



Ghosts aren't real

Sophomore Max Wilson shares his experience working at a morgue as a high school student

by ashley guddat

There seems to be many preconceived notions about working in a morgue: The employees are probably murderers; there are ghosts and zombies that haunt the building at night. Max Wilson, sophomore at GJHS, has first hand experience with such stories, since he's worked at a morgue since he was 14. But he has a different take on it.

"Actually, I think people at the funeral home are some of the nicest people I know," said Wilson in response to these interpretations.

He first started his job when his father, Jason Wilson, was hired at Brown's Funeral Home near Homestyle Bakery on 7th Street. He then started helping out occasionally before starting to earn money for his work.

Wilson typically goes to the funeral home after school until 4:30 to help out with chores, or on pre-need orders (when someone is expected to pass away). He works additionally when there is an immediate need (when someone passes away unexpectedly) since the morgue is understaffed. For Wilson, unlike many employed high schoolers, his job is not a chore.

"I really like being there for people so like just helping out people in need because personally, I haven't had much death, but I've had a lot of friends who had death in their lives and I helped them out with that," said Wilson.

Kelton King, a friend of Wilson, can attest to that.

King's father passed away when he was just 10 years old when he'd only known Wilson for a few months. Despite their

short relationship, Wilson went to the funeral at King's request to support him.

"We've been [friends] ever since. He's always been there for me, he has helped me through everything... he's like my brother at this point," said King.

It's not only a job, it holds a personal connection for Wilson, who has a heart for comforting and supporting people. Although he has a deep attachment to his job, he doesn't often let it affect him emotionally.

"Only recently [has it affected me] with younger deaths because it's kind of hard to see that," said Wilson. "It's only...things when you [can] clearly see mental health wasn't appreciated and stuff like that; it bothers me."

In a way though, working at the morgue has given Wil-

son a new outlook on life.

"In a good way, it's really desensitized me to death. So it's like I know that when a family member passes, I'm gonna be there in the right way and I'm not going to be super worried," said Wilson. Rather than making him dread the death of a family member or friend, Wilson's job has reframed his way of thinking.

"It's kind of like a hope because like I'm not afraid of death, because I know that good things are going to come."