

The Great Boys State Debate

Candidates for executive offices square off

By **LOGAN GIDEON**
Media Staff Writer

Staters attended the State Office Candidates' Debate Tuesday after marching to the tune of Jodies all the way to McCain Auditorium.

This is where the Nationalist and the Federalist parties had their final debate.

Following guest speaker Jill Druskis' (Director of Americanism) speech about the history and legacy of the American Legion's Boys State, a questionnaire text poll, and the first episode of BS News, the debate began.

Each of the parties candidates then went against their counterpart: Commissioner of Insurance (N David Krall, F Affan Ahmad), Secretary of State (N Drew Broeckelman, F Samuel Young), State Treasurer (N BumJin Jung, F T.J. Blake), Attorney General (N Ricardo Patino, F Brandon Schrader), and ending with the Governor (N Jesse Porter, F Cole Feldman).

Each candidate was asked very detailed questions that the Debate Committee, and various organizations had compiled.

Following the candidates responses to the questions the op-



posing candidate would answer the same question followed by a rebuttal from the first candidate.

Earlier in the day both parties were very busy. When asked how they were preparing for the debate, the Nationalist candidates said they were, "Trying to educate ourselves on not only our platform going through the House and the Senate. Especially the controversial bill No. 420."

The Federalist party candidates

stated, "We, the Federalists, discussed with one another our platform at the precinct committee meeting prior to the debate. We also practiced questions and answers in order to ensure the people's views were expressed".

Following the debate and much excitement, ballots were passed out to all of the delegates to determine who would win the general election.

Brownback Orders Flags To Half Staff

By **MATT ROGERS**
Media Staff Writer

Kansas Governor Sam Brownback has made an important and noble decision which honors fallen soldiers from Kansas.

This Thursday, June 7th, Brownback has made the executive order to have flags lowered to half-staff throughout the state of Kansas to honor three soldiers killed last year in Afghanistan.

The three soldiers -- Sgt. Alexander Bennett, Spc. Spencer Duncan, and Chief Warrant Officer Bryan Nichols-- are being honored for

their service and deaths.

These three heroic soldiers were among the 30 US soldiers who were in a helicopter in Afghanistan when it was shot down on August 6th, 2011.

Nichols was from Hays, Kansas while Bennett and Duncan were from Olathe.

This week, when pledging our respect to the flag, we can hold an even deeper respect on Thursday, when the flag is hung at half mast in honor of our heroes.



Convicted KC Murderer Wins Appeal On Sentence

By **STAFF REPORTS**
Media Staff Writer

A Missouri appeals court ruled Tuesday Jerel T. Jackson was improperly sentenced by the Jackson County Circuit Court for a 2006 double killing in Kansas City, according to an Associated Press report.

"Jackson, now 25, was sentenced by a judge to 22 years in prison for the killings of Kimberly C. Ford and Ricky L. Gardner. He was also convicted of assault in the shooting of Ford's 9-year-old son, who later had to

have one arm amputated," the report said.

A three-judge panel of the Western District Court of Appeals said Jackson must be re-sentenced by a jury because he was initially sentenced as a "prior and persistent offender."

However, AP reported, "Jackson's other arguments on appeal and upheld his convictions on charges of second-degree murder, armed criminal action and first-degree assault."

The Staters Union is a designated forum of free speech. The print edition is published every day of Boys State by the Staters Union Staff. It is distributed for no charge throughout Kansas Boys State. All stories pertaining to Boys State within these pages refer to a simulated society, and editorial license may have been used to report the "facts" of such stories. Letters to the editor are encouraged and accepted. Letters must be signed and the writer's county indicated to be considered for publication. All letters are subject to editing for length, legal, grammatical and factual reasons. Letters should be taken to the Staters Union office in the basement of Marlatt Hall (Room 20).

**Questions? Comments?
Ideas for State?**

*Text 91286 followed by your
comments to 22333, and it
may be printed in the paper!*

Staters take part in Town Hall Meetings

By WILLIAM ENGLANDER,
KYLE HALLINAN, MORGAN
FAULKNER
Media Staff Writer

Delegates gathered Tuesday for an excellent address by Roger Reitz, an accomplished man in the field of state government who is currently a member of the Kansas Senate.

Senator Reitz had three points he wanted Staters to take away from his presentation. The first was the value of a good handshake should never be underestimated. The second was to anyone in the room who is or will someday be a public speaker, “Get out when they’re gone,” Senator Reitz succinctly put it. There comes a point when the audience’s attention has been permanently lost. The final topic covered the great Jack Kilby, a Kansan famous for his invention of the microchip. He believed that every Kansan should know and be proud of this visionary native to the Sunflower State.

Senator Reitz hoped that a number of those present harbored an “inkling” for public service in their future, and with his inspiring talk, that number has undoubtedly increased.

Judge Pierron

Joe Pierron is a judge for the court of appeals in the Kansas supreme court. He was an honored guest for everyone there which usually means we were about to be on a long haul of boring government lectures. Joe on the other hand had something different in mind.



He started his lecture with a story about drug searches, and how they violate the 4th Amendment. After he finished the story, he asked Staters to debate whether or not drug blockades violated the 4th Amendment.

Staters from different counties expressed their views for about 15 minutes. Pierron figured by then the Staters had had enough. He told the Staters the point to why we were debating was to make a real Supreme Court case understandable and relatable to the soon to be Seniors. Joe taught a boring subject in an entertaining way, and the Staters can thank Judge Joe Perrin very much for helping expand their knowledge of the judiciary system and how it relates to everyday life.

Attorney General Derek Schmidt

Another speaker was Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt. Schmidt, a former stater himself,

identified with Staters by speaking about his experience at Boys State, as well as the impact it had – and continues to have – on his life. However, Schmidt did emphasize one point – Staters should always maintain a spirit of “openness to opportunity”.

He elaborated on his schooling at the University of Kansas, Georgetown University, and Cambridge in the United Kingdom, explaining how opportunities presented themselves to him because of the interest in government Boys State fostered within him. Schmidt implored Staters, whether currently interested in public service or not, never rule out a possibility or ignore an opportunity. It would be advisable for all Boys State delegates to take his wisdom to heart.

Speaker Of House Arrested

By **DREW SMITH**
Media Staff Writer

On Tuesday Boys State of Kansas Speaker of the House Frank Depenbusch failed to show up for jury duty in King County and will face trial for contempt of court.

High Patrol Troopers arrested Depenbusch shortly after noon Tuesday.

When asked if the Speaker of

the House had ever been arrested before at Boys State, King County, Harris City Counselor Lucas Smith said, "Creative kids do creative things. City officials have been arrested but probably not the Speaker of the House."

Depenbusch said his failure to show for jury duty stems from a miscommunication.

"I was told already that I have an exemption from the counselors,

and that's all I'll be saying until I have a lawyer," he said when questioned about his arrest.

Depenbusch was released on bail which was posted by the county.

There will be a \$500 fine if he is found guilty.

The prosecutor is Chase Pumford. The trial will be held Thursday at 9 a.m.

Drug violence creeping closer to U.S.

By **J.T. HAGER**
Media Staff Writer

Drug violence could be spilling into the states. On Monday authorities found a car ablaze 70 miles away from the US-Mexico border with five bodies burned inside.

These bodies were so badly burned they are not recognizable, even dental records cannot determine who these people are.

Being just 35 miles from one of the nation's largest

cities in Arizona and in a very well known drug "corridor" has authorities almost convinced it was the work of a violent drug cartel.

Pinal County Sheriff Paul Babeu says, "It is very alarming to me as the Sheriff here that there could be this level of deliberate violence."

Autopsies will tell if these people were killed before the car was set ablaze.

There is no leads or headway for authorities at this time in Arizona.

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County Counselors Compete In Volleyball

By **BRYAN COURTNEY**
Media Staff Writer

Each day while the Staters are doing recreational activities, the County Counselors partake in some heated volleyball competition.

After day one, the West Coast, Marlatt, is in the lead! Even though the East Coast, Goodnow, lost, they're not going to give up yet.

"I think that East Coast is better than West Coast, enough said. Monday is just a warm-up. It's all about the series, and I think we have more spirit than the West Coast," said Alex Jones of MacArthur.

The West Coast may need to watch out, but according to the West Coast's county counselors, they feel pretty confident in their abilities to keep their lead on the East Coast.



"Marlatt won two out of three, so obviously we're the better coast. I also think that this is a good time to relax and blow off some steam," said Zack Rebarck of Pershing.

Not all counselors are just in the competition to beat the other

coast, some are just in it for fun and to relax.

"Volleyball is a good way for the County Counselors to blow off some steam and get a chance to bond with each other," said Shane Wilson of Bradley.

Kings Closing In On Stanley Cup

By **CALEB HECKER**
Media Staff Writer

In 1967 the NHL added a new team to the mix -- the Los Angeles Kings -- and after Monday night's win against the New Jersey Devils, the Kings are on the verge of winning their first-ever Stanley Cup Final 45 years later.

The Kings were underestimated as the eight seed in the Eastern Conference but have since proven

that to be inaccurate.

Up three games to none and one win away from hoisting the Stanley Cup, the Kings haven't just eased by the Devils. They have dominated everybody, going a ridiculous 15-2 through the course of the playoffs.

However, the Kings could have been down 2-0 with the Devils after some ugly performances, but managed to escape with two overtime victories.

Kings goalie Jonathan Quick has

been key throughout the playoffs, making a huge stop at exactly the right moment. Tuesday was no different as he managed to stop all 22 of the Devils shots on goal, in a 4-0 win.

Wednesday the Kings will get the chance to put the series away and show-off the Stanley Cup in front of their faithful fans, and 45 years later and they may finally have cause to celebrate.

Election Winners Announced

By HARRISON LAMP

Media Staff Writer

The 2012 Kansas Boys State Executive Branch has been inaugurated.

Winners were as follows: Governor- Jesse Porter, Nationalist of Pershing County; Lt. Governor- Tymon Wall, Nationalist of Marshall County; Attorney General- Brandon Schrader, Federalist of Pershing County; State Treasurer- T.J. Blake, Federalist of Bradley County; Secretary of State- Samuel Young, Federalist of Seitz County; and Commissioner of Insurance- Affan Ahmad, Federalist of Macarthur County.

They have all shown their great worth throughout these first few days,

and we look forward to seeing where they will take the future of Boys State the rest of the week.

After interviewing two people, we can see some trends in the thought process that produced the officials we have today.

Caleb Coulter, a Federalist, noted that he, "voted Federal all the way."

What stuck out to him the most from the debate was the confidence of some of the debators in comparison to others.

The most surprising win to him was the Nationalist governor. His final comment was that he was happy that the new officials are for the most part all Federalist.

The second person who spoke on the

election results was Clayton Gubler, a Nationalist. He mentioned that his votes went to all the Federalist candidates save the Nationalist governor.

The candidates, "surprised him with their ability to debate." He also spoke about how he felt a lot of the candidates wasted time bantering back and forth about what one said about the other.

Clayton was not surprised by any of the candidate wins. "I could have bet money on the winners," he confidently stated.

His final statement was that he forees that, "Whatever the 'head figure' (or governor) will set the tone for all of his subordinates, and that they will follow his leadership."

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King County Highway Plan

The King County Commission has laid down plans to build a highway running through the cities of Hiatt and Harris. The highway will run through the important industrial district of both cities in King County. This will link up the King and Powell Counties to benefit both of them economically and politically. The commission is currently working to raise funds for this project.

We give our greatest thanks to our friends within the Federalist party who have already donated a substantial amount for this project. This project, however, still requires more funding. If you or any PAC you are a part of will benefit from this, please contact the King County Commission. Also, if you are a County that would like to link together with this highway, please contact us.

Marshall County Highway Plan

Marshall County has realized that there is a problem with the road system, more specifically the highway system. Therefore, we have prepared a plan to fix the existing highway by resurfacing it. We are also going to refurbish the bridge completely. As well as these projects, we will construct a new highway connecting the cities of Klassen and Lane. This highway will boost Marshall's economy by attracting businesses and decrease travel time for all commuters.