

Seven boys spend summer with Kaboomers

By Jade Grasianni

Boom! Bang! Pow! Summertime is all about big firework shows. But where are these fireworks coming from? This is where Kaboomers' firework stands comes into play, and students from Mead High play a part in selling them.

Seven Mead students spent their summer working at Kaboomers' firework stands. Some of them had prior experience going into this working season, but junior Abram Lee underwent his first summer working there.

"At the start I struggled just because it's all new and I was learning the process," Lee said. "After the first day of doing something there's not much to it; it's pretty simple."

Although selling fireworks may seem easy while sitting at the stand all day, lots of work must go in before that. Stocking season is essential to running this company.

Senior Tony Engel finished his second year working for Kaboomers, and he can confirm that the moving of fireworks from truck to warehouse is hard work – hanging out in the selling stand is much better.

"I like selling season a lot better because it's not as much work," Engel said. "It's not as repetitive as stocking and it's more entertaining."

Speaking of entertainment, the boys shared many memorable moments at work. That doesn't necessarily mean crazy activities, but just fun times hanging out together.

"We have a lot of good times at Kaboomers," said Engel, who identified his favorite. "I would say probably making Tik Toks at the fireworks stand when no one would come in."

Not only did working at the stand add joyful memories for the boys, but it also added life skills that they can carry on to everyday life.

“I learned how to be more socially active,” Lee said. “At the stand we would check people out and help sell fireworks, and also I would communicate with my coworkers.”

Talking with coworkers can be fun, but work needs to be done in a timely fashion. Manager Peyton Brabec has been working at Kaboomers for nine years and has been warehouse manager for one. He knows that Lee and Engel add beneficial skills to the workplace.

“Abe and Tony are positives to me because the more workers we have that come to work,” Brabec said, “the quicker and more efficiently we get things done.”

It’s fun to get to hang out with friends and have something to do during summertime, but the real reason why these boys work during summer is clear – to earn that paycheck!

“There would be bunches of people who come in and we’d make good money,” Engel said. “It’s a pretty good job for highschoolers.”

With the combination of hanging out with friends, having something to do, and making cash, Kaboomers was a great environment for these boys to work in during summer. Both Engel and Lee plan on going back to work at Kaboomers next season.

“It was a job that paid well for the work we did,” Lee said, “and it was close to town too.”