

Thursday  
Edition

# The Stater's Union

American Legion Boys State of Kansas



5 June 2008

## Ballots tampered with

### Governor seat suspect after false votes are discovered

**Tyler Peterson**  
*Editor-In-Chief*  
*Perill, Pershing*

A new development in the decided governor race for 2008 may prove that the honor system doesn't always apply, even at Boys State.

While taking a look over the ballots of the governor race, Adam Doyle, a Boys State coordinator, discovered a computerized irregularity in the number of votes for current governor-in-office Andrew Koucky.

Upon further inspection, Doyle noticed the number of votes counted in Seitz County for their then-nominee Koucky actually exceeded the number of staters residing there.

"At first I was sure it was a glitch in the system, being our fault," Doyle said. "But I investigated it some more, and found that those stater ID numbers on the ballots were unregistered."

As the final results of the election were revealed, showing that Federalist Koucky had defeated Nationalist Alex Jones by only a slim five votes in the original count, Doyle had no doubt he had to discover exactly how many ballots were in question. The final figure ended up being

between 10-15.

Doing the math, Doyle knew if the ballots were completely tainted, then Jones should have been named the governor of Boys State 2008.

Doyle added that the other current state-level position holders are not under question, as the margin of their victories was greater than the number of ballots in question.

Taking action upon his discovery, Doyle alerted Josh Cleek, a counselor in Seitz County, and Aaron Wiseman, a counselor in Powell County, where former candidate Jones resides. His intent was to discover where the ballots in question originated from.

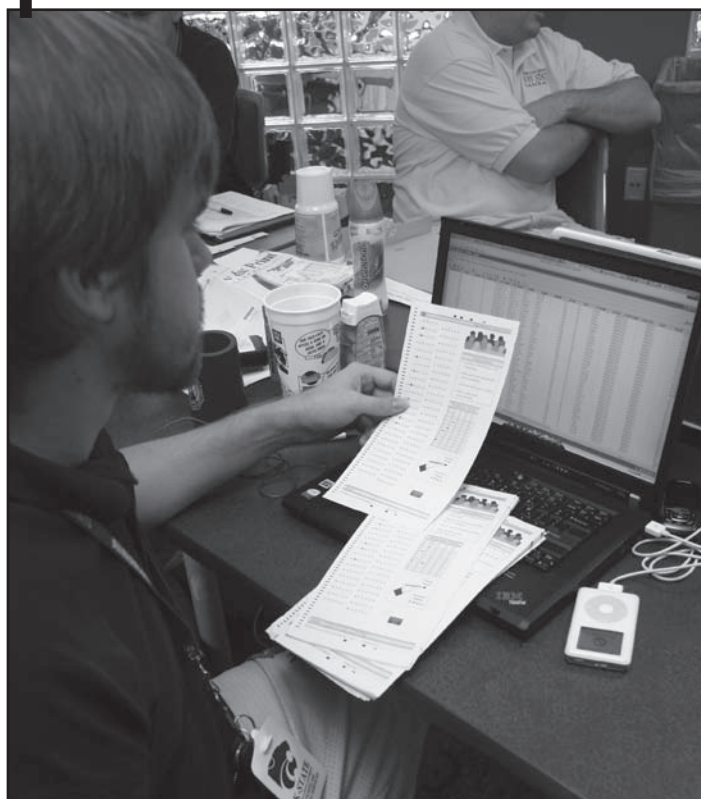
The extra amount of ballots had not come to Cleek's attention prior to Doyle's questioning.

"I don't know how it happened," Cleek said, adding that he had the staters pass the ballots down their rows in the county lobby, where he then picked them up himself.

Though they have no specific suspects, as of now neither Koucky nor Jones are suspects in the questionable ballots.

"We can't believe either candidate sunk that low until more evidence is uncovered," said Cleek.

See *Ballots*, page 8



**Courtesy  
Nick Brown**

Above: Adam Doyle compares ballots with electronic records. Below: Counselors Andrew Wiseman and Josh Cleek look over ballots which were filled out under the names of non-existent staters.

# Talent show thrills staters, staff



*Courtesy Nick Brown*

Nick Mourlam, Seitz, plays Prelude in C minor by Rachmaninoff. Mourlam recieved a large standing ovation after his display of piano-playing talent.



*Courtesy Nick Brown*

Alex Lathrop, Powell county, performs his martial arts routine. After his performance, Lathrop openly invited anyone who wanted a match against him, warning them to watch their "beyhind."

**Korab Eland**  
Reporter  
Bramlage, Bradley

On Wednesday night, Boys State experienced, "One of the greatest talent shows in Boys State history," according to Rex Gardner, emcee of the event. For only having a few days to prepare, the talent show put on a breathtaking display.

A wide variety of acts revealed the diversity of Boys State that is usually hidden behind the uniformity of county life and activities such as marching. Everything from bagpipe players to karaoke singers gave their all and thoroughly impressed the on watching crowd.

One of the highlights of the evening was the staff skit performed to the classic song "I'm Gonna Be (500 miles)" by the

Proclaimers.

"I've been a part of the staff skit for the past three years and it's always a good time," according to Kevin Phillips of Bradley County. The performance involved counselors and coordinators alike with a combination of acting and singing. All vocals and instrumentals were provided by the staff. The skit was a great opportunity for staters to see a lighter side of the staff and get in a good laugh.

Also, the skits from the previous two years are currently posted on You Tube, which is the reason for the allusion to the video site in the skit.

Another outstanding performance was made by Mike Zimmers, mentor, who played guitar and sang the song "American Pie". The staters made a very positive response by

See *Talent*, page 8



*Courtesy Nick Brown*

Harrison George, PACs, reads a selection for the "Gangstapiece Theater." This performance has been a tradition during the Boys State Talent Show for several years. Formerly, Ben Procter, former counselor, would read the selections.



# Marching inefficient, few benefits

**Dan Simon**  
Copy Editor  
*Harris, King*

After seven decades of American Legion Boys State of Kansas, it is expected that the program has developed a strong sense of tradition.

Since my arrival, I have noticed numerous Boys State traditions. These traditions include county flags, achievement banners, and standard uniform, but there is one tradition at Boys State that I find to be an unproductive and inefficient mode of transportation: marching.

Because of the schedule, time has become a crucial entity at Boys State. Marching is clearly not time efficient, and it slows travel time immensely with lining up in the parking lot, halting, and attempting to stay as one single unit.

Marching uniformly is also not as simple as it appears.

Many staters have little experience with marching, and they have a degree of difficulty learning how to step correctly. Furthermore, the process of learning marching commands costs precious time. Marching impedes travel for the purposes of Boys State.

While it is understandable that marching would serve as an efficient form of travel for military forces, it is not for Boys State. Forming counties into strictly regimented groups before any major travel occurs, delays departure. Once travel has begun, marching continues to impede the process of moving. Counselors hinder travel by forcing strictly controlled groups of people to navigate through narrow paths and other

obstacles. Upon arrival, more time is wasted as many counties are forced to remain standing still while others single-file in a line, enter the respective building.

Allowing staters to travel freely could present many benefits. Throngs of people would naturally adjust to obstacles which would greatly increase the fluidity of travel, and discussion of issues with other counties would be encouraged. Of course limits would still exist on travel. Staters would still be expected to follow the indicated routes and roll calls would ensure that nobody "disappears". This should not be an

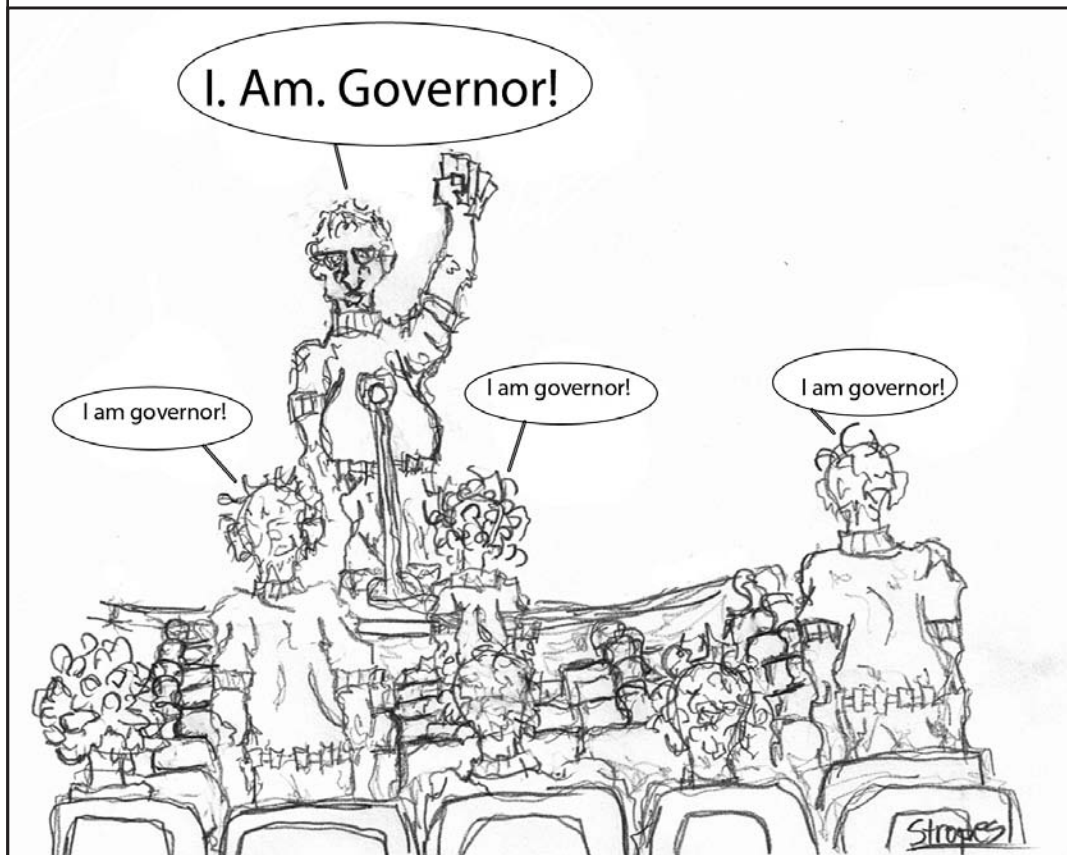
issue in the first place if Boys State truly attracts the caliber of students it claims to draw each summer.

One main purpose of Boys State is to allow staters to develop a unique sense of individual identity, in and out of the political simulation. Staters are expected to think for themselves, and exercise decision-making skills. In my opinion, marching appears to contradict these principles. Marching is a method of forcing conformity and collectivism upon the participants. While this problem may be chiefly symbolic, restricting travel limits staters' ability to make decisions.

I understand that Boys State is an event hosted by the American Legion which is a veteran's organization, and it is expected that some military principles be presented. I have an immense amount of respect for those men and women who sacrifice themselves for the defense of our nation, and they deserve to be honored.

If the American Legion believes in incorporating marching into Boys State, then it should. There are many ways that compromise could be produced, but marching cannot be allowed to remain as a primary method of transportation.

## From the 300...



# 'Best county,' synonymous with most illegal county

**Ben Kostroske**

*Reporter*

*Janssen, MacArthur*

At approximately 1:30pm on Wednesday, 4 June, 2008, the press was notified of an illegal nuclear powerplant built by the city of Hassler in King County.

When confronted with the issue, the city refused to show the records or any information related to the matter of illicit activities.

Building a nuclear powerplant solely for a county, let alone a city is illegal as it is, but the city was digging itself a deeper hole by not creating a board of health beforehand.

Once the Attorney General was informed, he wasted no time on going to investigate the issue. The hostility received and disrespect shown to Attorney General Zach LaRue will cost the city heavily. Not only were the city officials acting in an uncivil manner, but assistant counselor Tyler Sheldon as well.

Sheldon was abusing his authority as a counselor to protect his city and county from receiving the just consequenc-

es that should follow. The city demanded to see a warrant before letting LaRue see any forms, but upon reviewing the handbook later, the Attorney General can search all related documents relevant to the matter at hand. In fact, an unwilling resistance to compliance of this law results in a lawsuit in which the party in question can be fined up to \$1000 on top of the current case brought upon them.

A band of highway patrolmen were left in charge of keeping watch while the Attorney General was away at the Supreme Court looking to receive a warrant. Once he returned with the warrant, LaRue looked over the records and all aspects of the nuclear powerplant and determined that it truly was an illegal activity.

If it wasn't illegal, they would have no reason to attempt to cover it up.

Not only did the city try keeping the law from finding out, but argued that LaRue was "intruding" on their city's activities for the day, and threatened to sue, along with bringing up a theory that some other county was committing

embezzlement to distract the law from the case. The city argued then that LaRue would need to produce a warrant for the city as well, not just the county. As soon as he left to retrieve the warrant, Assistant Attorney General Thomas Irving discussed terms behind Attorney General Zach LaRue's back.

He was trying to find loopholes and discussing that the powerplant issue was a legal technicality, but illegal nonetheless.

He talked about having the lawsuit filed, but when it goes to the court, bring up the technicality on the issue and basically throw the case so that no consequences would result in the issue. That's essentially dropping the charges and throwing out the case.

Illegal acts should not just be overlooked, but judged and punished accordingly. Were all these cover-ups by the county an attempt to keep from losing the title of "Best County?"

Once LaRue returned with the second warrant, he was barely able to get in the door before confronted by city and county council members. The

county members pleaded with LaRue to drop the charges by essentially blackmailing him. The officials bribed LaRue, which in itself is another federal offense. Trying to coerce and bribe a state official is punishable by yet another fine up to \$1000.

The city threatened destruction of the powerplant instead of handing it over to the state for possession in exchange for dropped charges of the case brought against them.

LaRue said, "I could profit, or I could do the right thing and fulfill the duties of my job."

Some may argue that Attorney General Zach LaRue and the courts are out to get someone because the eagerness to do something in their new office, but cracking down on illegal acts is something that was promised and needs to be done.

"I made a promise to uphold the law and carry out the duties of my office to the full extent, which is what I plan on doing," said LaRue.

## Governor announces new budget, per state budget proposal book

**Jared Anderson**

*Copy Editor*

*Lane, Marshall*

Areas of Increased Spending:		Areas of Decreased Spending:	
Department of Agriculture		Corporation Commission	
Office of the Attorney General		Department of Corrections	
Department of Commerce		Department of Culture	
Board of Education		Department of Health	
		Board of Regents	
		Department of Revenue	
		Office of the Secretary of State	
		Dept. of Social and Rehabilitative Services	
		State Water Board	
		Department of Wildlife and Parks	
		Department of Transportation	
Income (in \$)	Financial Year 2008 (compiled by past year's Governor)	Financial Year 2009(compiled by current Governor)	
50 and Below	0% tax	4% tax	
50.01 to 65	5% tax	4.95% tax	
65.01 to 75	10% tax	9.95% tax	
75.01 to 100	15% tax	10% tax	
100.01 and above	25% tax	23% tax	

# Chastain refers to the "Sigmoid Curve"

**Jay McDaniel**

*Reporter*

*Coss, Eisenhower*

On Wednesday morning, the post election ceremony started off with a speech given by Thane Chastain about what has happened so far this week, and what is to come. Then he moved into an inspirational speech over the Sigmoid Curve by Charles Handy, which he related to the weekly schedule of Boys' State.

The Sigmoid Curve, which Chastain credited to be "essential to human growth,"

is based upon a starting point, dropping in a curve to a 'wilderness' stage, rising to 'growth,' and hitting the peak of human change and growth. The process then starts over. This speech was how the first of the week had been hectic, but now the growth part of Boys State has begun.

After his speech he gave the microphone over to Andrew Koucky for his State of the State Address, the morning after he was named governor.

Andrew Koucky started his speech off by thanking the

American Legion and headed straight into his political platform. He described what his political plan of action was, and how he had handled the budget deficit the night before. He explained how he had made the near \$27,000 budget deficit and had balanced it out to zero, while cutting taxes and still creating 22 job positions.

Eight of those 22 jobs however, were given to his own county of Bradley, while five other counties were given no more, including MacArthur County. MacArthur has many

unemployed citizens, as well as employees of the county making no money, according to a member of MacArthur. When Koucky announced this plan of adding jobs, he was greeted by a miniscule amount of applause and a series of boos.

By the crowd's reaction and opinions from many staters, it was apparent that Koucky's plan left some wanting more, and for a few, wanting anything at all.

# A whole new world for a Boys Stater

**Daniel Simon**

*Copy Editor*

*Harris, King*

Part of the grandeur of American Legion Boys State is the diverse and exceptional group of students attracted to the program each year. While many staters have interesting backgrounds, one particular stater has an extraordinary story to tell. Boys State Senator Robert Halloran has brought wisdom from a life full of tragic and remarkable experiences to the Kansas Boys State event.

"My perspective at Boys State is different from most of the people here," Halloran said. "I have experienced or seen through personal experience many of these problems. I have actually seen the issues discussed here."

Halloran was born in a

small village in the Transylvanian region of Romania called Kluj Napacco. He was abandoned by his parents and three siblings at a hospital a few short months after his birth. Halloran continued to live in the hospital for two years until he was taken to an orphanage by his godmother.

Life did not become any more simple for Halloran in the following years. Halloran lived in the orphanage for nearly four years where he was responsible for caring for nearly thirty babies. During this time, he had no clothes of his own and sometimes went for weeks without food.

Halloran began schooling, but he was placed in a school for the mentally retarded because of his gypsy ethnicity.

"I was eventually adopted through a Catholic

health association through the efforts of my godmother," Halloran said. "She put my name out there, and she told me she saw me doing big things. She is now an international humanitarian."

Halloran's experiences allow him to provide crucial insight into the policies being discussed at Boys State. He is able to very effectively discuss the issues staters face because he has personally experienced the results of many of them. Through his hardships, Halloran has developed an interest in politics.

"I would eventually like to become a senator once I am out of college," Halloran said.

Around campus, he has developed a reputation for asking questions and pressing the issue. Halloran has a curious and aggressive

attitude when dealing with politics. He does not hesitate to question policy based on his beliefs.

"By asking questions change can be made because people begin to think and look at different alternatives," Halloran said. "If no one questioned anything, we would not have had civil rights movement, the American Revolution, or the rights we have today."

His curious nature and fascinating experiences have made Robert Halloran a successful participant in Boys State. He was elected to the office of senate, and he has taken advantage of the opportunity to voice his opinions. Everyone attending Boys State can learn something from Robert Halloran.



# Proposed budget incenses some PACs

**Jake Kaufman**

*Reporter, Designer  
Schulz, Powell*

The Political Action Committees were in heated debate today as they had to create a new budget plan. The cause for the debating was the proposed budget drafted by the newly crafted Federalist led state government.

However, not all PACs had conflicts with the new budget. One PAC that benefited from it was the Oil and Gas Workers Organization. The Oil and Gas Workers had no problems with the new budget because of the new income tax rate. With the new rate in place, people who work in the oil and gas industry aren't required to pay

high taxes and they don't lose as much money as those lower in the social ladder. They will be lobbying to get the proposed budget passed so that they can keep this benefit

Not all PACs were happy with the newly proposed budget. The People for the American Way, for example; have had many counties coming in to ask for monetary assistance because people of the lower class are getting deeper into debt due to the new income tax.

Jordan Press; Chastain city, Eisenhower stated his problems with the new budget. "The budget just doesn't make sense," he said. "People that don't make much money make less money now. The state is in

bad condition and the governor isn't doing anything to fix it."

Another committee that had problems with the new budget was the Assembly for the Advancement of Minorities. Many of the members of this group are in the lower social class, so the new income tax directly affects them. They oppose the budget and will be lobbying against it.

"The Nationalists, socialists, and minorities have little to no representation in office and we're going to do something about it," they said.

The League of Industrial Workers and the Farmers Alliance also had their share of problems with the budget.

The industrial workers have found issues with the new

healthcare system regarding to how much it actually costs more to put into place.

The Farmers Alliance, though they were given a lot of money to work with in the new budget are pushing for a graduated income system. This will help out the counties that didn't receive agricultural aid.

"The governor gave us a good chunk of money but he screwed some of the smaller counties," Fernando Martinez, Raymond, Pershing said..

So far the new budget has received mixed feelings across the board in committee offices. While those in the upper class support the budget, the lower class feels betrayed by the new policies.

# Highway Patrol on the prowl

**Christopher Kuckelman**

*Reporter  
Finley, Kennedy*

Government branches began operating on Wednesday. One such branch is the Highway Patrol. The Highway Patrol provides a very hands-on experience for staters appointed to the branch.

Stater Kyle Willcott learned of his appointment to the Highway Patrol on Tuesday night.

He said, "I wanted to do it because it sounded fun."

The career has just begun for Willcott.

The 10 staters appointed are led by two members of the Kansas Highway Patrol. The two troopers are Mario Rios and David Stall. Trooper Rios has been with the Highway

Patrol for seven years and Trooper Stall for five years.

The experience began for the 10 staters when three films showing some jobs of the Highway Patrol. The first film was about the Highway Patrol, in general, showing their history and explaining different topics. The film showed the Salina Center, the garage where the patrol cars are repaired, and explained how often and why the cars are replaced. It also showed the duties of the Highway Patrol as a whole.

The second film showed what a driver should do in the event that he or she is pulled over for a traffic violation. The film provided valuable information for the staters along with reasoning on why you should follow certain procedures. Not only are the

steps for the safety of the troopers, but also for the safety of the drivers.

The third film showed graphic but informative information on drinking and driving. Tragic accidents were shown. The accidents showed staters the types of accidents that can occur as a result of drinking and driving. The movie also showed the effects of not wearing a seat belt.

After the film, the staters appointed to the Highway Patrol were sworn into office. Staters are excited about the week with the Patrol. Although each individual is interested in being a member of Boys State Highway Patrol, not everyone is pursuing a career in law enforcement. Stater Michael Whitmer is one who will not pursue a law enforcement career; he hopes to be involved

in computer programming. Even though Whitmer may not have a desire to be a law enforcement officer, he is very excited about the week.

"Seeing what they actually do and getting the most out of it," Whitmer said.

Unlike Whitmer, Kyle Willcott would like to pursue a career as a law enforcement officer during Boys' State. When asked about his goals, Willcott shared, "I want to keep people in check and make sure they don't break any laws." With this goal in mind Willcott will go far.

Exciting events are in the near future for the members of the highway patrol. Wednesday afternoon the Boys' State troopers were able to drive John Deere Gators though a course with drunk driving goggles on. The course

# Judicial system gets jumpstarted

**Korab Eland**

*Reporter*

*Bramlage, Bradley*

The district and state courts, along with the attorney general and his assistant, convened yesterday and jumpstarted the Boys State judicial system. The counselors showed the local and state courts the ropes and sent them off to begin their work.

The court system controls any and all disputes that occur. Anything from drug busts to abortion laws are under the courts' jurisdictions.

Each county has its own court system and the state is headed by the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court is run by six court justices, five of them federalist, and is headed by the chief justice.

Their first assignment was

to choose a case from a small selection and go through the trial process.

As for the importance of the correct trial process, the head counselor for the courts had this to say, "It is very important to follow the trial process exactly."

If any errors were to be made during the trial process then it can be dropped and considered a mistrial.

But not many cases actually advance to the Supreme Court at Boys State so the judges are desperate for any type of dispute.

As the district judges hone their skills in the judicial process, they prepare to uphold the laws and regulations of the Constitution.

## Attention Bradley County

**Korab Eland**

*Reporter*

*Bramlage, Bradley*

The following proposition has been made by your county government:

The citizens of Bradley County have dealt with highways filled with potholes and decrepit bridges for years. On Friday, the county will release a new proposal to the citizens, with a three-part plan. First, we will repair the old highways and replace the sections that are in very poor condition. This will cost \$895. Next, we will build a new 4-lane highway, which will cost \$500. Finally, we will replace our existing bridge, which has been closed due to poor maintenance. The cost of this point is

\$500.

We propose this new plan for the economic health of the county. With new, safe roads, more businesses will be attracted to the area, along with tourists either visiting or coming through. Also, this increased mobility will add to the communication and cohesion of our three cities.

The funding will come with little extra cost to our taxpayers. As of now, the county will be able to pay for more than half of the cost of the project. The cities will also all donate money to help the cause. Finally, the county will propose a bond issue to the state government due to its support of bettering the state infrastructure.

The time to improve our county is now—vote yes on Friday.

## The truth is out there

**Brandon Holdsworth**

*Reporter*

*Sullivan, Seitz*

Could there be aliens among us? Schmitt County says "yes". In fact they are installing an ordinance to keep the farmers from hunting these extraterrestrials. They also mean to keep the farmers on task farming rather than hunting these UFOs. Many farmers in Schmitt City have been abducted. For the councilmen, this is becoming an epidemic. These disappearances in Schmitt City have decreased the agricultural industry of the county. The abductions of farmers and crop circles have negatively impacted the industry dramatically. City Councilman Cory Monroe is the mastermind behind the UFO Security Measure. With this ordinance, the City plans to keep the farmers' minds on farming and not on hunting.

"This ordinance was put in place to help lower the crime rate by friendly fire at nighttime," Monroe said. "It will also help enforce a curfew for the city in hopes to keep the

citizens safe at night. I believe that the abductions are becoming an epidemic for our town because of the dramatic fall of the agricultural industry."

"Our city values safety which is why we issued this curfew. Many people hunted late at night which caused an unsafe environment for the other citizens. We want the citizens of our city to live in a safe environment," Councilman Michael Payne said.

"This ordinance idea was brought up by Cory," stater Xavier Sheehy said. "The rest of the city councilmen just evolved it into a unique ordinance to help keep the people safe. We hope to lower the crime rate with the ordinance because the farmers will stop murdering the aliens. Although they may not look like humans in some ways, they are still human beings and they do have natural rights."

Schmitt City in Pershing County hopes to spread many of their safety measures to the surrounding cities in order to keep the people safe from this extraterrestrial epidemic.

# Budget receives mixed reviews from Patton

**Taylor Wood**

*Reporter*

*McCoy, Patton*

The Patton County Commission met on Wednesday to discuss the possible ways to better their cities and counties. They discussed certain topics such as healthcare, property values, cities and taxes.

When it came to taxes, a mill levy of seven is set (.07 percent) on the property

value. The money gained then goes to the County Commission Budget. Thus far, they have used \$1,200 on the improvement of the cities, as well as improving the highways and road systems of the county.

The next topic looked over was healthcare. It was evident that the County Commissions were unhappy with the healthcare system and the fact that they had to spend money to fund it, rather than being a

part of state-wide healthcare system. Jason Randle, a member of the Patton County Commission, had this to say, "If the state would have taken care of it, the counties would have been much more prosperous."

He then concluded that the County Commission would have had more money to spend on roads, hospitals, and schools, thus making the county, as a whole, more efficient.

However, when it came to the topic of property value, the County Commission seemed content, saying that the value had increased substantially.

"It came close to doubling over night," Christopher Haas, member of the Patton County Commission, had said. "It was a joint effort between all the cities in the Patton County and the County Commission aid the improvement."

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## From *Ballots*, page 1

However, no final word on the outcome or what will happen has been released by Boys State coordinators.

"Ballots have been named as tainted, and are currently being examined," said Doyle, hoping to get to the bottom of this problem sooner rather than later.

A possible recount is up in the air, though nothing will be decided or planned on until Doyle, and the rest of those involved, receive any new information.

"It's very disappointing to

find that the elections could be in doubt. It's completely unfair to both nominees as it was such a close race," said Wiseman, who also added that he and the others are fairly apprehensive of the circumstances in the situation.

Scott Bley, a Boys State coordinator agreed.

"This entire tainted ballot problem seems all a bit fishy to me," Bley said. "The entire questioning of the ballots could potentially go down in Boys State history."

## From *Talent*, page 2

standing and singing along, showing the comradery formed at state in only a few days.

Finally, Chuck Shoemaker. Need I say more?

When the newspaper team first assembled he was introduced as the official "B.A." of the paper, and he was nothing less as he flawlessly showed his skills on the piano. When you first look at Chuck, you would never guess that he had such an amazing talent. He received multiple standing ovations and impressed all of Boys State.

The talent show revealed the many talents of Boys State and brought us together for an unbelievable night.

## Happy Birthday to CJ Harries!

From the Union staff

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