



6 June 2008

Boys State devastated by natural disaster



Courtesy Photos

King, Seitz and Powell Counties were hit with natural disasters. King County was hit by a hail storm and their property values went down 75%. Seitz and Powell were affected by a tornado and their cost of living was raised 20% after the disaster.



Ben Kostroske
Reporter
Janssen, MacArthur

Thursday night, a devastating series of storms moved through the eastern part of Kansas.

The counties of King, Seitz, and Powell were drastically affected, leaving only MacArthur untouched. Seitz and Powell were hit with tor-

nados that wreaked havoc throughout the entire area, leaving no family untouched by the tragedy at hand.

Although not nearly as devastating, a hail storm blew through and caused some terrible damage to King County. All lots were affected by the storms that came through along with crime rates, property value, and

cost of living. This in turn makes the economy for each county decrease.

The crime rate went up 10% in King County and 20% in both Seitz and Powell Counties. The property value in King County went down 75%, while the Seitz and Powell Counties' property value went down 100%, a total loss. The cost of living in King County went

up 10% and Seitz and Powell Counties went up 20%. Overall, the economy of King County went down 40%, while Seitz and Powell Counties went down a full 80%. The counties hit by these disasters suffered heavy losses and will need the help of everyone pulling together to make things right again.

Staters shocked at allegations of false ballots

Ben Kostroske

Reporter

Janssen, MacArthur

Jaws dropped in shock as a wave of confusion and awe passed through every person involved in Boys State in reaction to the Thursday edition of *The Stater's Union*.

The headline read that there was suspicion of voting fraud in the election of current Governor-in-office Andrew Koucky.

Evidence led to overwhelming suspicion that there were some extra ballots added to the general vote. The common belief is that it is not just a computer glitch, but that the ballot had been tampered with.

"It looks to be a valid case since they went through the results multiple times and came up with the same results. It can't just be a computer glitch. Someone must have done something to the ballots," said Joe Rundle of Powell County.

Staters all seemed to be in varying states of disbelief and shock over the alleged scandal.

"I was hoping peo-

ple wouldn't sink to that level of cheating a Boys State election. If they did, they should definitely go into politics because that's what happens in the real world," said Zach Langford of MacArthur County.

While it may be true in the real world that people cheat for wanted positions, it just doesn't seem likely that someone in the surrounding "illegitimate government", or anyone involved with Boys State for that matter, would do something like that.

Some wonder how Koucky could have won without illicit actions, but highly doubt he had anything to do with it.

"If you were actually paying attention, you would have realized Alex won the debate because Koucky contradicted himself and copied Alex's ideas," Langford said. "He even disrespected Alex and the Nationalist party during the debates."

When asked about disrespecting Alex and the Nationalist party, it was pointed out that Koucky was not only making gestures implying a feeling

of superiority over the Nationalists were below him and could not be more wrong, even stating that his opponents were wrong multiple times, but then adopting their policies.

"Even after having someone cheat and the 60/40 split in Koucky's favor, the fact that he still only won by a slim margin shows how surprising the victory came," said Adam Pounds of Pershing County, who is also the leader of the Socialist Movement.

Even before the evidence of tampered ballots came out, some had doubt about how Koucky won the vote.

"He was waffling on the issues too much and not only contradicted himself, but promised unrealistic goals," Pounds says. "Obviously the fact that Koucky is following all of Alex's policies in favor of his own, essentially lying to get into office, proves that Alex was the better man and should've won the election."

Secretary of State Marcus McNeal of MacArthur was afraid of

something like this, and feels the new restructured process for voting would have made it much less likely that something like that could happen.

"That ain't right. I really hope it's not true..." he said.

It's just too bad it couldn't have been implemented before the election.

Re-doing the voting would be the only fair way to solve the problem, but there may not be enough time, and he hopes it doesn't come to the issue of impeachment.

"Whoever tampered with the vote should know that this kind of ruins the Boys State experience and honor code that goes along with it," Langford said.

The issue is still being investigated and debated about by higher-up officials, but whichever way the case goes this has obviously stirred up much controversy and caused much disturbance throughout Boys State and will be remembered for years to come regardless of how the issue resolves itself as the week winds down.

Partisanship divides democracy

Jared Anderson

Copy Editor

Lane, Marshall

In our modern political world, two main parties exist, the Democratic and Republican parties. We all know that the Democratic party is liberal, while the Republican party is conservative. However, instead of coexisting to solve problems and achieve goals, all the parties normally seem to do is rip each other to

shreds.

We need to learn how to coexist with each other both politically and socially, as Boys State has showed us. As it turns out, compromise seems to be the most effective method of getting anything done. As a nation, we have to learn to meet in the middle.

Take any issue, and a compromise can be reached, but not just any compromise. We can take the best parts of every is-

sue and bring them together to make the best legislation possible.

For instance, look at our healthcare system, the way it is right now. We have publicly funded aid, Medicare and Medicaid, for those who have trouble affording the more expensive private healthcare. Though some complain of poor coverage, the truth is that everyone has access to these public programs- they just need to take some initiative to

obtain care.

Citizens who can afford to can choose private or public care. If we level off the playing field entirely, we eliminate a large industry based on choice. On the other hand, if we discontinue government aid, those who cannot afford healthcare will have no access to it, something we all see that will not work.

see *Partisan*, page 7

The man, the legend, the Schroer

Korab Eland

Reporter

Bramlage, Bradley

Almost every morning, we have the opportunity to hear a few good words from a man named Jim Schroer.

A legionnaire for half a century, Jim has gathered a lot of wisdom over the years that every stater can learn from.

I sat down with Mr. Schroer and asked him to tell me his life story, so that other staters could get to know him at a personal level. Jim's story begins when he was 21 and was drafted into the military.

"I was a handcuff volunteer," Schroer said.

That is his clever way of saying drafted. At that time, many young Americans were being drafted into the service of their country to support the war effort in Korea. Jim happened to be in college at that time and was eligible for a deferment to become exempt from the draft, but he never even considered it.

He entered the army in 1951, where he became a combat engineer and joined a heavy construction battalion at Kim Po Airbase, near Seoul. There, his job was to oversee the

extension of an American airstrip.

"We extended the strip 1100 feet on both ends and the project required us to cut into the side of a mountain in order to create space," said Schroer.

As he was completing the project, the war ended and he, along with his wife and two young children, were transferred to Guam for another construction project.

Jim spent a total of six years away from home and returned in 1958 to complete his schooling, but remained in the army reserves. When he could not attend the summer

camps, Jim chose to leave in order to keep his job in the asphalt paving business.

In his lifetime, he has been involved in a wide variety of activities and jobs. He was an agent for the Kansas City Star from 1975 through 2003.

Jim also enjoyed refereeing and umpiring many sports in the Manhattan area, such as basketball, baseball and soccer. He even worked the K-State home baseball games for 12 years. He has a wonderful wife who pursued a career as a lawyer after giving him his 8 children.

see *Schroer*, page 8

State cuts Ethics, Good Government Commission takes budget hit, still remains relevant

Jake Kaufman

*Reporter/ Layout Editor
Schulz, Powell*

Many staters could be seen today on the first floor of the Goodnow building trying to raise money from the state departments.

Onedepartmentthatwas visited by many political action committees was the Commission on Ethics and Good Government.

The main task of the Commission on Ethics and Good Government is to establish ethical guidelines for the government of Boys State to follow.

While the group may seem like it has been brushed under the rug

in terms of the state departments, it actually has more power than most departments.

The commission seems to have been almost forgotten or purposely cut out from the current government budget.

Their current budget stands at \$30, which is nearly $\frac{3}{4}$ reduced from last years budget. The commission used to have four jobs, but currently has three.

This completely goes against what Governor Koucky's platform promised. They promised fixing the deficient without cutting back on state departments.

"The current budget is alright," Nick Cole,

Aylward, Bradley, said about the new budget. "The fact that they are saying they are lowering taxes, when actually the lower class has to pay more taxes makes me angry, and it is very unethical."

Despite the major obstacles the commission has been faced with, they have overcome as today was a very productive day for them.

They have drafted many rules that they wish to enact. One rule is that the Lt. Governor is its own position, and will have to be voted on during the primary elections.

They have also sought to make campaign promises legally binding, and putting a \$200 cap on

donations to groups and campaigns.

"I've been asked by several people to help solve cases that deal with blatant ethical regulations, to which we've promised to do our best." Dallas Lawrence, Whorley, Seitz, said about the commission's work day.

Overall the commission's policies look to restrict lobbyists and expand justice in campaigns, and county life.

They are overcoming their reduced budget by being very proactive, and look to truly make a difference in the Boys State government simulation.

Career Fair showcases more than education

Christopher Kuckelman

*Reporter
Finley, Kennedy*

"An opportunity to come out and to meet a lot of great students," is what Benedictine College representative, Sarah Wohlgemuth sees in attending the Boys' State College Fair.

Students and colleges alike attended the Kansas Boys' State College Fair

to discover the best of the best among Kansas schools and students.

The goal is to ease the process for seniors and to make college information readily available.

"It shows options," Zane Hesting said. The large number of schools provided an opportunity for staters to discover the different educational opportunities.

Whether searching for a

public or private school in Kansas and neighboring states, staters were bound to discover one that will fit them.

Kyle Granzow of Pershing County was one such individual who discovered a college which was the perfect fit.

"The people were very helpful and willing to surrender information," Granzow said, "I talked to a lady from Emporia

and now I have a campus visit."

Granzow is the prime example of what a college fair is intended to do. Granzow also added "the fair really filled in the cracks."

Many smaller schools also face a major disadvantage when competing against larger colleges such as

see *Fair*, page 8

Kansas Super Highway hits roadblocks

Christopher Kuckelman
Reporter
Finley, Kennedy

As many have discovered, legal processes take a rather long time to be completed. Restrictions and guidelines overwhelm those who are working diligently in attempt to get projects passed and approved. The transportation joint committee recently

felt this frustration as they were working on the Kansas Super Highway.

The meeting was fairly slow and unsuccessful due to the approvals needed. As the committee began reviewing the procedures and getting ready to write up the proposal a road block was in place. The committee could not build the highway without getting approval from

each individual county and city. The committee would have to go and be able to tell the individuals on the commissions the exact zones and areas the highway would cross. The committee would also have to make sure they were not interfering with any other projects the cities and counties were working on. The committee then had to investigate

whether or not to build the highway on the county lines and if it would be legal to do so in order to save the trouble of getting approval from each individual city and county.

After problems arose, the meeting concluded. Sly and sarcastic alternatives were presented, however no alternatives were taken seriously.

Powell County declares war on King County

Dan Simon
Copy Editor
Harris, King

Powell County recently passed radical legislation to declare war on King County. The legislation was passed by a two to one majority.

This comes in the wake of several King County successes. The Powell County commission, led by Jimmy Kirkpatrick, has decided a course of war is best path to pursue.

"We are tired of King County's outright arrogance and self-righteous false sense of superiority," Kirkpatrick said. "We have declared unconditional guerilla warfare on King County."

The war went into effect at 10 a.m. on Thurs-

day, June 5.

A King County counselor was informed of this decision.

The declaration has been issued, but no strike has been made yet. Powell County has assembled a voluntary militia to prepare for action.

It is the responsibility of the state to stop this illegal declaration of war before it escalates. Counties do not have the authority to declare war, but Powell has attempted to pass the resolution regardless.

"We want to see the annihilation of King County, and I'll be d----- if I'm going to let any state legislation stop me," Kirkpatrick said. "State intervention will result in the destruction of King's nuclear facility triggering a state-

wide nuclear holocaust."

King County is not concerned about the threat because these actions are illegal, and the Boys State simulation does not even account for such actions.

There is no possibility of damage to King County by the Powell County aggression.

The NRA of King County has examined the issue carefully. The NRA was a PAC established by Sam Wessels to ensure the protection of Second Amendment rights. While the PAC is currently pushing for concealed carry legislation in Kansas, they are also prepared to defend King County from the supposed threat.

"The NRA is here to protect our homes and cities from invasion and

threats in general by protecting the Second Amendment," Wessels said. "We are prepared to defend King County."

Much hostility has been shown toward King County. Many claim this resentment arises from the arrogance displayed by the county.

King County has proven to be a very strong county. The county has won the "Best County Banner" for two days in a row. The county has also won an "Athletic Banner".

However, Wessels countered with, "King County has been successful because we have come together, and everybody works for the county,"

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Letter to the Editor; King claims article is bias

Members of *The Staters' Union* welcome, and thank those who take time to write and send in letters to the editor. They are read and edited for grammatical, repetitive, or unfit to read errors only. Everything else is published as it is recieved, and does not always warrant a response.

I am a resident of Hasler city in King County. I am writing this letter with regards to the article recently published in your paper, *The Staters' Union*, Volume 71, Issue 5.

I am kindly asking and persistantly demanding that you revise the article written on behalf of

my county, King county, entitled, 'Best county' synonymous with most illegal county.

This article contains false statements that are filled with biased opinions and accusations. Ben Kostroske of Janssen city, MacArthur county writes, "If it wasn't illegal, they would have no reason to attempt to cover it up." This is an entirely opinion biased statement, when in fact we could just be practicing our county's privacy. Also, with a court case pending it would be incorrect and unethical to

incenuate that our county is illegal and guilty.

With the article being a "news" article and the evidence I have provided, I hope you seek to correct this error by sending a correction and apology. We also hope you make amends for the damaging effect this article could potentially have for our county's reputation.

Thank you for your time and I seriously hope this is taken into serious consideration.

Sincerely,
Andrew Strasburg

Marching is efficient, safe, quick

Mr. Dan Smith, Copy Editor of *The Stater's Union* wrote on page 3 of the June 5, 2008 Issue "Marching inefficient, few benefits." He goes on to say "marching cannot be allowed to remain as a primary method of transportation.

As a combat veteran of Vietnam and a member of the American Legion, I cannot allow this article to go unchallenged. Ther are several very good reasons that we march. I shall try to explain them to you, the Stater.

First: The American Legion is responsible for the safety of each Stater, if

injured or lost. The American Legion is legally responsible for the Staters' safety. Any first year law student could and can explain that to you. If you were eighteen you could have a valid point.

Second: Anyone with half a brain can be taught to march. Any difficulty in marching could be solved in matter of a few minutes of practice each day. Thousands of soldiers, sailors, airmen, the Coast Guard, and other military groups are taught to march in a very short time. It is the first thing they learn in basic training schools such as Officer Candidate Schools

and Military Academies. The first words you will hear upon arrival at any of these schools are "form up."

Third: Marching teaches teamwork which is very important in any future endeavor.

Fourth: It is the easiest and most efficient way to transport a large number of people safely and quickly. Your County Counselor will know quickly when someone is missing because there is a hole in the formation.

There are too many efficiencies in marching

See *Marching*, page 7

Attention

Seitz

The Seitz County commission recommends the following improvements for Seitz County's highways. First, they would like to repair the existing roads. This will be done by clearing them of pot holes and other

dangers. In addition, the county would like to build a toll bridge after demolishing the currently useless and irreparable bridge.

The Moderate Party made a generous contribution of \$400 to the Seitz County for the highway system. Also, there was a \$50 contribution from the Oil & Gas PAC.

Attention State:

A message from the State Department of Treasury

The state Department of Treasury announced today that changes to current regulations regarding ownership of property will come into effect within the upcoming days. State Treasurer Dakota Meyers, at a Treasury Department

meeting earlier today, announced to the public that, "these changes are being made for the future of Boys State." The changes mainly regard bank accounts which have had no activity in the past year. "The changes are somewhat minor," said Assistant Treasurer Caleb Cook, "but will help to raise money for the state in the upcoming few years."

Celebrate the
City of Raymond's
First Annual



**HEMP
FESTIVAL**

Friday June 6, 2008

Have fun and
Support the Raymond
City Scholarship Fund

from *Marching*, page 6

to list here. Some of these are not very important, but that is "Tradition Worth Keeping."

from *Partisan*, page 3

he current divide on issues such as these is alarming. Our current government has an extremely difficult time reaching compromise, and thus has difficulty getting anything accomplished.

If we continue to disagree with each other so sharply, our generation of politicians will prove to be

David Rothwell, Chairman,
Department of Kansas Boys State
Committee

as ineffective as the current one is. Raj Goyle explained it the best in his message of moderation: we must meet in the middle.

Moderates tend to vote based more on fact instead of party lines. This promotes more effective leadership, which leads to better policy-making. The bottom line: results are produced when the facts are looked at first, not party platforms.

Dakota Myers,
the State Treasurer,

wishes to thank all those who made his victory possible.

from *Fair*, page 4

University of Kansas and Kansas State University.

Colleges such as Benedictine, St. Mary's University and others are what Danny Hague refers to as "cool new names."

The small schools can provide excellent opportunities depending on the individual and the career path they chose to take. One example is Benedictine College located in Atchison, Kansas.

The small Catholic college is expanding rapidly and is in the process of building new facilities.

Due to the expansion of the college and its advancements U.S.

News and World Report has included the college on its "America's Best Colleges" list.

Although most of the colleges have been around for an extremely long time, the names are new to staters. Most staters are unaware of the fine opportunities that exist in the state of Kansas.

No matter the career path, all staters were able to look at institutions to help them reach their career goal.

The colleges and universities at the fair offered a variety of information and marketed their schools in a variety of ways with the ultimate goal in mind, to help staters and make them potential students.

from *Schroer*, page 3

Years later while living in Manhattan, Jim saw an ad for the Kansas National Guard that offered a program for veterans looking to complete their twenty for commission before they turned 60. For Jim, it was a perfect fit because the local guard station had a construction outfit for him to become a part of.

He remained in the National Guard for another 16 years and earned his commission, which now supplies him with a monthly retirement fund and excellent health coverage.

Jim joined the American Legion in 1958, and became a part of the Boys

State of Kansas program in 1990 after he noticed a decrease in participants in the Manhattan area.

He has witnessed the program grow and become more stater-friendly over the years.

"The thing that made Kansas Boys State what it is today, was the hard work and determination of its staff and coordinators who worked out this program," he said.

"You only get out what you put in," he added.

Jim Schroer is a clear-cut legend here at Boys State, and possibly even the world.

County Commissioners seek job placement

Jay McDaniel

Reporter

Coss, Eisenhower

At Boys State, money is power. Which is one job that all county commissioners constantly trying to uphold. Their job is to create new jobs for job placement, and bring in more revenue for the county.

When asked what his favorite part of being on the county commissioner,

Caleb Slupski, Crum, Eisenhower said, "My favorite part is making money for the county."

Yet on the other hand Caleb said, "My least favorite part is all the writing and time that it takes being on the county commission."

But like all county commissions, they want to be able to have enough jobs in order to keep everyone employed and have money. But with this

comes the responsibility of keeping your county from going bankrupt.

"Keeping all of the county employed and while keeping the county out of bankruptcy is probably the hardest part of being on the county commission," stated Caleb Slupski.

Upon talking to some of the county commissioners, they said that even though their job is pretty basic, there is a huge

responsibility that comes with it. Every county has a different approach on making money. Counties of the Oil and Gas are constantly trying to build oil refineries while others of the agriculture counties are trying to find ways to increase their crop revenue. The power and money amount all lies in the hands of these very trusted people.