



Monday
Edition

The Stater's Union

American Legion Boys' State of Kansas

2 June 2008



Courtesy Nick Brown

Top: Keynote speaker Greg Orman addresses audience. Bottom: Thane Chastain explains the organization of Boys State.



Opening State

Chris Kuckelman
Finley, Kennedy

passed time is gone and can never be accessed again.

"What would you do if you were given \$86,400 every day in a bank account that is cleared out at the end of the day and refilled the next?" Greg Orman, keynote speaker, asked staters to ponder.

The question was then explained. Orman was referring to time and how every minute should be spent wisely. At the end of the day,

The advice presented was intended for every stater. They were able to start with words of wisdom allowing them to get the most out of their experience. Orman hopes for every stater to spend his time wisely.

"It puts your life in perspective," Sean Herington said. "But when you put it like that, it makes a good point and

See *Ceremony*, page 5

Faces of Boys State:

A glance at a few of you, by Korab Eland
continued on page 4

Name/ Home Town	Why are these stater's here at the American Legion Boys State of Kansas?	How long (in hours) did they drive to reach Manhattan?	What positions do they hold?	What is their impression of Boys State after their first day?
Lance Chaffin/ Mount Hope	For what he anticipates to be a positive experience.	2.5	Senator	Really Good
Justin Scott/ Lenexa	For the good opportunity to learn about democracy	2	Seitz County Commissioner	Good
David Spero/ Leawood	To meet girls and learn about politics.	2	(Running) Highway Patrol	Confused
Chay Howard/ Maize	To explore the political process	2	Senate Pro Temp	OK

Opportunity runs through Staters' veins

Jared Anderson
Lane, Marshall

As I pulled into the parking lot yesterday afternoon, my mind seemed free of expectation. Not knowing what to expect, I did what every Stater did: I went with the flow. As I completed the surprisingly smooth process of registration, I began to feel a strange sensation, a mixture of anxiety and opportunity, creep into my gut. Truth be told, I knew nothing of what was to come, and as some of us, I was a bit nervous for a change in my easygoing lifestyle. As my counselors introduced themselves, my thoughts

admittedly wandered a bit to my sheltered, comfortable life at home. That is, until I heard that we would be marching—that caught my attention. I had never experienced marching in any way before, and then it hit me: opportunity abounds here at Boys' State. Turns out, Marshall County, led by our counselors turned out to be quite adept at marching, along with a good number of other Counties. Opportunity was only beginning to creep out of the shadows, however.

McCain Auditorium, more than a short walk away in the dry Kansas heat, proved to be worth

the walk. Inside its well air-conditioned walls, we experienced the opening ceremonies. Though I expected a mind-numbingly boring speech, a notion based on my past experiences in high school, the speaker, Greg Orman, delivered a message that was far from boring. He spoke of many things, though the theme of the speech emphasized out a central theme: Opportunity abounds here on campus at State, and throughout our great nation.

Then we proceeded to elections within our counties. Though some offices were uncontested, much as mine was, others fea-

tured a wide variety of candidates from diverse backgrounds. Granted, not everyone even knew what exactly they were even running for, but we all had a chance to achieve something. We still have that chance, and we'll have it every day we are here. So all the hype about State seems to be true. It seems as if it can change a person, or at least make us all think about our role as citizen, about the opportunities we have here and in our bright futures, as a collective society and as individuals. The torch has been passed on to us, and it's up to us to now to lead.

Take functions of governing state seriously

Kevin Mechtley
Co-Events Coordinator

As Co-Events Coordinator, it is my responsibility at State is to ensure that your experience is challenging, gratifying and as close to the processes of state and local government as possible. As you know, elections are taking place to form cities, counties, district courts, political action committees, precinct committees,



departments and state offices. By Tuesday, all of these positions will be working together in concert to create the fictional Boys State government.

Please remember that the simulation at Boys State is meant to be your sandbox. You have the opportunity to form your very own state and local governments and create ordinances, resolutions and legislation to that end. Be

creative, think outside the box and immerse yourself in your position. After all, every single decision made in any capacity or position

"The only way that the government at Boys State will function is if every position in every capacity is taken seriously"

in the simulation at Boys State will affect the well-being of your citizens. As such, it is your responsibility to make good policy decisions and also to learn from your mistakes.

The only way that the government at Boys State will function is if every position in every capacity is taken seriously. Take the challenges your position offers in stride and work hard to overcome

them. Make every effort to work with those also in your position as well as those you must go work with. Lastly, be respect-

See **Government**, page 4

Debate over Nat, Fed rivalry progresses

Jake Kaufman

Schulz, Powell

Paul Wood

McCoy, Patton

At the beginning of Boys' State, every person is split up into two different political parties: the Nationalists and the Federalists. It is logical to assume, due to the overload of testosterone around, that a vicious rivalry between the two groups will develop. However, despite popular belief, this rivalry

rarely ever develops.

Andrew Roozeboom, head counselor for Patton County, shared his memories of Boys' State events in the past, "I really don't know of any big rivalries in the past. There isn't one major event that stands out in my mind."

Several participants of the 2008 Boy's State event had their own doubts on the yet to develop rivalry be-

See *Rivalry*, page 5



Courtesy Nick Brown

Kevin Phillips, Bradley County Counselor, addresses his county for the first time. Later on in the day the staters attended opening ceremonies

Staters "unplug" distractions for the week

Daniel Simon

Harris, King

American Legion Boys' State has been an extraordinary program for over seven decades allowing students to expand their horizons by exploring politics and leadership roles. There have been many changes and advances in American society since the first Kansas Boys' State session was held in 1937. Modern technological advances have allowed the program to advance, but they have also presented new problems.

The "age of cell phones" has camp counselors and instructors

competing with electronic appliances for staters' attention. The use of cell phones as well as other electronic devices is discouraged by Boys' State staff members.

"Cell phones have their place," counselor Brian Droste said. "They are a good tool to call parents at the end of the day or for emergencies. Other than that, [cell phone use] should be kept to a minimum."

Cell phones are not the only problem. Students have attempted to bring appliances ranging from an XBOX to a mini-fridge into their dorms. The Boys' State staff fears that such appliances could

shift stater focus away from the event and toward electronics.

"I feel that Boys' State is an opportunity to unplug from virtual reality and plug into a program that boosts leadership ability," Droste said. "The big issue is that [electronic devices] should not be used during the day because they are not the focus of the program."

Respect is another concern raised by electronic devices. Camp coordinators and advisors have put countless hours of diligent work into preparing this event. Staff fears that electronic distractions demonstrate a clear lack of respect for

these efforts.

"The policy is difficult to enforce because everybody has cell phones, but we really try to discourage cell phone usage," counselor Zach Ewert said. "It is a matter of respect for legionnaires and counselors."

While the staff remains reserved about electronic devices, the staters have different opinions. Cell phone use has become part of youth culture in America. Many staters find electronic device usage beneficial.

"Cell phones are a great form of silent communication that is available anywhere," stater
See *Distractions*, page 5

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McCoy, Patton

ful of other staters' views, and try to make as many connections with others as possible.

It is my honor to welcome all of you to the 71st

From *Government*, page 2

session of the American Legion Boys State of Kansas. Your presence this week exemplifies your desire to lead, your desire to learn about Kansas gov-

ernment and your aspiration to step outside of the box and learn a little bit about yourself. Thank you and good luck!

Focus on your best efforts

Paul Day

Goodnow Hall Coordinator

Welcome to the 71st session of the American Legion Boys State of Kansas. Your presence here already indicates that you are considered leaders and scholars by many people in your community. I look forward to sharing this week with you and hope that you get as much from this program as I did. After all, every staff member was, at one time, in your very shoes.

You will be faced with many challenges throughout this week. Your objective is to embrace these

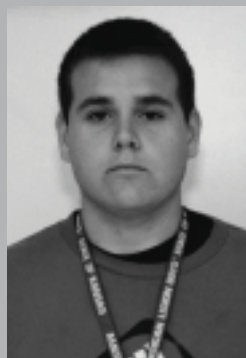
challenges and work to overcome them.

However, it may be comforting to know that you will not be taking on every challenge solely on your own. You will have the support of all your fellow staters and counselors. If you ever need assistance, use all of these resources.

Next, I urge you to do something this week that you never thought you could. Do not let your fears or apprehensions prevent you from experiencing all that Boys State has to offer. After all, we all believe that it is better to have tried and failed

than to have never tried at all. Our society is too focused on the end results of our actions, and not the action itself. Instead, rely on yourself and focus on the fact that you tried your best. Also concentrate on how you will respond to the adversities this week can present. The best success is achieved by those who are willing to take the greatest risks. Therefore, use this week to take some of those risks. Remember that outcomes aren't everything and that you have a great support cast around you. Overcoming adversity is what this week is all about.

Faces of Boys State



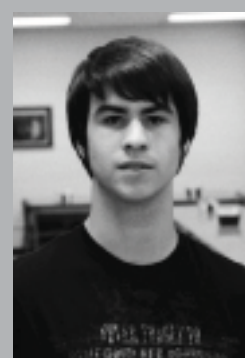
Lance Chaffin



Justin Scott



David Spero



Chay Howard

From page 3, *Rivalry*

tween the Nationalists and the Federalists.

Alex Jones, of Powell County who is a Nationalist, stated, "It doesn't seem like there will be a major rivalry right now. It seems like many people want to be pretty moderate at this point."

Jason Rondell, a Federalist of Patton County, shared similar thoughts, "It's hard to tell at this point, but come Wednesday, when people

state their views, people may start to form rivalries based on those views."

So far the general consensus is that it is too early to tell whether or not the reported rivalry between the Nationalist and Federalist parties will develop, though most people doubt that this will happen. However, this may change once the platforms are completed and the campaigns begin.

Roommates settle into residence halls

Jay McDaniel
Coss, Eisenhower

Upon arrival at the 2008 Boys' State, staters had to give up the comfort of their own home life for a week to attend the 71st Boys' State hosted by Kansas State University.

Most staters are accustomed to having a room with their own personal touches, but many had to step way out of their comfort zone to stay in a dorm room where they will have to share a smaller room with a person they have never seen in their life.

For some, this problem might not be as big of an issue as for others. Some staters might be shy while others may be completely

outgoing.

Yet, even though this can cause some unease at first, many people enjoy the fact that it forces them meet new people and make new friends.

"I like dorming with new people because it makes me meet new people and make new friends," stater Justin Davis said.

This might not be easy for some who are timid or find meeting new people difficult.

Another problem many staters face is the inability to access the internet. Many staters are part of the global networking site called Facebook.

Staters still move forward into the week without hesitation.

From page 3, *Distractions*

Justin Frazier said. "I don't think it is disruptive as long as you don't let it affect others around you." Other staters believe that limited use of electronic devices could enhance the program.

"The use of electronic devices should be allowed for sure," stater Brian Deighton said. "This program is about finding common interests. [XBOX] is a great way to bring people

together. Electronics can be a relationship building activity."

Electronics present a new challenge for the Boys' State Experience. This issue will inevitably have to be dealt with, but it will provide another opportunity for staters to face a contemporary issue. Hopefully, compromise between staff and participants can eventually be reached.

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puts it in a perspective everyone can relate it to."

Advice Orman also presented included not allowing failure to cause fear. Instead, use failures to inspire success. Orman included a lesson on politics: public service should not be about being elected and getting re-elected but instead, making efforts to serve the people and represent them. An elected official is a servant to those they are representing.

Orman was a '86 attendee of Minnesota Boys State as well as Boys Nation. Orman was elected President at Boys Nation. He founded Nationwide Electronics Inc. Signs of success can also be seen in the numerous real estate partnerships he has founded.

Thane Chastain, Director of Development, explained the week and different positions to the staters opening them to the experience. The various opportunities allow staters for an experience bringing individual interests into the week. Position opportunities include district judges, city and county commissioners and state positions such as Governor and Attorney General. The positions also can create an interest in careers one may have not been previously acquainted with.

Orman and Chastain inspired staters to make the ultimate Boys State experience. Embrace the experience and make this week the time of your life.

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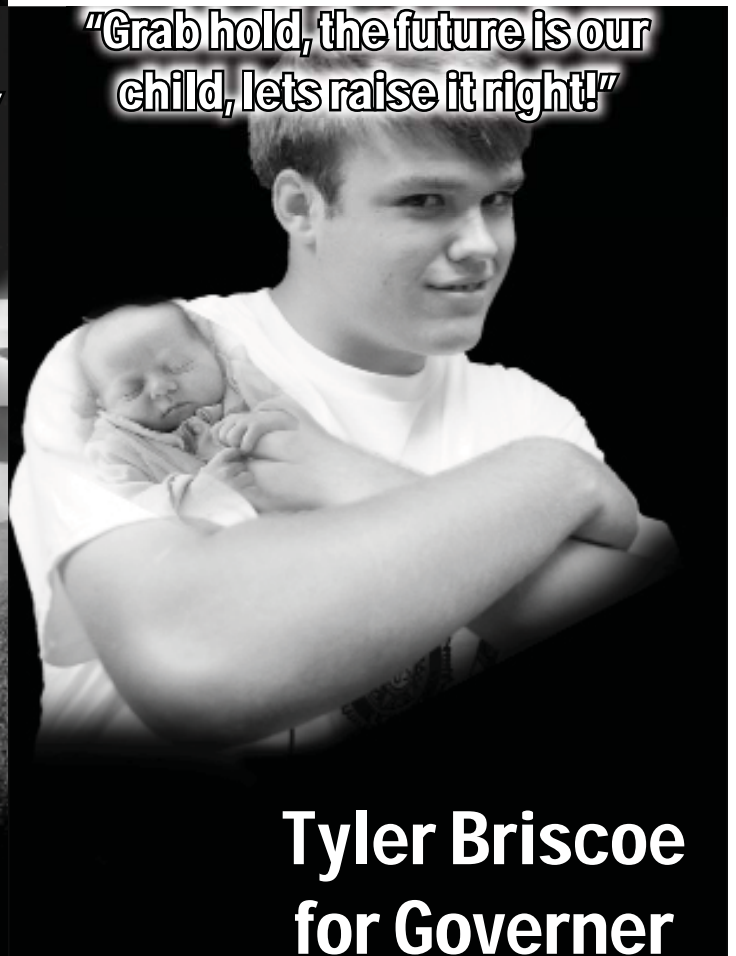


KANSAS



**Andrew Koucky
for Governor**

**"Grab hold, the future is our
child, lets raise it right!"**



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