

Tuesday  
Edition

# The Stater's Union

American Legion Boys State of Kansas



3 June 2007

## Primary Election Winners

### Nationalist VS. Federalist Governor

Alex Jones  
Shelton, Powell

Andrew Koucky  
Whorley, Seitz

### Attorney General

Dallas Lawrence  
Whorley, Seitz

Zach LaRue  
Crum, Eisenhower

### State Treasurer

Dakota Meyers  
Schulz, Powell

Daniel Simon  
Janssen, MacArthur

### Secretary of State

Javon Shackelford  
Schulz, Powell

Marcus McNeal  
Icenogle, MacArthur

### Commissioner of Insurance

Aaron Caldwell  
Finley, Kennedy

Justin Scott  
Mantey, Patton

## Counties hear candidates' platforms during Whistlestop

**Korab Eland**

*Reporter*

*Bramlage, Bradley*

When I looked at my schedule and saw the description of the Whistle Stop Tour, the first thing I saw was: 1:00 to 3:10 p.m.

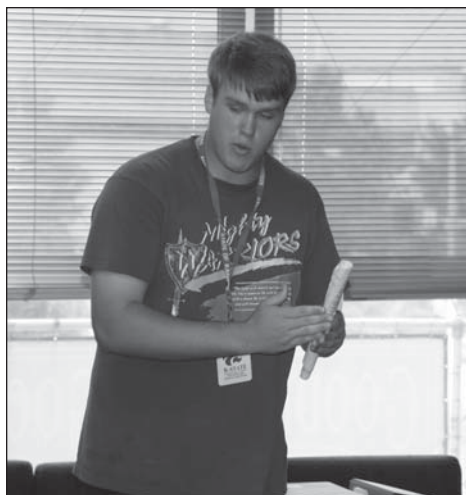
Now you have to understand, after getting 5 ½ hours of sleep, I did not think I was physically prepared to sit and listen to a bunch of guys talk about their credentials, political platforms and how badly they want their position.

I mean, I know it's important and a great opportunity for me to get direct contact with my future leaders and everything, but I can't help it if I'm nodding off during the speeches.

And I don't know about you, but I don't really enjoy sitting in metal folding chairs for 2 hours.

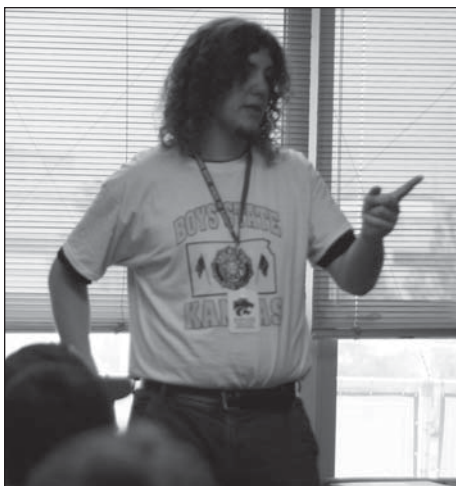
Surprisingly, there were a few candidates that kept my attention the entire time, and those are the ones who earned my vote. But the job of keep- See *Platforms*, page 8

## Candidates make their claim, staters decide



*Courtesy Nick Brown*

Tyler Briscoe explains the policies he would implement in his chosen office.



*Courtesy Nick Brown*

Zach LaRue speaks to a room full of Federalists about his campaign for Attorney General.



*Courtesy Nick Brown*

A Federalist thinks over his ballot before making his decision.

# Nationalists candidates know how to party

**Taylor Wood**

*Reporter*

*McCoy, Patton*

As the second night of Boys State came close to an end, one more event was to take place: the Nationalist Party Convention. When fellow Nationalists entered the room to see their winning candidates, they were bombarded by rock hard candy, the majority not seeming to

mind. But along with the hail of candy, chants and cheers filled the room, declaring the hopefuls of the Nationalist Party. It was evident from the amount of noise that the majority was happy and enthusiastic to follow the lead of their candidates.

A few times during the rally, some of the election winners took a stand on a table down on center stage

as their delegates cheered them on, one of which being Javon Shackelford, Secretary of State. As many delegates cheered him on, one name stood out: 'Sexy Leopard', the name alluding back to an incident that took place in Patton County as he ran for Secretary of State Election.

Shortly after, the Nationalist Governor nominee Alex Jones took the stand.

After many attempts at quieting down the delegates, Jones began to answer questions pertaining to what he would accomplish and how he plans to win the election.

Overall, the Convention for the Nationalists seemed to go well, expressing the enthusiasm and excitement for the future of the Nationalist party and a possible win come the general election.

# Federalists advocate protecting constitution

**Dan Simon**

*Copy Editor*

*Harris, King*

The Federalist Party Convention was held on the evening of Monday, June 2, 2008. Federalist staters from across every county packed the Umberger building to hear their candidates speak. The crowd was rowdy and tensions were high as Federalist candidates took the stage and prepared to deliver their platform to the sea exciting faces in the auditorium.

Proceedings were delayed by the late arrival of the Marshall County Federalists. After a series of chants, songs, and human sacrifices, the convention began. Introductions were provided followed by the introduction of the Federalist candidates.

The convention be-

gan in controversy with the appointment of James Mullins to Lieutenant Governor. Former governor candidate James Mullins retains some infamy from the "Dream Team Scandal", more commonly known as the "Evil Empire", but he approaches his new responsibilities enthusiastically. Mullins urged the majority Federalist Party to unify for voting strength.

"We must stick together," Mullins said. "The needs of the many outweigh the needs of a few."

Commissioner of Insurance Candidate Aaron Caldwell was the first candidate to speak. Caldwell supported Federalist ideals of allowing the market to regulate itself, but promised to serve as a watchdog for the insurance industry. His main focuses were providing effective insurance for

farmers and preparing for natural disasters. Caldwell was followed by Secretary of State Candidate Marcus McNeal.

McNeal, famous for his "that aint right" slogan, possesses a strong background of service to the community. His goals are to insure that everyone is taken care of including big business. None of this would be possible without the financial planning of State Treasurer Candidate Dakota Meyers.

Meyers presented an honest message of "money for the people". Meyers plans to lower taxes on people as well as big business. Meyers was followed by one of the more energetic figures of the convention, Zach LaRue.

Attorney General Candidate and self-described sasquatch Zach LaRue proposed his policies by em-

ploying simple allegories. LaRue promises to fight for justice and plans to defend the Constitution. LaRue emphasized the protection of the right to bear arms. LaRue's energetic appearance was followed by the introduction of the Federalist Governor Candidate.

Federalist Governor Candidate Andrew Koucky enthusiastically took the stage as pandemonium arose in the crowd. Koucky proposed lowering taxes and promoting the local government. He stated that all Constitutional Amendments must be protected. He ended his speech with some famous words from President Ronald Reagan.

"There is no limit to what a man can do or where he can go if he doesn't mind who gets the credit."

## Frances Swensen: *The story behind the desk*

**Korab Eland**

*Reporter*

*Bramlage, Bradley*

Frances Swensen is a woman that very few staters get the chance to meet. Yesterday she celebrated her 84th birthday, and being an American Legion veteran of 35 years, she has a very interesting

story to tell. I had the opportunity to sit down with her and listen to her explain her colorful past.

Frances' story starts after she graduated high school. Instead of pursuing a traditional gender-cast career like nursing or teaching, she chose to go to the Business College in Chillicothe, Missouri.

But after the events of Pearl Harbor, she chose to join the military, following her brother, already a marine, into the service.

She then joined the Navy on her 20th birthday and completed her basic training at Hunter College in New York. Frances chose to study radio communications and learned

Morse code. She completed her studies and was stationed on Bainbridge Island in Washington, where she used her skills as a radio operator and gathered important intelligence for the military.

Unfortunately, much of the intelligence she gathered was classified,

See *Swensen*, page 6

## Thank all that made Boys State possible

**Jeremy Harland**

*Marlatt Coordinator*

First, allow me to congratulate all of you for being selected to attend the American Legion Boys State of Kansas, a very prestigious program, with a long and rich history.

Although you may currently feel a little apprehensive about the week to come, I am here to assure you that the coming days will be both challenging and fun. You will also quickly realize that this experience will teach you a lot about yourself and the future of the rest of your life. You all have a very unique opportunity to step outside of your comfort zone and to be whoever you would like to be for a week. In your lives outside of Boys State, this is not a chance you get

very often.

I would urge each and every one of you to run with this chance. As William Shedd once said, "To understand the heart and mind of a person, look not at what he has already achieved, but at what he aspires to." When you get home, please remember to thank all of those that made this program possible for you. The things that you will experience and learn this week are invaluable when facing challenges in the future.

My final request would be to take your experience and memories from this week back to school with you and share what you enjoyed with the current juniors.

As you will learn, your reach is endless.

## Blame it on the rain

**Jared Anderson**

*Copy Editor*

*Lane, Marshall*

The first thought that ran through my head as I heard the wail of the tornado sirens Monday morning was one of dismay: no outdoor recreation for all of us today. Let's be honest here, we've all been cooped up inside a bit too long, and we're itching to get out and run around a bit.

We all need to get out and exercise every once in awhile and the Boys State staff plans adeptly for this. We need to move around; it keeps our minds sharp for the various tasks we will continue to undertake this week.

Mother Nature seems not to agree with our wishes. As notorious as Kansas is for its unpredictable conditions, it threw us

a wicked curveball yesterday morning. One of the nastier thunderstorms of the year came roaring through Manhattan, and it made a lot of us feel cheated, even angry, all the while depriving us of our recreation time.

What's the big deal, some of you ask? While some of us detest organized sports, some of us jump at the chance to participate. Recreation is a chance to forge stronger bonds within our counties and to develop an identity for our counties. These chances were pelted to an untimely death on Monday by a mixture of heavy rain and golf ball sized hail.

As Greg Orman so wisely pointed out, we have 86,400 seconds in a day, each of which we'll never get back. Recreation is a great way to spend

See *Rain*, page 6



# Candidates employ different techniques

**Jake Kaufman**

*Design/Layout Editor  
Schulz, Powell*

Pandemonium filled the Heritage room on Monday June 2, 2008 as the Boys State Political Fair was held. Political action committees and political parties prepared and displayed tables to show

support for their favored candidates. The fair was held inside due to unfavorable weather.

Many candidates across the room were in serious discussion about policies and support. Many were employing unrestrained methods of campaigning, such as throwing out posters and promised

of money. But most of the staters involved at the fair used an honest and simple approach.

Stater Javon Shackelford, from Schulz city in Powell County, preferred the simple approach. He was one of the few headers of the Nationalists table. He commented on his campaign strategy.

"I'm trying to get votes by being very honest, and being who I am," Shackelford said. "I try to use my personality to my advantage. I'm not into using gimmicks to gain votes."

Other staters running for positions tried more

See *Candidates*, page 8

## Introducing Stater's Union Staff 2008



Left to right, name and town: Jay McDaniel, Coss, Eisenhower; Dan Simon, Harris, King; Jared Anderson, Lane, Marshall; Ben Kostroske, Janssen, MacArthur; Jake Kaufman, Schulz, Powell; Brandon Holdsworth, Sullivan, Seitz; Korab Eland, Bramlage, Bradley; Chris Kuckelman, Finley, Kennedy; Tyler Peterson, Perill, Pershing; Paul Wood, McCoy, Patton

## The Stater's Union Staff 2008

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Chris Kuckelman  
Finley, Kennedy

Jay McDaniel  
Coss, Eisenhower

Taylor Wood  
McCoy, Patton

# Precincts design platforms

**Chris Kuckelman**  
*Reporter*  
*Finley, Kennedy*

On the second day of Boys State, the Precinct Committee Meetings took place to determine the Nationalist and Federalist Platforms. Some moments were filled with light comotion while others were filled with

heated discussion. Each party is based around the issues they would like to see on their platform.

The Federalists decided to remain more conservative in their

decisions while the Nationalists proved more liberal with their views. These divisions added an obvious division between the two platform

couragement for funding of industry efficiency. The Federalist Party provided opposition to the smoking ban, as well as opposition to same-sex marriage.

The Federalists would rather not touch on the issue of abortion.

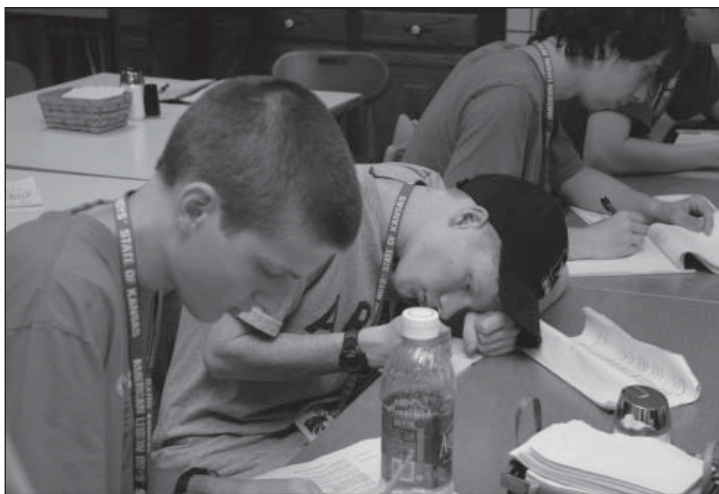
The Nationalists were in support of going green.

They supported hydrogen cell research

along with providing tax breaks to environmental-friendly businesses.

Resources weren't the only thing on the party's agenda; the Nation-

See *Precincts*, page 8



*Courtesy Nick Brown*

Federalist Precinct Committeemen plan their platform during the morning meeting. It concluded as being fairly conservative.

finalizations.

Ideas of lowering taxes as well as giving scholarships to the farming counties were passed around in the Federalist Party, along with en-

# PACs endure needy candidates

**Jay McDaniel**  
*Reporter*

*Coss, Eisenhower*

On the second day of Boys State, all the Political Action Committees were approached by candidates running for state offices.

Many of the candidates were looking for support from the PAC's, whether it was money, supplies or otherwise.

These state office seekers were looking to these committees for help so they could expand their

campaigning methods and better their chances of getting elected. Amongst these PAC's are: League of Industrial Workers, People for the American Way, Oil and Gas Workers, Heritage Foundation, Farmer's Alliance and the

Coalition of Cities and Counties.

But not all people campaigning for state offices received support, due to the strict and specific qualifications that many of the political ac-

See *PACs*, page 8

From *Swensen*, page 3

she was unable to give me many details.

Perhaps she intercepted encoded Japanese messages which helped the U.S. predict their movements in the Pacific. Or even relayed commands from the Pentagon to the U.S. fleet.

The first atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima during her time on Bainbridge Island, and she said that her office was going crazy with messages and communications. She continued her service until the end of the war.

But her life has not consisted purely of military life and secret messages. After the war, she raised two children on her own which left her with an almost nonexistent social life.

To fill this gap, she chose to be a part of the American Legion where she became a part of the National Children and Youth Commission. At the Legion, Frances made new friends and found something that she could truly enjoy and be passionate about.

Frances is a wonderful woman that loves a good joke and always has a smile on her face. When asked about how she felt about turning 84, she replied, "Some days I feel like I'm 90, some days I feel like I'm 10."

You can usually find her at the front desk in Kramer Dining Hall. So if you ever have any spare time, stop by and thank her for her dedication and service to Kansas Boys State and the United States of America.

From *Rain*, page 3

5,400 of those seconds, but we'll never have Monday back again. This loss only makes staters look forward to participating in recreation with even more excitement.

However, the mere occurrence of indoor recreation also makes me a little angry with Mother Nature. I hope she realizes she owes us four rainless days now. Though a bit disappointing, the staff pulled indoor recreation off quite well. It was, after all, nice to grab a quick nap.

## Alex Jones: the Nationalist governor nominee with a plan

**Ben Kostroske**

*Reporter*

*Janssen, MacArthur*

Alex Jones is the Nationalist nominee from Shawnee Mission West, for governor of Kansas. Alex was moved to get involved with government through debate and the 2000 elections, and now he is a quite outspoken liberal left-centrist.

Alex is the founder of the Kansas Young Democrats. He also initialized the Kansas Young Republicans as well for the "other half" of the political spectrum.

Alex will be an intern

at a law office in Kansas City as well as a participant at Congress Nationals, a mock congress, in Las Vegas later on this summer.

Alex understands the issues at hand and is going to work on realistic goals, not. His platform is based on the principle that every person in each county, city and the entire state has the same resources and the same fair chance at a good start.

The hardest part of his campaign is to meet the expectations of every citizen, ensuring that all promises are met and kept, he said.

Although he is a Nationalist, Alex plans on working with the Federalists to keep everyone appeased and to be responsible with the authority granted to him.

Alex has a few main points to his campaign, including an effort to improve schools, build on communities, improve the environment and keep the Kansas economy strong.

As part of school improvement, money will be allocated to the proper points of funding so the best education possible can be achieved.

As for energy, ethanol, actually costs more

energy to produce than it does to use, making it inefficient. It's also harmful - it would not only take water from the crops but create a constant demand for corn, which would cause scarcity and raise food cost.

The final point of the platform stance is to keep the Kansas economy strong and help industries in danger.

In the end, Alex just says he wants what's best for everyone, some think he has what it takes to be a worthy contender for the position of Kansas state governor.



# Federalist Party



# City and County Commissions in Session

**Chris Kuckelman**

*Reporter*

*Finley, Kennedy*

City and county commissioners could be seen in session Monday as staters passed through the commons and corridors of Goodnow Hall. The commissioners were in deep discussion preparing for the week by striving to craft a pleasant city and county for all staters to reside in.

Every city was working hard on budget plans, facility plans, creating schools and police forces. These topics

presented various challenges for the commissioners. A major setback was the lack of funds to carry out many of the desired plans. The commissioners were faced with the challenge of setting taxes as well as compromising until the necessary funds were in place for all of the desired plans.

Education was a hot topic in Kennedy County. The obvious issue was the need for more schools. Due to lack of funding, individual cities were not able to have their own city schools. The city commis-

sioners met with the county commissioners to develop a county-wide school system. The commissioners decided to build the new facility in the city of Hanney. The school will be located in an area that will be in easy access to all members of the county.

Kennedy County commissioner Bill Unsderfer is truly passionate about his position.

"I like seeing laws being passed and effects immediately," Unsderfer said. "I can build up the county to a position where we are very

powerful among all counties in the state."

Unsderfer and his fellow commissioners also set a 10 pm curfew for the county in the event of civil unrest. At times of civil unrest, the police force can use necessary force to put the down the disturbance.

The discussions and decisions will help create not only great cities and counties but also help create a fun week and to do what is in the best interest of the staters and to serve those whom they represent.

## From *Platforms*, page 1

and harder as the tour went on.

By the time the last candidate gave his pitch, I was ready to crash, my legs were sore and I could barely re-

member any of the speakers' names.

But hey, if you are the type of guy that loves sitting and listening to each and every candidate at full attention

and has creative questions about every issue, go for it. I'll be anticipating my next energy drink and wishing my head was on my pillow. Again, don't get me wrong, I

am having a great time here at Boys State.

But, as you might have guessed, I value sleep very highly and I'll take as much as I can get.

## From *Precincts*, page 5

alists were also in support of lowering of the drinking age and raising the driving age to seventeen. Gay marriage also sparked some debate, and it appeared many supported it. However, the party came to

no cohesive conclusions concerning gay marriage.

Each party is on its way to being developed in a general direction, but some opinions differentiate within every party. Anyone who is

interested in the race will most likely be able to discover that they are comfortable with their party line overall, and vote for the candidates they feel will most positively impact the community.

## From *PACs*, page 5

tion committees required. Some were looking for pro-environmentalists; others were more concerned with industry. On top of that, some committees were primarily supporting Nationalists, Federalist, or minorities.

There were only two committees that were willing to elaborate on who they supported. The People for the American Way announced that they were supporting Luke Hantla from Hiatt city because of his strong Nationalist views that he shared with the committee. On the other hand, the Heritage Foundation stated their support for the Federalist campaigner Andrew Koucky from Whorley city, who was victorious in his campaign.

## From *Candidates*, page 4

said.

While these strategies are effective, the most memorable moment of the morning came from stater Patrick Schmidt, from Crum city in Eisenhower County. He spontaneously performed a classical piano piece which sounded similar to something from "The Phantom of the Opera" score. Patrick later commented on his impromptu performance.

"I've been going up to people and talking to them," Schmidt said. "I'd like to be

their man for Secretary of State, and I used the piano to cut through the den of the campaigning."

Overall the mood fair was relatively quiet, and no serious confrontations arose. Thus far, the principles that Boys State are founded upon, seem to be making an impact on the staters. The Political Fair is the first small step towards the political activity experienced at American Legion Boys State.

extravagant approaches. The Farmers Alliance dressed their table with cowboy boots and brightly colored signs to attract the attention of potential supporters.

John Kraft from Finley city in Kennedy County is a member of The Farmers Alliance. Kraft along with other members of the PAC prepared strenuously for the event.

"We've been preparing for the fair by making signs, cards, and donating money to the candidates we support," Kraft