

Feature

High Schoolers in the Local Workforce

Tenderfoot Times

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Keeping a stable, long term job throughout high school is an opportunity students at SHS have.

Businesses rely heavily on high schoolers, especially during the summer and winter months when tourism is at an all time high. Recently, almost every business needs employees - and high schoolers seem to partially fill the void.

"I've noticed that there's been a generational shift in the last couple of years where high schoolers really understand the needs of employers," said Rob Gartzman, the owner of Sweetie's Sandwich Shop.

According to Gartzman, in the past, many small businesses in town have been reluctant to hire high schoolers, as some can be careless and unreliable. But, in more recent years, as the town grows and tourism is at an all time high, high schoolers have become a fixture in most small businesses.

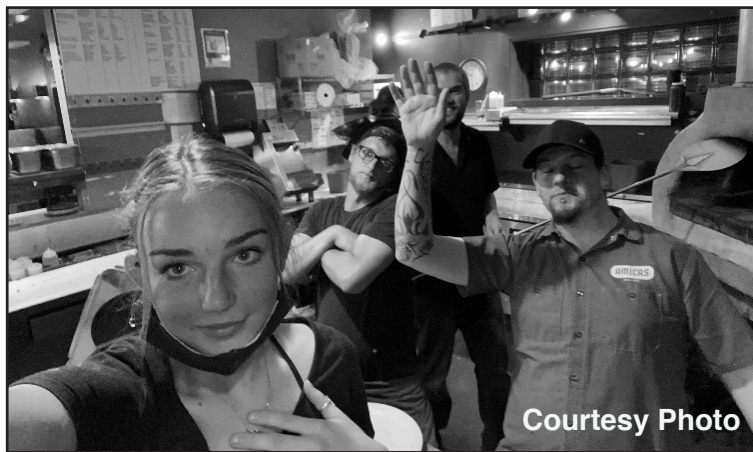
Many high schoolers enjoy working as they find it to be a productive use of their time. Sophomore Alli Bradford, who works at High Side Bar and Grill said, "I've worked at High Side for over a year now, and I love every second of it. I love the people I work with, and I even consider some of them as my friends. I also really feel like I contribute positively to the environment in which I work. I'm patient with my co-workers and don't let my tiredness take away from my effort."

Most students start out in positions such as bussing and running food, but with time can move into prepping and customer service positions. Aaliyah McGovern, a sophomore, has been at Amicas for over 4 years. She said, "I started with bussing tables and moved on to hosting and did that for a couple years, learning mostly public communication. Then I took on cater-

Story by Scarlett Campbell

ing where I learned to prep food, transport it and serve larger groups of people in unpredictable situations. After that, I learned how to work in the back washing dishes, and then moved to the kitchen where I learned how to work really well under pressure and close with other employees making salads. Lastly, I began learning how to wait tables, take orders, run food and have good customer service skills. So as a whole I feel like I do a lot and have learned so much about the service/restaurant industry."

Working gives high school students an opportunity to grow and experience the service industry and working environment before graduation - and make good money - in a town where service workers are so desperately needed.



Courtesy Photo

ABOVE: Aaliyah McGovern takes a selfie with her co-workers after an evening shift.

BELOW: The SHS Amicas Crew! From left to right is, sophomore Cooper Hodge, freshman Hudson Fisher, sophomore Aaliyah McGovern, freshman Mikayla Smith, junior Elise Bosanko and sophomore Sylvie Wolkenbreit at Homecoming on September 18, 2021.



Courtesy Photo

Thank You Scheffel!

Dean of Students, Cory Scheffel, is one of the main pieces of the SHS puzzle. As someone responsible for dealing with all student needs, he ensures he's establishing and building a healthy and positive environment. Scheffel does a lot for our school, and he deserves some appreciation.

Scheffel has been Dean for three years. Since taking the job, he hasn't really had a normal school year. During the first year of his job, COVID-19 hit. His second year was a year filled with uncertainty amongst in-person learning in a global pandemic. This year has been the most normal out of all of them. Before coming to SHS, he was a 6th grade teacher at Salida Middle School. In total, he has been teaching for 21 years. He attended Fort Lewis College where he received his English degree. Before Scheffel became a teacher, he was the manager for a brewery.

"I had this moment at like 5am when I was mopping the floors, that was like I don't want to do this for the rest of my life".

After his revelation, Scheffel went back to Fort Lewis and got his teaching certification. He was still living in Glenwood Springs when he started looking to get a masters degree. The principal in

Story by Karli Bainbridge

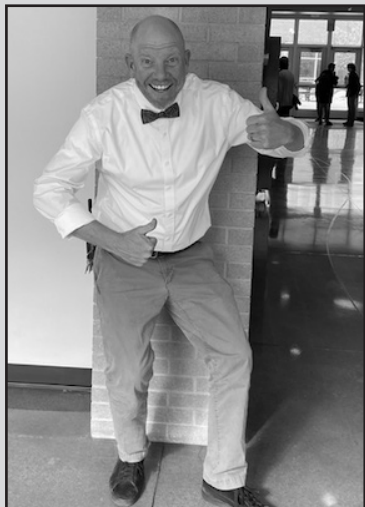
Glenwood suggested he pursue educational leadership. So, he got his masters degree at Adams State, in Alamosa. Unlike most colleges, Scheffel got a unique experience of getting to really teach one on one with students, while still in college. He still has a picture of his first ever students hanging in his office.

So how does Scheffel create such strong bonds with students he's with?

"Just being real," he said.

He explained that sometimes just being one on one with a kid can be huge. He said that his greatest success in all teaching over the years is seeing a kid overcome something. "And I've always liked people; always been able to talk," Scheffel said that he deals with his own personal stress by talking with his wife.

We are grateful to have him a part of SHS.



Local Elections

Story by Olive Ritchie

patience and grace.

"I value listening to differing views, finding consensus and improving an already strong organization" Breckenridge Petit said during an interview with The Mountain Mail.

Abby Jefferson is the opposing District 2 candidate. She does not currently hold a position on the school board. She said she knows there is no one type of education that is right for all students. She says she will promote sports and other extracurricular activities. She plans to avoid mask mandates. She wants to improve communication within the school system, and have better cooperation between the school system and law enforcement. She hopes parents will attend board meetings. Jefferson also wants to incorporate life skill training to help students be successful after graduation.

"I'm great at listening to all points of view and good at advocating for anyone," Jefferson said during an interview with The Mountain Mail.

With a degree in criminal justice, Jefferson is a criminal defense investigator. She says this makes her more likely to listen to all sides of a story instead of jumping to conclusions. She has also volunteered at Longfellow Elemen-

tary School in her childrens' classes and at her church.

"Let's come together, Salida," Jefferson said in an interview with The Mountain Mail.

Elections can often be a time of division within communities. However, choosing the right candidate in an election can help bring unity. Voting is a vital part of democracy, and it helps give a voice to people who may feel they don't have one. To help make the school board an accurate reflection of our community, vote for the candidate that you feel is the best fit for the Salida School District school board.

