



# Working World

University of Pittsburgh senior Brett Macurdy is spending his summer working for his father. Here, the Knoch High graduate paints the wall of a Saxonburg apartment that's being renovated.  
 PHOTOGRAPHY BY JUSTIN GUIDO/BUTLER EAGLE

## Students count on their summer jobs

**By Ed Biller and John Bojarski**  
 Eagle Staff Writers

Along with spring break and finals week, summer is one of the most important times in a college student's life.

They use this time to relax and reconnect with friends, but they also use it to earn enough money in three or four months to cover the cost of books, gas, rent, utilities and entertainment.

In Butler County, things are no different. Many students spend their summers at home and work in a range of settings. In some cases, students also commute.

### On the clock

About six college students call Playthings, Etc. in Clay Township their place of employment this summer.

Rob Gramley, 23, of Franklin is living in Butler while he attends Butler County Community College for computer information systems.

"I wanted to work at a place that was a lot of fun. It seemed like it would be a really cool job, and it turns out it is," Gramley said.

"I get to play with all of the toys we have out, demonstrate them to customers. We are always getting new toys in, so it's like Christmas every day."

"Pretty much everybody who comes in the door has fun while they are here, which really makes it an enjoyable place to work," he said.

Mazzanti's Beans and Cream in Center Township has a pair of students headed to college in the fall and one current university student on its payroll.

Alex Weil, 20, of Prospect is in his second

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**Rob Gramley,**  
 BC3 student with summer job at Playthings, Etc. in Clay Township

summer slinging cones between semesters at Westminster College in New Wilmington, where he double-majors in French and music.

Mazzanti's is the second ice cream eatery he has worked.

"I like to say I'm a veteran in the business," Weil joked. "I don't really consider it a food service even though it is. It's fun for me and it's not overly complicated. And, I really like ice cream."

Although his former favorite ice cream — chocolate-covered pretzel — has disappeared from the menu, Weil finds solace in the shop's peanut butter cup s'mores flavor.

When he's not tending to cone-coveting customers, Weil also works for Westminster's theater department, helping at camps throughout the summer.

Suncrest Golf Course in Penn Township hires college students for a number of positions, from bar help to pro shop sales.

"Usually, we start hiring in March, when we open for the season," said pro shop employee Linda Reddinger.

"We have college kids that work on the course itself, and sometimes they



Above, Ryan Mcgeehan cuts hedges at Kozy Rest campground in Marion Township. Since the work there is seasonal, students are a good fit. At right, Alex Weil of Prospect, a "veteran" of the ice cream business, fills a cone while working at his summer job at Mazzanti's Beans and Cream in Center Township.



are cart washers, as well."

Reddinger said the number of hires depends on how many students return from previous summers.

"The last three years, we've done very well with that. This year we only had to hire two new ones," she said.

"Typically, we start at

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