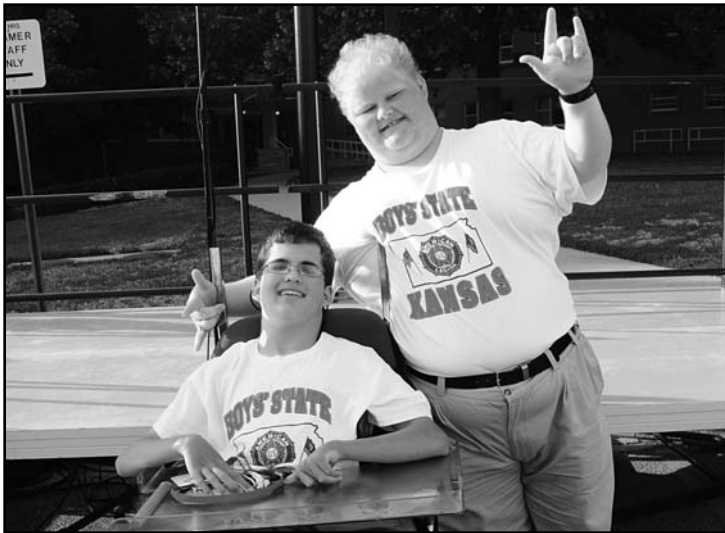




# THE American Legion Boys State of Kansas Staters Union

June 6, 2009

Volume 72, Issue 7



## Boys State teaches varied lessons

Morgan Wilson  
Staff Writer

When everyone arrived here Sunday afternoon for Boys State, the general feeling of everyone was one of confusion and inquisition. No one knew what to expect, and no one knew if they would enjoy themselves and have fun. We listened to speeches given by the staff and those who had attended Boys State before, but we couldn't be sure if what they said was true. In essence we didn't know what to think.

But now looking back on our week, the elections, the scandals, the good times and the bad times, I think everyone has had a chance to draw their own conclusions about their time here. I asked a few people about what they would take away from this experience, and I listened in on a lot of conversations, and generally people learned a lot

about government. It isn't about some nameless robot politician that is all about business. It was about real people, and, like anything dealing with people, it was much more complicated than anyone could have imagined. It taught us about how government really works, about how people are so incredibly diverse and think so differently that it can cause problems that become nearly impossible to solve. But it also taught us that in those rare moments, on those rare occasions, when everyone works together that anything is possible.

In the end, Boys State taught everyone something. Perhaps that is what makes it so phenomenal. It is not that it taught just how bills in congress are passed, or just about politics, or just about how people

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## Boys Nation candidates

Thaddeus Tuck, Patton County

James Geary, MacArthur County

## Pershing county embezzles funds

Ben Hundley  
Publicity Manager

As the final day of Boys State rolls around, there is a sense of urgency for many staters. Whether that motive is for the betterment of their county for one last big push towards "Best County" or to leave a legacy for purchasing some of the most obscene and useless items in State history, the urgency lays thick upon the air.

One county that was doing a bit of both was Pershing County. The county raised tremendous amounts of funds throughout the morning session and went into mass production by evening. The county built many structures, including: a hospital, highway system, an airport and an ambulance. They used over \$11,000 on these projects. The county took donations from two PAC's including PEE & The Assembly for the Advancement of Minorities. The minorities gave nearly \$3,000 and PEE gave \$1,000.

Nearly every citizen of the county donated their money to the county as well.

Pershing County, in part to the city of Schmitt, embezzled what is guesstimated to be around \$120,000 yesterday. Of that amount, a large sum is still sitting on the accounts due to the banks closing before it could all be used. The county, including the cities within it, bought an airport, airplane, hospital, ambulance, a doctor, roads, an apartment complex and a recycler facility. In the works was a life size metal robotic version of Godzilla, whose price appraisal was just under \$1,000. More would have been bought, but the bank closed just seconds before Perrill could transfer a large sum of funds to buy several more projects.

Other important notes of tonight might include prank rumors surrounding the counties. There were rumors of duct tape pranks in Marlatt. And if you are reading these words and you're one of the few who has survived the night, then breathe a sigh of relief because I'm sure there are a few others on campus who weren't quite so lucky.

# Counties learn through teamwork

Dustin Rhoads

Staff Writer

This whole week was a baptism by fire for the county councils of Boys State. From building highways to legalizing marijuana and prostitution, many of these projects put the city and county councils to the test and left them working hard for hours on end. However, every county overcame these difficulties to complete their projects and improve their two cities.

MacArthur county, along with Marshall and Pershing county, had extreme issues when it came to constructing a highway. They all complained about the severe lack of funds that they had to put up with and that finding money was much harder than they thought. With many PACs and the government short on funding, higher organizations were deemed unreliable. Yet,

both counties pulled through by putting county first and using alternate resources, such as people and cheaper materials.

Multitudes of other counties such as King, Bradley and MacArthur had just as much as a problem with their healthcare. Extreme costs of hospitals, lack of original ideas, time consumption and difficult decisions really put a toll on these counties. But it was all overcome by teamwork, drive to win attitude and county pride. This goes to show that, once again, a lack of money doesn't necessarily doom an organization; a lack of teamwork does.

The natural disasters were declared the hardest situation in the affected counties. In Seitz County, lack of staff severely hindered their progress in putting their city back together. Winston Churchill said, "When going through Hell, keep

going." This phrase inspired the county to pull through and bring the county back to success. Powell went by nearly the same motto, and, although the poor timing of this event hurt them, they say that they had the man power and overcame such difficulties.

Other counties had more intangible problems. Kennedy county, for example, didn't have any actual problems, they just had quite an ordeal getting people to work together. Their advice to anyone else is that "divide and conquer doesn't work, make a united front."

Patton seemed to fall under a lull in effort, one winning best county twice in a row. Although united, some lack of organizational skills and a feeling of arrogance plagued the county, and it may take a sour loss in order for them to recuperate.

One county sticks out from all of these counties though. Eisenhower county said that their hardest project was the making of the legendary can pyramid (viewable in their county commission office). From intestinal troubles to the tediousness of removing every tab, this county was heart bent on saving the environment by collecting over \$55 dollars in tin cans and stacking them in pyramid form. Originally the idea of Christen Stueve and Ted Dower, this idea saves the real world environment and makes a profit in Boys State.

As we approach the end of Boys State, we must take time to see the mistakes and successes we have made. But we also must be ready to face the challenges ahead with the experience provided by previous problems.

## Counties look for disaster funding after storm

Evan Ogborn

Staff Writer

Storms ravished the counties of Seitz and Powell Thursday night. Eight thousand dollars in damage was amassed during the storms, and the government of Boys State ran into the brick wall of finance and budget issues. During the recent budget renditions and cuts, the money set aside in Governor Kyle Maddox's original proposal for the Department of Environment was decreased from \$13,850 to \$5,500. This included the money set aside for the department for disasters just like those that occurred Thursday night. The amount of money that was set aside for disaster relief in the initial proposed budget was 5,600 dollars and the Senate and House voted to reduce this num-

ber to \$375.

This reduction in funds caused the amount of money that would have been sufficient to fix all of the damage done to Seitz and Powell counties. Although, when the Lieutenant Governor, asked about the cut in funds, he said, "Governor Maddox never thoroughly explained the budget and if you want to blame someone blame him." However, this statement cannot be backed with evidence since neither the Senate or the House of Representatives remembers passing the budget adjustment for the Department of Environment.

All of the money shuffling only confused the heads of State and halted the progress of any additional construction of Seitz and Powell counties.

## Powell, Seitz counties only see property damage

Tevin Pratt

Publicity Manager

Although Powell encountered a very serious set of storms, no one was killed or hurt during the event. Schulz city council was able to relax after the good news of no deaths or injuries occurring during the storm. The only damages caused were property damages. Property damages didn't mean much to the Schulz city council because money is flowing through the community proficiently. I asked Alex Hernes how he felt about the whole issue and he replied, "I feel like this encounter makes us stronger as a whole community and the storm didn't really faze us." He then gave a little grin and went back to his city

See Damage page 3

Join the group on  
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## Eisenhower county District Courts marry two men

Andrew O'Malley  
Staff Writer

Today, District Court Judge Josh Aksamit had no idea that at approximately 9:30 a.m., two men would walk through his door. The happy couple had spent a good part of the morning investigating Boys State law and precedent to discover that no relevant cases had arisen. Governor Maddox, when approached by the couple, pledged to bring forward a bill in Congress to establish grounds for marriage. However, until then, all that was required of the two were a witness and a judge.

David Collins of Marshall County and Vincent Marshall of Eisenhower County once lived in the same town. "God made Adam and Eve... then Adam met Steve," Collins commented. "Would you walk up to any couple on the street and interrogate them about their sexuality? That's discrimination." Collins and Marshall stated that they seek equality in Boys State for both heterosexual and homosexual unions.

"But what about civil unions?" some might ask. The two commented that civil unions are a step in the right direction for gay couples. However, "As we saw with Brown

vs. the Board of Education, separate is often not equal," Mr. Collins declared. David says that Vincent has a love within him worth holding onto for a lifetime. Vincent claims that David's outgoing personality is addictive.

So, at approximately 10:00 a.m. on Friday, June 6th, 2009, David Collins and Vincent Marshall came together in the Eisenhower County District Court and received their marriage license from Judge Aksamit. At the couple's wishes, the newspaper was present to publicize the revolutionary, precedent-setting event. They wished to express their love publicly and make their cause known. Just minutes later, after a Patton County resident that wishes to remain unnamed stood to witness the event, Collins and Marshall became husband and husband.

The happy couple would also like this reporter to make it clear that their relationship is only part of the simulation. In real life, the two are heterosexuals and are in no way attracted to each other, but they still wished to make a point.

from Lessons page 1

work in general. It taught everything and anything. It did not matter where I turned or who I spoke to, they all said the same thing. Boys state taught them something about life and I think that that is something truly miraculous.

from Damage page 2

council duties. I also asked Will Roller of Schulz city how he felt about the weather issues and he responded, "I believe the storm wasn't a bad thing at all, I believe that it just created a chance for the county to prove their medal, OOORAH!"

## Hazardous wasted dump proposal turns to be scam

Rob Williams  
Staff Writer

Yesterday, two counties, Kennedy and Eisenhower, were scammed out of thousands of dollars by members of the Legislative branch of the Boys State of Kansas. Counties were furious after they came to the realization that the reimbursement they were promised never came.

Representative Stringfield and Senator James Wilson met with the heads of Eisenhower and Kennedy counties in a deal to build a hazardous waste dump within their counties. The deal they offered included not only the cost of the dump, but also the price of transportation and the lot on which to build it.

After an interview with the heads of Kennedy County, it was

found that all the money lost totaled between \$6000-\$7000, with \$4000 going to the cost of the hazardous waste dump. "We were furious," one county official said, "and we had plans to sue the men, but we later changed our minds." After much hasseling, the money taken was given back to both counties, and all disagreements and anger were for the most part lost. "We were just happy to get our money back," another Kennedy county official said, "we had a lot of things we wanted to get done before the day was over, and with our money back we can now continue all of our original plans."

## Supreme Court disappoints onlookers

Rob Williams  
Staff Writer

The Supreme Court of Boys State heard the case Boys State of Kansas v. Mallery at 9:15 a.m. Friday. Led by Gavin Koester, the Court made some of the most unjustified, confusing and inconsistent decisions I've ever heard. As a member of the press, I was allowed to sit in and take notes about the events in the courtroom; I was often infuriated by what members of the Court said. The trial started with Attorney General Michael Mohan's recitation of the charges brought upon Garrick Mallery; he was charged with at-

tempted theft by deception. When Ethan Thomas, a member of Mallery's legal counsel, stated that the attempted theft was a response to two Federalists' successful theft, Justice Brandon Katt stated that the Court had ruled that the Feds had broken no rules. He offered no explanation; I would have liked one.

Thomas then stood and listed off nine of Mallery's constitutional rights that had been violated throughout the course of his arrest and trial. Examples include being arrested and detained without reason, being arrested without warrant on two occasions, being inter-

rogated without the opportunity to speak to a legal counsel and being issued a possible prison sentence that exceeds the 6-month maximum for a misdemeanor (Mallery was presented with a punishment of one year in prison). Absolutely no formal response was given to most of the right-infringements on the list; at about this time I'm sure the Court realized that they and the highway patrol had done something wrong.

The Supreme Court then stated that Mallery's use of Phil Kroh's nametag was the basis of their case; Mallery had claimed to be some-

one else. One justice called this an example of identity theft, but when asked if Mallery was being charged with identity theft, the Court said he wasn't. Phil Kroh, the leader of People for the American Way and the owner of the nametag, then stood up and gave his testimony. Kroh said that Mallery had asked for his nametag and that he hadn't ordered Mallery to do anything. He also asked why the two Federalists, who had successfully stolen money, were not being charged.

Andrew Wilson, one of the Fed-

See Supreme Court page 4

## Joint Resolution

Respectfully submitted for consideration on Friday, the 5th of June, 2009 by Christopher John Harries.

A RESOLUTION recognizing all those who affect and make possible the American Legion Boys State of Kansas.

WHEREAS, in the 2007 session of the American Legion Boys State of Kansas, Jake Allan Price went above and beyond the normal role of a Stater through his interaction with those around him and his work as President Pro Tempore of the Senate; and

WHEREAS, in the 2008 session of the American Legion Boys State of Kansas, Jake Allan Price served as a role model to all staff members through the energy he spent enacting his duties as an Events counselor, the passion he showed in his work with Staters, and his continual desire to better himself; and

WHEREAS, Jake Allan Price has set a high standard for work outside of the American Legion Boys State of Kansas with his recruitment and advertisement work; and

WHEREAS, Jake Allan Price has touched the lives of countless others through his wonderful personality, care-free attitude, and openness to all; and

WHEREAS, Jake Allan Price was born on January 10th; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion Boys State of Kansas has been shaped by the loving hands of thousands of Kansans since its inception; and

WHEREAS, programs such as The American Legion Boys State of Kansas would not be possible were it not for the work, effort, and lives of the men and women in military service; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion Boys State of Kansas currently has no official day of recognition of those who have in the past affected the program, those who currently dedicate time, money, and spirit to the program, and those who will some day make an impact of future Staters:

Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the American Legion Boys State of Kansas: That January 10th of every year should be recognized as a day of reflection on the memories gained from the American Legion Boys State of Kansas, remembrance of the friends and all those who have affected the American Legion Boys State of Kansas in any way, and celebration of all the good deeds and strong men the American Legion Boys State of Kansas creates and will continue to create; and

Be it further resolved: That a moment of silence will be observed during the Friday evening ceremony during the week of the American Legion Boys State of Kansas, both for the people who have personally affected the program and for the soldiers who made intense personal sacrifices for the possibility of a nation that remains strong and free, creating programs like the American Legion Boys State of Kansas.

from Supreme Court page 3

eralists, then stood and provided an answer. Wilson called his act a "clever negotiation," not theft by deception. He stated that when asked if he was a Nationalist precinct, his answer was "the definition of a precinct is one who supports the party's claims." Clever, yes, but Wilson did admit to naming off the Nationalist candidates and claiming to support Nationalist views, so that in itself is direct implication. But, as the Court ruled, lying through direct implication to get money isn't against the law.

But is that a good argument? The Court recognized a difference between Wilson's "clever negotiations" and Mallery's theft by deception, but is there actually a difference? Imagine for a second this scenario: My shirt is blue, and so is my friend's shirt. He lies and says

that his shirt is red, but I say my shirt is the opposite of green. Aren't we saying the same thing? I'm not specifically saying my shirt is red, but I'm implying it. I lied. Wilson, by saying that he supported the Nationalist candidates and views, pretty much said he was a Nationalist, even if he never explicitly said the word "Nationalist." The Court does have a point in saying that Mallery lied about his identity, but Kroh testified at the trial that members of the Heritage Foundation never even looked at the nametag. So the nametag never really did anything; the Court can just forget the nametag. But they didn't. Also, Kroh was asked to leave the room directly after—I suppose the Court doesn't like being given evidence they don't like.

After Kroh was gone, Mallery said that he never asked for the nametag but that PAW members

voted on "who could pull it off." Mallery obviously won the vote, and Kroh gave him his nametag and sent him on his way. Mallery said that Kroh probably lied about the nametag to clear his name.

The thing that bothered me most about the trial was not the justices' denial of constitutional rights—it was the attitude in the courtroom. The Supreme Court was trying to put Mallery in jail. They never acknowledged the (in my opinion) brilliant arguments by the defense, but they paid extra-special attention to any evidence that could prove Mallery's guilt. Justice Brandon Katt seemed to be the ring leader of the Mallery hunt, and some of the things he said were completely arrogant and rude. When Ethan Thomas and Justin Briner, Mallery's counsel, voiced their suspicion of a biased trial (I had good suspicion myself) Katt

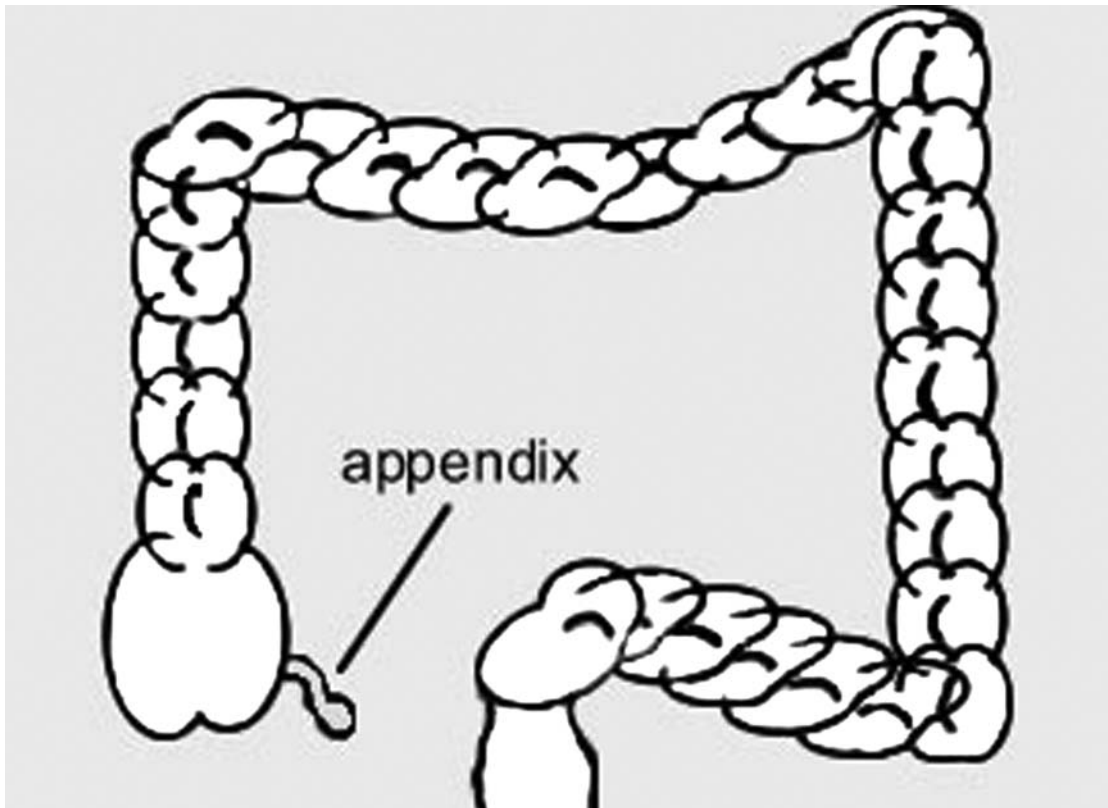
responded with, "What if we think you're getting a fair trial?" So the Court will not have their "supreme" authority questioned. After all, what they say goes.

Also, the Court forgot that they weren't a group of prosecuting attorneys—they were the judges and jurors. The prosecuting attorney, Mohan, hardly spoke; the Court spoke for him, interrupting statements by the defense and cross-examining at wrong times. The unbiased Supreme Court was doing the job of the prosecuting attorney.

If the Court wants to be unfair, they've got that right.

The case was remanded to the MacArthur District Court because Boys State of Kansas v. Mallery was "not the case [they wanted] to hear."

# Missing



## Martin Cram's Appendix Reward: \$50 Boys State Bucks

### Important Details:

- Disappeared Friday May 29, 2009
- Irreplaceable
- "It feels like a part of me has been missing ever since," Martin Cram

If found, contact the Patton County Counselors immediately.

## ***Powell County is on Fire!***



# **POWELL COUNTY RULES**

LET ME  
GETTA



OOORAH!

THE  
NEWSPAPER

## Goodbye, for now

All stories pertaining to Boys State within these pages refer to a simulated society, and editorial license may have been used to report the 'facts' of such stories.

Letters to the editor are encouraged and accepted. Letters must be signed to be considered for publication. All letters will be edited for space, grammar and legality. Letters should be taken to the Stater's Union office.

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**Legionnaire**

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Jordan Watson

Counselor

I have been with The Staters Union for five years and I have seen it change drastically over five years. While it is true that some things never change, this program and the people involved have evolved and changed more times than we know. This newspaper, every year, sees its worst day and its best day but it is still published every day. The kind of strength that I have seen in staters and counselors alike has been undeniable.

Every year I write this "good bye" article, I am almost always certain that I will return the next year to write another goodbye. This week has been especially difficult, because, as each day passes, my time in the program dwindles due to the fact that I will not be returning to state next year. Next Summer, I am studying abroad in Mexico for six weeks, starting the day after finals, and then backpacking across South America for the rest of Summer. This kind of opportunity does not present itself everyday, and I feel obligated to participate. Dedication to this program has been of the utmost importance to me over the past five years and a large part of me will stay rooted within Boys State. When I look back on my progression I often see the start of my maturity beginning on the Saturday I left Boys State. Every part of me is anchored

to this program and even in my absence the anchors will still exist.

I have been fortunate enough to be a part of something extremely unique: Boys State. Roughly 100 men, and some women, out of the entire population of Kansas get to help run this program. That is an opportunity to become a part of something and has been extremely valuable to the lives of everyone involved with Boys State.

As a result of this program, I am a part of a huge network of funny, caring and dedicated people. Some of my friends at Boys State know more about me than most of my acquaintances in the outside world. The amazing part of this equation is that I have only spent a total of five weeks time with many of my friends here.

Events counselors from years past have become my family at Boys State. They are an amazingly unique group of people that I will cherish forever. CJ Harries and Iain Blair are two of the most kind people I have ever met. Nathan Harkins has made me laugh more intensely every year. Rick Wohlfarth is one of the most compassionate people I will ever know. Matt Root is a great intellectual and an amazing person. I know that Martin Cram will achieve great things in his lifetime, without a doubt, but this is only matched by his

kindness. Ben Roller is a very dear friend of mine. Finally, Alex Barbuto, Tyler Sharp and Matt Onstott, you are three of my favorite people.

Outside of the former events realm, George Rothwell and Jacob Brown know more about computers than they could ever tell, but they are extremely generous with this knowledge. They have helped me more than they will ever know. Tyler Suelter is a person capable of joking all day and, within a second, providing deep insights on the world. Beyond that, Tyler is a great friend. John Moeder is a friend all the time, whether it be when he is coordinating, or when you are just looking to go out and have a drink. I will never know how Scott Johnson and Thane Chastain accomplish the things they do, but I have been glad to help and they have also been huge assets to me. Also, Aaron Wiseman's leadership skills are unmatched by most people.

If I have missed anyone, please do not take offense. Everyone in this program is a friend of mine and will continue to be for the rest of our lives. I know that I will return in the next few years, but the future of my involvement in this program is uncertain at this moment. Thank you to everyone for giving me strength, kindness and friendship.