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A WEEK THAT **Changed** MY LIFE



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Legion Night

By Maverick Aggson -Staters Union

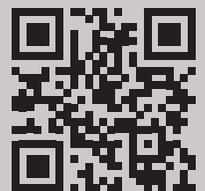
The Boys State Legion Night Show was a blast, not only for the music and performance, but also for the comradery and showmanship backstage. What the performers as a group put forward was something to marvel at, whether backstage, or in the audience. It took all of the contestants to make this show go down in history as one of the best. From the rousing medley of oceans and galleons, to the march and ceremony of John Phillips Sousa, every performance demanded a standing ovation and the Boys State counties obliged with eagerness.

Behind the scenes, the reinforcement and encouragement that the talent show Contestants put forth was rival to none. There was never a time that someone came back from on stage without receiving hugs, pats on the back, fist bumps and words of kindness. The importance of teamwork and decency are all the more essential as tensions rise between the communities within our state, and If there was one word to describe the cast and crew of this years' Legion night, it would be brotherhood.

The Performers certainly have something to be very, very proud of. Not only because of their acts, but also for the environment that they created for their fellow Staters.



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POLITICS

Release the Budget!

By Maverick Aggson and Bradley Schrock
-Staters Union

Yesterday, in the House of Representatives, Governor Noah Gould and his cabinet revealed their budget outline to mixed reactions. Within the document shown, the total revenue for the state exceeds \$14,453,000.00. About 14% of this will go to the Department of Natural Resources, 44% will be going to the Department of Humanities, and the Department of Economic Affairs will be receiving 28% of the budget. However, any and all funds provided By the state will only be utilizable within 5% of their actual value.

Shortly after lunch, a combined session of the House and Senate passed the proposed budget unanimously to thunderous applause from the assembled lawmakers. The budget that was approved was a scrappy one, being forced by the limitations provided on the limit of new project spending to weigh every dollar and work closely with the counties and departments to provide a solution fair for everyone. The budget negotia-



County Summit

By Jonah Kim-Staters Union

As budgets were finalized and counties got word, a statewide summit was called in Seitz County to discuss the construction of facilities to better the state. Proposed Were a hydroelectric dam and a regional convention center to be built in Seitz county as all surrounding counties would benefit. To counteract the slight increase in benefit Seitz would receive they also had agreed to take a landfill. This plan would have benefited all counties equally and in building infrastructure, the plan was to bring in more revenue for cities to have the capability to potentially build three star facilities.

However, when it seemed an agreement was close, Natural Resources arrived, shutting down the idea. The budget proposed and the cost of the project would not leave Natural Resources with enough money left over to accomplish anything else through-

tions were contentious and grueling, with the executives meeting with representatives across the state until almost two in the morning on the eighth.

When asked about the budget meeting proceedings, the President of the Senate, Kevin Fall, said,

“The process in the joint session was actually very smooth. I’m very proud of all our legislators for getting this win for the state.” Governor Gould credited the hard work of his fellow elected state officials for their late-night work session to make a budget that everyone was comfortable with. Now that the state has an official budget the departments have a much clearer picture of what projects they can focus on and what they have money for to give out to the counties. This is both a disadvantage and a positive factor as counties will have to be much more deliberate in how they ask for money and find new ways to raise income and save money.

City Spotlight: Shoemaker

With Powell County winning all four banners Tuesday night, it was only right that one of their cities won best city as well. On the success of the city of Shoemaker, Mayor Alex Troth explains, “In Shoemaker, we started off pretty strong with prioritizing the safety and the health of our citizens and we boosted a lot of the police force and the education as well.” Shoemaker was the first city in the history of Boys State to have a perfect score in the simulation. Many in the city attribute the success to police kayaks donated by County Councilman John Gilmore. On the future of the city, Troth says, “Going forward we just want to continue increasing our safety and along the way improve our city as well with roads and improving the property.”

out the week. Despite a surplus in the Humanities department and counties willing to pool some money to help cover the costs, Natural Resources was still unwilling to cooperate.

Instead they proposed an idea that has never been accomplished in any Boys State ever: going to space. Natural Resources outlined a plan in which the counties would compete to see how much money they could raise throughout the week, and by Friday, it would all be pooled together to purchase the space station. The Natural Resources department proposed benefits of making history, generating revenue, and showing the ultimate display of bipartisanship and teamwork.

Despite some being in support of the idea, many had doubts and felt that the money pooled throughout the week could be put toward more attainable projects that would have an observable impact on the community instead of all used on the last day. No matter what the counties and departments agree on, it will surely be an interesting outcome.