn new skills and work with nice people.

"Having learning opportunities and developing skills is important. Coworkers also need to be compatible with you," he said.

"Working with nice people and having a nice boss are important," Nicole agreed. Meeting people is another benefit.

"All of my jobs have been good ways of meeting people, which has been great," Emily said.

Teens should have no problem finding jobs in the area. Many local businesses are open to hiring summer employees.

Said Mindy Overly, "I'm a huge advocate in working with youths. It's just very rewarding."

# POETIC JUSTICE

## Teens who vandalized Robert Frost's cabin get classroom penance

By **JOHN CURRAN**  
The Associated Press

MIDDLEBURY, Vt. — Call it poetic justice: More than two dozen young people who broke into Robert Frost's former home for a beer party and trashed the place are being required to take classes in his poetry as part of their punishment.

Using "The Road Not Taken" and another poem as jumping-off points, Frost biographer Jay Parini hopes to show the vandals the error of their ways — and the redemptive power of poetry.

The vandalism occurred at the Homer Noble Farm in Ripton, where Frost spent more than 20 summers before his death in 1963. Now owned by Middlebury College, the unheated farmhouse on a dead-end road is used occasionally by the college and is open in the warmer months.

On Dec. 28, a 17-year-old former Middlebury College employee decided to hold a party and gave a friend \$100 to buy beer. Word spread. Up to 50 people descended on the farm, the revelry turning destructive after a chair broke and someone threw it into the fireplace.

When it was over, windows, antique furniture and china had been broken, fire extinguishers discharged, and carpeting soiled with vomit and urine. The damage was put at \$10,600. Twenty-eight people — all but two of them teens — were charged.

About 25 ultimately entered pleas — or were accepted into a program that allows them to wipe their records clean — provided they underwent the Frost instruction. Some will also have to pay for some of the damage, and most were ordered to perform community service. The man who bought the beer

is the only one who went to jail; he got three days behind bars.

Parini, 60, a Middlebury College professor who has stayed at the house before, was eager to oblige when asked to teach the classes. He donated his time for the two sessions.

Last Wednesday, 11 turned out for the first, with Parini giving line-by-line interpretations of "The Road Not Taken" and "Out, Out-," seizing on parts with particular relevance to draw parallels to their case.

"Two roads diverged in a yellow wood," he thundered, reciting the opening line of the first poem, which he called symbolic of the need to make choices in life.

"This is where Frost is relevant. This is the irony of this whole thing. You come to a path in the woods where you can say, 'Shall I go to this party and get drunk out of my mind?'" he said. "Everything in life is choices."

Even the setting had parallels, he said: "Believe me, if you're a teenager, you're always in the ... woods. Literally, you're in the woods — probably too much you're in the woods. And metaphorically you're in the woods, in your life. Look at you here, in court diversion!"

Dressed casually, one with his skateboard propped up against his desk, the young people listened to Parini and answered questions when he pressed. Then a court official asked them to describe how their arrests and the publicity affected them.

"I was worried about my family," said one boy, whose name was withheld because the so-called diversion program in which took part is confidential. "I'll be carrying on the family name and all that. And with this kind of thing tied to me, it doesn't look very good."



Toby Talbot/AP

Middlebury College professor Jay Parini presents a class on poet Robert Frost to students in a court diversion program in Middlebury, Vt. More than two dozen young people were convicted of charges they vandalized a farmhouse where poet Robert Frost spent 20 of his summers.

### DOWNLOAD THIS | CHRIS BRENNAMAN

## Here's one podcast that's middle of the road



Download This is back, and, as always, we have loads of goodies for you to overload your computer. So sit back and let's see what's been served up this week ...

**Free Talk Live** — In the world

of podcasting, there are lots and lots of Sean Hannity and Al Franken wannabes, and if you're looking for folks who spout political views that lean heavily to the left or right, then there are plenty to be found.

But, if you're like most people and like your commentary more centralized, then you really can't go wrong with this excellent podcast.

Each episode takes a wide range of subjects, from digital privacy to worship in state-sponsored settings.

Best of all, on almost every topic all angles are covered, though to be fair, the libertarian side is usually the one preferred by the hosts.

It gives the listener the distinct feeling that the hosts want you to form an opinion of your own instead of forcing an oversimplified, prepackaged one for you. Head over to [PodcastAlley.com](http://PodcastAlley.com) and give it a listen.

And while we're talking about podcasts ...

**Word Balloon** — This podcast, dedicated to all things comics, has been talked about in this space before, but man if it isn't getting better

with age.

While other shows may dedicate themselves to who The Hulk is fighting this month or who is or isn't a Skrull (the comic nerds out there know what I'm talking about), Word Balloon's John Siuntres, instead, focuses on the work that goes into creating comic books, both of the spandex variety and more hard-hitting independent fare.

For anyone who has ever thought about writing or drawing comics, or for folks who just thought that those funny books look neat, this podcast will let you into the heads of the men and women who have made them for decades.

**Kevin Smith's new trailer** — Kevin Smith is

showcasing his latest flick, featuring Zach and Miri, and it looks like a good follow-up to "Clerks 2."

Like all things Smith, you're either a fan or you're not, so if you never liked "Clerks," "Mallrats" or anything featuring Jay and Silent Bob, then don't bother. For the rest of the View Askew faithful, then this is definitely worth seeing.

And there we have it. As always, keep the e-mails coming to [downloadthis@excite.com](mailto:downloadthis@excite.com). Special thanks to Thomas Busby for the Kevin Smith info. As for the rest of you, follow young Thomas' example and recommend something.