



THE American Legion Boys State of Kansas Staters Union

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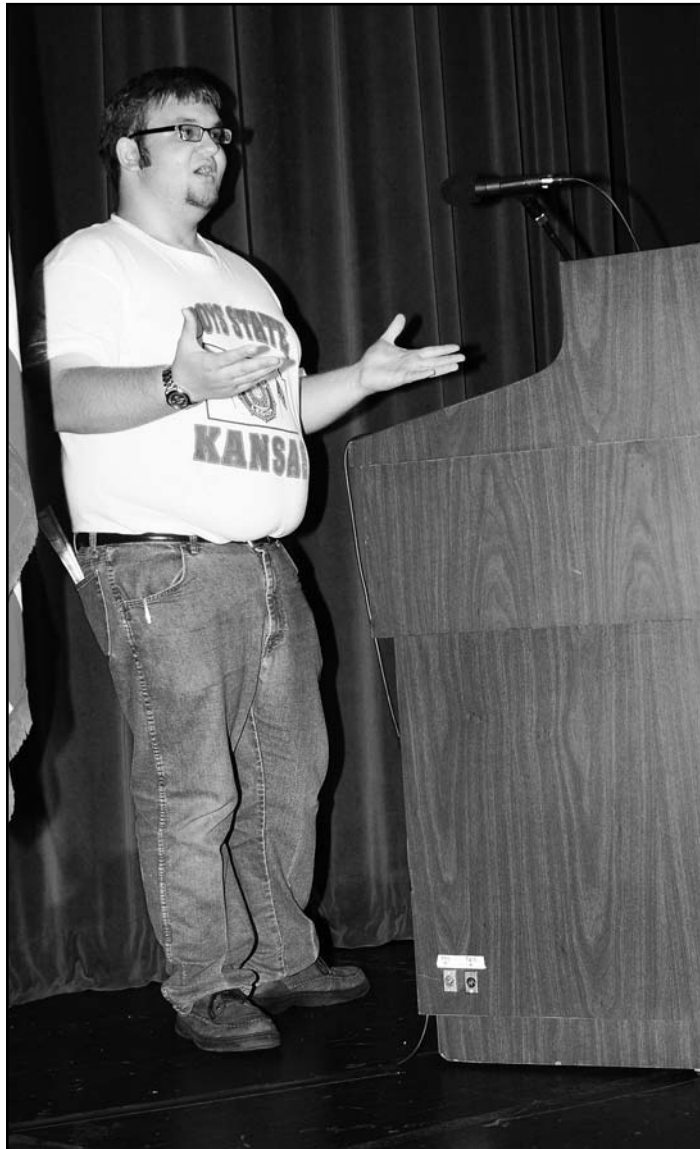
Governor addresses State

Rob Williams
Staff Writer

Wednesday morning, Boys State governor Kyle Maddox stepped in front of the curtain and gave a summary of the executives work on the budget. Working until 3:30 a.m., the elected State officials were given a \$26,936.51 deficit and came out with a \$2,480.63 surplus. Maddox explained that while he and his colleagues drastically changed the budget, they did not abandon the promises of his campaign. Maddox's number one campaign promise was increased funding for education, and the budget allocated \$28,960 for the Board of Regents, \$8,630 of that specifically for grants.

Maddox and the other executives set aside \$5,000 in slush funds to prevent disenfranchisement among farmers and agriculture workers. Youth Corrections was also an area mentioned in the address, and the budget gave \$3,306 to the youth corrections effort to prevent repeat offenses. \$2,765 The Powell State Penitentiary received \$2,765 to pay three fully staffed employees. Some confusion occurred between Maddox and the Powell county council during questions about the location of the prison, as Powell County had not approved the placement of a prison. Casey Donnell, Lt. Governor, quickly corrected the confusion, calling Powell State Penitentiary a

see Maddox page 7



Photos by Martin Cram

WHAT'S AHEAD

Talent Show

Check out page 2 for talent show highlights

Supreme Court

See page 3 for details about the Supreme Court's first day

Highway Patrol

The highway patrol was busy! See page 5 for pictures and details about the highway patrol's activities

Governor's Budget

The Governor's budget has been under scrutiny by many across the State. See page 6 for the story behind the controversy.

Prostitution

Cities and counties are looking for ways to increase revenue. See how they've been doing it on page 8.

Letter to the Editor

Read the latest letter to the editor on page 8.

PAC Scandal

Find out more about the PAC scandal on page 4.

Talent show captivates audience



Photos by Martin Cram

The talent show featured a wide variety of acts. The event had the largest amount of stater participation in the last few years.



Ben Hundley
Publicity Manager

Another eventful night awaited the Boys Staters last night, as a wide number of the Staters participated in the annual Talent Show. The show featured a wide variety of talents but prior to the show the guest speaker for the night was Secretary of State Ron Thornburg. He gave a well delivered speech about what every successful leader should require. They included: knowledge, courage, trust and absolute failure at least once to learn from.

The event then started with a bang and would continue to feature a wide assortment of talents from playing the drums, violin, guitar and piano, as well as comedic interpretations and dancing.

Also, woven throughout the show, was a contest hosted by Schmitt city citizen Ben Waugh. Waugh set up three contestants to perform charades that included: riding a bull, riding a roller coaster and fishing in a glass bottom boat. What the contestants didn't know was that while they were off stage, Waugh informed us that they weren't actually doing what he told them they were about to do. The three participants were actually performing the craziest, most insane experience they had ever had on the toilet.

The night was capped off with a truly one of a kind performance, the singing of American Pie by Mike Zimmers, and largely accompanied by the entire State as well as many of the attending counselors, Legionnaires and guests. The singing of "American Pie" is a tradition at Boys' State.

Zimmers sang the song while a Stater here, and now because of its original popularity, he performs it as tradition.

Supreme Court convenes for first time

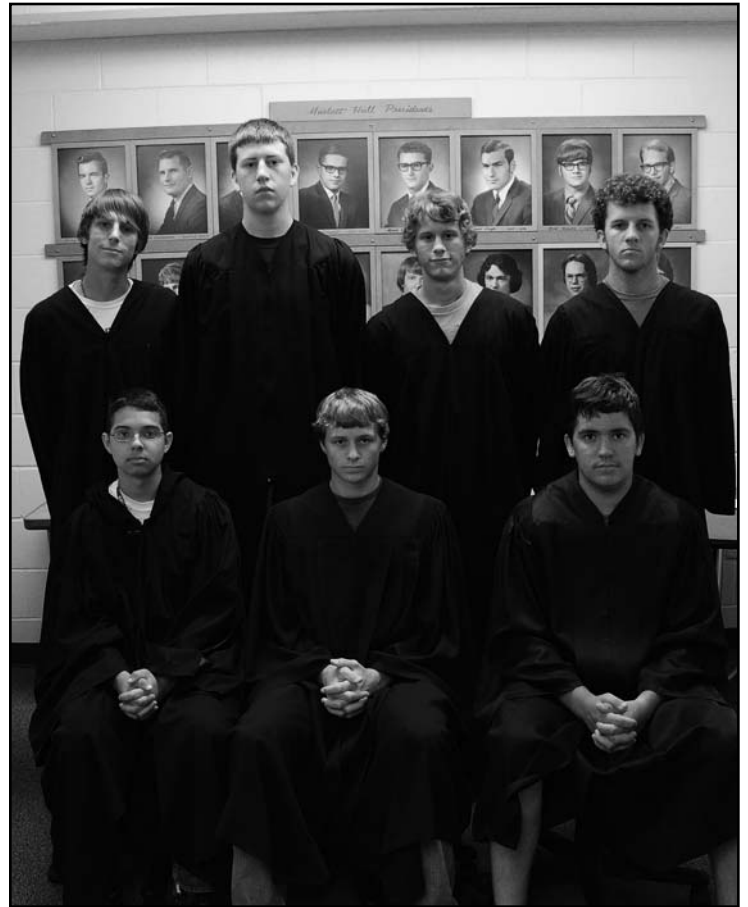
Samuel Cott
Publicity Manager

After Tuesday's general elections ended and the new Boys State Governor was elected, Kyle Maddox chose his seven Supreme Court Justices. The slot of Chief Justice was filled by the losing governor candidate, Gavin Koester, and the rest of the slots were chosen by the new governor. Jamie Arnel, Trenton Heinen, Nathan Reznicek, Brandon Katt, Michael Miles and Zachary Ramirez filled in the spots for the remaining Justices, and the first session began.

The case reviewed in yesterday's meeting was over an incident resulting from a high-speed chase. After driving through a drug sting and being suspected of drug possession, Harris, the plaintiff, ran from the police officer in an attempt to escape arrest. The whole chase lasted a duration of 10 miles and 6 minutes, ending in a near-fatal crash. The officer, after being cleared via radio, attempted to perform a pit maneuver on the fleeing car, but failed to strike the vehicle in the proper place. After accidentally ramming the car in the rear bum-

per, the fleeing vehicle lost control, spun out and crashed. Harris sustained injuries which resulted in quadriplegia, and then proceeded to sue the officer responsible for the crash. As of yet, no verdict has been reached in the review of the case.

The major event of the meeting was not the review of the crash case, but instead over confusion on the appointed justices. Shortly after the meeting convened, it was realized that eight justices in total had presented themselves to begin session. Every member was vexed when the root of the problem was found, as two members, Gavin Koester and Reed Woodworth, claimed they were the Chief Justice. Woodworth was the Chief Justice originally appointed by Maddox, and Koester, as stated before, was the losing governor candidate. After the supervising counselor called the problem in over the radio, it was revealed that Koester was in the right, since the spot of Chief Justice is meant to be given to the losing governor candidate. Once the situation was resolved, adjudication continued within the courtroom.



Photos by Martin Cram

Joint Committees hold first meetings over budget

Evan Ogborn
Publicity Manager

During the Joint Committee meetings yesterday many of the Joint Committees heard several discrepancies on the topic of the budget. Many said that Governor Kyle Maddox directly contradicted his Nationalist platform in the way of money spent in the budget.

An example of one of the many discrepancies was that over the cutting of the budget for the Department of Parks and Recreation by a margin of one thousand dollars.

This, however, was not the main issue for the Department of Parks and Recreation. They argued that their budget had been cut whereas the budget for the Office of the Treasurer rose by a whopping twelve thousand dollars.

There were many more complaints similar to that one. These complaints however will all be cleared by a special address written by Governor Kyle Maddox. This address covers many of the talking points and the frequently asked question that Governor Maddox had received all day yesterday.

New PAC is formed that advocates for teachers

Ben Hundly
Publicity Manager

Early Tuesday morning, yet another PAC was created during the 2009 Boys State. PEE, or the Philanthropic Entrepreneurs for Education, has started off quickly, already helping to fund a casino built in Perrill city. The city saw a 25 percent jump in their income because of the new casino. Founding members Alex Orel and Matthew Morefield, are helping fund the organization privately. New members to the PAC are Marcus Tetwiler and Ryan

Aeschlimann. The PAC has named the new casino, "More—Orel Casino" and also plan on making a new bar in Kennedy County titled "Tet's & Aesch Bar." The group hopes that with all the increased revenue, the money will be used to help stimulate their education system as well as help maintain farmers who are nearly negative. Founding member Morefield says, "After losing our primaries, we all came together under our common platform of stronger education. Through PEE we have formed a group that will

see teachers page 7

Ike constructs improvements

Andrew O'Malley
Staff Writer

In Eisenhower County, the city of Crum is suing the city of Chastain over pollution, although this is only part of the Boys State simulation and not a unique decision. Ike is one of the two oil and gas counties in Boys State, and one of the major anchors of their economy is the energy business; the refinery in Crum has raked in an impressive \$2,000 since its initiation. Tourism has also quickly become a secondary and highly-valued business; a casino that was recently opened has produced approximately \$1,000 in revenue.

Although its tourism industry is already doing admirably, the city of Chastain intends to expand even more with the opening of an amusement park in the near future using the considerable funds they have acquired from existing businesses. The County Commission has also expressed that they wish to, before the institution of these other projects, fund and build an actual highway in the county. The Commission maintains that this will help all sectors of industry and tourism by improving transportation safety, reliability and efficiency.

Finally, the Ike County Commissioner has recently revoked their conceal-and-carry laws in order to hopefully receive some funding from the National Rifle Association, a recently established political action group.

Cities seek avenues for revenue

Dustin Rhoads
Staff Writer

In the last issue of The Stater's Union, the Goodnow cities reported on their major projects; I went to Marlatt to see if they were spending responsibly; they far exceeded my expectations.

When I heard that Sullivan was building a consolidated hospital, I thought that the county as a whole was going to be pretty mellow in economic risks. Boy was I wrong. While Sullivan City was building a hospital on their 13th lot to share with Wiles, Wiles was making something to put it on the map: a sword factory. As of now they have the refineries built and while they are in debate for who runs it, they all agree that if they build this factory, there will be demand. This may be an unexpected controversial issue, for the parties all have their stance on gun control, but when it comes to pointed objects of the large variety, there are almost no known regulations. Hopefully the city of Wiles will be put on the map due to success.

Spigarelli also has a relatively new idea that may cause controversy. They decided to build a wind and solar power plant; this makes it the first Boys State city to "go green". While this may aggravate the Oil and Gas PACs, Spigarelli's city council is certain that it will be more beneficial to the city and county as a whole. With people calling Kansas the potential Saudi Arabia of wind, this may be the brightest choice a city can make.

However, the previous idea may be outdone by Schulz's ingenious idea - building a state college. According to news sources, this will be the first state college built in Boys State Kansas, and will have an amazing impact on Schulz's community. If Schulz succeeds in getting this approved by the state, it may be the biggest boom town in Boys State Kansas, but if it is not approved, countless hours and funds will be lost in the planning.

"Easy Access" was Perrill's motto for increasing income. By making their business district's roads and infrastructure more accessible and appealing, businesses will flock to their city. However, this may end up

angering residents due to the fact that the business district came before residential infrastructure. And if the business's employees cannot get to work due to construction, why would businesses move in?

Schmitt City decided that while they need to eventually go green, the money right now is in oil and gas. As a result they have constructed a power plant. It will obviously be used to provide power to residents, and by increasing the supply of power to their city, they will lower power prices all over the city, and give a surplus of power that can be sold to other cities and counties. It should have been constructed and ready for use by yesterday, but one doesn't know if this will anger residents that want to start moving towards green power.

Another city, Newman, had about the same idea, but being in an oil-based county, they figured that building a refinery would be a better decision. However, there may be a scandal involved in the construction of this refinery. The city of Newman constructed, funded and had the land

Patton county wins best county

The "Best County" banner knew only Patton the first three days of Boys State, and the cities of Patton have ranked in the top three of Marlatt every evening. I met with the four Patton County commissioners, Mason Johnson, Josh Carroll, Matthew Tantillo and Garrett

Wimer and asked them about their secrets of success. While they were wary of sharing their full plans, they did give other counties a little advice. One thing that every commissioner mentioned was city unity. Wimer called Patton County "one big family" that doesn't fight.

All funds are distributed by the county to the cities, so one city can't get ahead of another. Johnson said, "We are a county, not two cities." Carroll expressed Patton's original concern of competition from Eisenhower, but because of their city competition Eisenhower has

fallen behind. Patton just passed its biggest piece of legislation to date, a \$1,495 roads project that repairs both cities' roads, rebuilds a toll bridge and constructs a 4-lane highway in the middle of the county.

Scandal Contributor Arrested

Rob Williams
Staff Writer

Garrick Mallery, the member of People for the American Way who contributed to the scandal involving PAW and the Federalist Party was arrested Wednesday around 1:30 p.m. in front of Goodnow Hall and charged with fraud. Jordan Brenn, the

superintendent of the highway patrol, had to release Mallery as there was no warrant for his arrest. Brenn is fairly sure that Mallery will be brought to the Supreme Court on trial tomorrow at 1:10 p.m.

When Mallery was interviewed at 2:16 p.m., he

had no knowledge of his trial and was disgruntled by the "unprofessional and unorganized" actions of the highway patrol. "They didn't know what they were doing," said Mallery. "They didn't even read me my rights or tell me what I was charged

with." Mallery is currently out on bond.

The two still unnamed Federalists that started the scandal have not been charged with anything as of 2:30 p.m. Wednesday.

Highway Patrol begins defending

Dustin Rhoads
Staff Writer

As everyone knows, our protection is provided not only by the county police, but by the highway patrol. Their first meeting was held on Wednesday, and they were all very anxious to begin their jobs. I came to them for an interview and Matt Suppes, the treasurer of the highway patrol, second only to Jordan Brenn, the superintendent, delivered.

When I asked him what the Highway Patrol did, he answered

that they prevent crime, bring law-breakers to justice, and protect the populace (especially the governor and other government staff) with highway patrol values. Intrigued, I asked him what those values were, he responded with "courage, commitment, courtesy and honor." He also said that every member of the highway patrol enjoys upholding these values and enjoys coming to work each day. I then asked him what they did each day and any major accomplishments that he had so far. All that I have to say is that for the first day on the job, they have

done many amazing things, from a driving course, to their first arrest. Also, each day is something new and exciting, and their job depends on what crimes may happen that day, and they aren't worried that crime will throw anything at them that they can't handle.

However, the one thing that does trouble the highway patrol is their budget. When meeting with Treasurer Matthew Cole, they listed a large, but necessary, list of equipment. This list included 60 uniforms, a helicopter and a pilot, 12 police cars, 36 guns, one canine unit, an

airplane for the governor, a salary of 55 dollars per person, building funds, and 12 weapon kits. With the budget being in the state it is in, many people are wondering if there will be enough funds to provide for the highway patrol. However, Cole says that it is one of his top priorities to see that the highway patrol gets all the funds it needs. The highway patrol staff also says that it will be at the next budget meeting to explain and back their reasons for why they need their equipment.



Photos by Martin Cram

Johnson & Icenogle sue over water pollution

Tevin Pratt
Publicity Manager

Johnson City has decided to sue Icenogle City over water pollution. After being interviewed over the issue, counselor Kyle of the MacArthur county said "Both counties are working well (with each other) it's just a mild dispute" however after I interviewed different citizens of the two counties I think otherwise. Beau Hamlin (from the Johnson county) said "I walked over to the other county and asked them where they were dumping their trash and one of them said the river."

This is what ignited the whole situation. Mayor Payne, of the Icenogle city is very upset about the whole situation. He doesn't understand why someone from his city would say something of that nature, he said "the whole deal is ridiculous" Payne is considering counter suing Johnson county over the same topic (water pollution). Once I presented this info to a group of Johnson citizens they laughed and argued Mayor Payne obviously isn't the smartest because that would mean that trash was flowing up stream.

Governor's staff achieves surplus in light of large deficit

Samuel Cott
Publicity Manager

One question a lot of staters were asking when they heard about the state deficit was "Where did all that money go?" At Wednesday afternoon's State of the State Address, when Governor Maddox announced that his administration had not only gotten rid of the deficit but also turned it into a surplus, many staters began asking a different question. "Where did all that money come from?" Everybody wanted to know how this miraculous turn around in the State's budget was accomplished and they were not satisfied with Governor Maddox's lack of explanation on this point. In fact some suspected foul play, substantial increases in taxes, or drastic cuts to state programs, all of which they considered unacceptable. I was able to get an exclusive interview with the governor, and a chance to put some of the questions and rumors surrounding this controversy to rest.

I wasted no time in getting to the point and immediately asked him how he was able to perform this financial miracle. The Governor did no dodge around this question

and went into an astounding explanation of how his administration was able to accomplish this. He first went on to assure me that there was no drastic increase in taxes, that there was no foul play, and that no department got cut beyond "reasonable" levels. He then went on to explain the specifics of his administration's budget plan, the first thing they did to increase state funding was to increase the state sales tax from 3% to 5%. Now I can already hear people out there groaning about this increase. I admit I was a bit upset about it too. But Governor Maddox assured me that the impact of this increase on the individual was minimal, resulting in only a two dollar increase in the cost of living, but at the same time this tax was quite substantial on the state level giving them approximately another thirty thousand dollars in increased revenue. Governor Maddox then went on to explain that his administration also increased the corporation tax from 2% to 5% which accounted for another thirty thousand (approximately) extra dollars in revenue. His administration also cut the budget of the S.R.S. by seventeen thousand dollars, reasoning that if they fixed the economy not as many people would need welfare, and rerouted the seventeen thousand dollars they saved to education.

They also restructured the state income tax system, while they did keep the bracketed tax system (where those at the bottom of the economic structure pay less per capita than those at the top) they changed the amount each bracket would pay. He said that those in the bottom bracket (people earning less than 50 dollars) paid an 8% state income tax, and each bracket thereafter would pay

2% more taxes than the preceding bracket with people earning more than a hundred dollars paying a 16% tax. This new system was meant as a guideline for counties to follow to help lower the burden on their citizens. The last thing the Governor said they changed was a cut back on state workers. He said that they planned to limit the amount of state workers each county could employ to eight. He reasoned that this was more fair to every county giving each an equal number of jobs, that it also would protect the private sector, and that more importantly it would save the state approximately fifty thousand dollars in spending.

In the end Governor Maddox was very modest even in light of this impressive feat. He said that he could not have done any of this without the unyielding support of his staff, particularly the help of the state treasurer Mathew Cole, and his Lt. Governor Casey Connell. He also went on to say that he did his best to insure that the Federalist view was not overshadowed, and that he worked very hard with his Federalist staff members to insure that their voice was also heard during the drafting of the budget. He did caution however, that in the end, the fate of the budget rested in the Senate's hands so he could make no promises as to whether it would be ratified and accepted as of yet. One thing I will say is that despite whether or not you agree with Governor Maddox's Administration's plan or not every single last Boys Stater should be proud about the hard work and thought they have put into this. They all worked hard with each member of his staff staying up until three o'clock in the morning to ensure that the budget was finished, and one can only hope that their plan will succeed.

**VOTE YES ON POWELL COUNTIES
TOLL BRIDGE AND ROAD REPAIR
PROJECT**



Farming counties search for possible funds in "exotic" places

Derek Symes

Staff Writer

Just thinking about the legalization and taxation of prostitution in the real world is idiotic and unrealistic, but when teens control a simulation state, things can get interesting. Members of Kennedy County disagree with it. "We need to take this seriously. If we legalized and taxed prostitution our respect level would go down. It is morally and ethically wrong to think about." Although MacArthur, Eisenhower and Kennedy Counties all disagree with the legalization and taxation of prostitution, both King County and Bradley County agree with it. In fact, Patrick Cowan of King County labels it as a great idea, saying, "Prostitution is going to happen

anyway. Why not tax it?"

City of Aylward, Bradley County, has actually already legalized gambling, prostitution and marijuana. The outcome was a lot better than most would think. Not only did the changes better their economy, but the cost of living and crime went down for the obvious reason that they legalized these three things. The only downfall was that education decreased as well, but as a whole this shows how much the pros outweigh the cons for things that are usually unthinkable.

After almost hitting rock bottom, because of financial problems, there was talk that Marshall County was going to secede. They needed to find a new alternative to get money. The Marshall County Commission had actually heard about

Aylward's actions and discussed doing the same. Some problems found in Marshall County were that thirty percent of female teens in the county were pregnant, they have a sheriff but no car, their crime rate is up and they had hired a toll booth operator but had no toll booth. To fix the problem of pregnancies they are hosting a sexual education class as well as giving out condoms. They are also in the process of buying a car for the sheriff. As for the toll booth...well, nothing on that yet.

To fund all of these solutions, they will be following in Aylward's footsteps and have already sent out the papers for the legalization and taxation of gambling, marijuana and prostitution.

City councils find difficulty in staffing hospitals, police stations

Morgan Wilson

Staff Writer

Wednesday was a busy day for many of the local level governments as they tried to tackle critical issues like the building of public projects and the enacting of new ordinances. I was able to stop with the city council and county commissioners of Sietz county to get a feel for what kind of work they were getting done. On the county level the commissioners were a bit stressed out, they had two projects to complete and, because of the talent show, only two commissioners out of four to complete the tasks. This fact however did not discourage them as they only worked harder to make up for the lack of personnel. The main issue they

had to tackle was how to increase easy and cheap access to hospital care a problem which they solved by increasing P.P.O.'s (regulatory actions which force hospitals to hold costs to acceptable levels).

Both city councils were working very hard on implementing sex education and the distribution of birth control to their youth upon learning the statistic that one third of all boys state women (I'm talking about the simulation here no REAL women were involved in this) got pregnant before the age of 18. Both cities also had to deal with another problem. Neither the city of Sullivan nor Wiles had taken time to invest in a police station although both hired police officers and built jails, to their chagrin they found out

that police officers are shockingly ineffective if they don't have an office or even a car. Fortunately both cities immediately commissioned the construction of a police department. On a more progressive note the city of Sullivan is still waiting on permission from the House of Reps, and funding from the state, to build their nuclear power plant, and the city of Wiles commissioned building of their refinery Wednesday so they could begin construction of their sword factory on Thursday.

It was nice to see everyone hard at work on both a city and a county level and one can only hope that their hard work, along with the work of every other county, city and citizen of Boys State, will pay off.

Join the group on Facebook for The American Legion Boys State of Kansas!

Share with others your amazing stories about Boys State and keep in contact with your fellow staters.

Search for The American Legion Boys State of Kansas on Facebook and join today!

from teachers page 3

create self-sustainable businesses that can, and will continue to give profits back to both education and other ailing parts of cities." The PAC has already, in addition to the casino, bought a school bus for Perrill through Tetwiler, and thus named "Tet's Magic School Bus" in dedication. The bus will help to transport students effectively. Also, primarily through large contributions from Orel & Tetwiler, they helped to buy a hotel to coincide with the casino for additional revenue. "We are willing to help any county that has an interest in strengthening the education, through large revenue buildings, such as casinos or simply sponsoring a teacher," Orel said. The group has also already funded a minority teacher in the city of Chastain, in Eisenhower County. PEE believes in a very bipartisan stance and according to member Aeschlimann, "Everyone loves education and beer!"

THE
NEWSPAPER

Governor issues response

Andrew O'Malley

Staff Writer

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.

Since the election of Kyle Maddox, a number of PACs have found issue with his proposed budget for Boys State. Today, during the Joint Committee Hearings, a cooperatively created petition was presented to the different departments. The participating PACs include the National Rifle Association, the Coalition of Cities and Counties in Kansas, the Philanthropic Entrepreneurs for Education, the Association for the Advancement of Minorities, the Heritage Foundation and the Farmer's Alliance.

The major point of contention these PACs hold with the existing budget is the increase to the Office of the Governor, the increase to the Treasury department, and the increase to the Board of Ethics.

They have in response proposed

a \$5,500 pay increase to the Judiciary sector, a \$7,000 backing to education, and a \$950 docking from the Office of the Governor's \$1,000 budget.

However, by the end of the day, the cabinet issued a response to the petition after being approached and repeatedly questioned over the same topics. In his explanation, Governor Maddox explained that his initially hypocritical cuts to the Board of Education were actually just streamlining of the Board's inflated job numbers. They focused on cutting the unnecessary jobs, with each one removing a week's pay from the budget.

The Office of the Governor's increased budget is due to paying the governor and lieutenant governor's weekly salary of \$75, the same as each department head, grossing \$900 for both of them.

When adding a \$100 miscellaneous operating cost, the budget

landed at an even \$1,000.

The additions to the Department of the Treasury and the Department of the Commissioner of Insurance are due to two small issues. The Treasury received funds to a sub department titled "Cash Management." Here, the money is placed for reallocation by the Legislative branch via spending bills.

The Insurance department received money in order to fulfill a campaign promise to ensure the farmers have a budget fall back in case of a major financial disaster that could potentially cripple the industry.

However, some PAC members argue that their revised budget better moves around funds to programs that need them more desperately, while still maintaining the surplus. Finally, in Governor Maddox's letter, he thanked the people for doing their most important job: keeping him and his cabinet in line and representing State in an honorable way.

Letter to the editor

Boys State is described to be a leadership camp and as so many of our leaders, counselors, and speakers have said, it is so much more than that. Boys State is an activity, an endeavour. It is a week long preparation for our future. Not only does Boys State train us how to lead, it forces us to lead. The environment demands leadership. I find the most instruction from the observance of this forced leadership.

I believe that my situation at school is very similar to most other staters. I find myself near or at the top of my class. My true peers at school are few, anything but plentiful. The few leaders we have all lead. We never are forced to compete for leadership. When we are in a situation we lead because we are the only ones. Do other leaders exist? Probably, but they do not know their own potential nor understand their capability. Here at Boys State this is anything but a problem.

Leaders are plentiful here at State. Nearly everyone has demonstrated potential or possesses potential. But, a major question rests, who can lead when all have the capability? Is it the person with the loudest voice, smoothest voice, highest energy or best looks? All of these characteristics play a factor. But on some occasions logic is defied. An improbable leader appears and controls the group. I saw this happen even in the first few days of Boys State. Those with potential were forced to lead, and in their action they developed a new skill.

Personally I enjoy leading. Moreso, I enjoy observing. I discovered that I enjoy the backseat. From there I can lead without taking the forefront. I do not have to receive credit nor at times do I want credit. My most important objective is to ensure that the task is completed. Wherever my role fits into this I am satisfied. This I learned about myself. Through observation

I see technique of other leaders. I see practices and methods that succeed or do not. I can objectively critique the argument. This is only possible because I learned, and was partially forced to learn, that learning comes more through listening and watching than doing.

As Thane affirmed on Wednesday, State is a lesson of failure. What we make of the failure is our choice. Monday and Tuesday were my opportunity to observe and listen. I took what some considered failure and instead discovered valuable life lessons. God gave us two eyes and ears for a reason. In our future not all will lead, no all will hold power. But, in every situation and in every action, we choose how much we will learn. How will we use our two eyes and ears? Our personal answer to that question will reveal what we truly learned here at boys State.

- Ben Harstine

Editor in Chief

Tyler Downs- Johnson, MacArthur

Design Editor

Sam Cott- Aylward, Bradley

Publicity Manager

Tevin Pratt- Schulz, Powell

Ben Hundley- Schmitt, Pershing

Writers

Rob Williams- Newman, Patton

Morgan Wilson- Sullivan, Seitz

Evan Ogborn- Harris, King

Andrew O'Malley- Crum, Eisenhower

Derek Symes- Klassen, Marshall

Dustin Rhoads- Findley, Kennedy

Counselors

Jordan Watson

Martin Cram

Legionnaire

Chuck Shoemaker