

Job interviewers put WCHS students to test



Charles W. Johnson photo

WCHS sophomore Caleb Underhill undergoes a mock interview with River Park Hospital representative Anne Vance as part of a program designed to help students be better prepared for

the interview process. There were 80 students in business teacher Jamie Branin's class who participated,

By CHARLES W. JOHNSON
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Warren County High School students got a chance to hone their job interview skills thanks to volunteers from the business community who came to the school and held mock interviews designed to give students hands-on experience with the process.

Career and technical teacher Jamie Branin says the program reaches a significant number of students who get to interact with representatives from a wide range of local businesses.

"We are holding mock interviews with 80 students," Branin said. "We have human resource departments from Ben Lomand, River Park, Bridgestone, Yorozu, the city of McMinnville, and McMinnville Electric System."

Branin says the goal is to help students get ahead once they enter the job market.

"We're trying to prepare these students to get better jobs in the future," Branin said. "We're trying to improve their basic interview skills and interpersonal skills. They've created the résumés and have gone over the top 10 questions that most people would be asked in an interview, so hopefully that's preparing them for the real world out there, whether they go to college or go out to get a job after high school."

River Park representative Anne Vance says she got involved because she feels it's a benefit to students.

"I think it's good to help prepare these students for the job market," Vance said. "It's a more difficult job market right now and they need the interview skills so they can compete effectively."

McMinnville Electric System CEO and general manager Rodney Boyd says he was pleased to volunteer because he believes this kind of hands-on

experience will serve the students well when they enter today's more competitive job market.

"I think it's a great opportunity for young people to be able to get their first introduction to the interview process, to find out what to expect," said Boyd. "Of course my goal in all this is to help them. The next time they're put in this situation, they can be more professional, more relaxed, do a good job and be employed."

The students involved say they think the program will provide some much-needed, real-world experience. WCHS sophomore Caleb Underhill said he thinks it's a great way to get a feel for the interview process.

Fellow business student Katlyn Burnett agrees.

"It helps students understand what you have to do to get ready for an interview and what it's like to go on a job interview," said Burnett.

Cellphone photo among cases indicted

By DUANE SHERRILL
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GRAND JURY

pending license.
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