



THE American Legion Boys State of Kansas Staters Union

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Conventions get fired up

Nats and Feds hold conventions to energize party, introduce candidates



Evan Ogborn
Staff Writer

photos by Alex Shram

Techno music permeated the air at the Nationalist Convention. There was a rabble amongst the Staters and the Nationalist Party was pumped. Although, the presence of a microphone would have strengthened many party platforms and informed the party more thoroughly.

Even so, the Nationalist party unified and welcomed the first candidate, the Nationalist candidate for Commissioner of Insurance, Tyler Egbert. Egbert tried, and succeeded in rallying the troops. This energy proceeded to carry through to the rest of the candidates. This energy however, was often times misguided and the crowd became noisy and had to be settled by the candidates. There was activity throughout the whole convention.

For entertainment "The Crimson Chin" balanced two chairs on his chin, with no hands. There was also music played throughout the introduction of each of the candidates. The convention wrapped up with a rather stirring speech given by the Governor Candidate, Kyle Maddox. In his speech Maddox signified that he is a man of the party and that he will do his very best to represent the Nationalist Party and he is not interested in personal gain.

Morgan Wilson
Staff Writer

Governor candidate Gavin Koester had the crowd pumped up and left the party excited for upcoming elections.

The Federalist party's convention on Monday night started with a bang as everyone grew excited to meet their candidates and support their party. The festivities began with rallying and energizing the crowd, and one could feel the excitement and anticipation in the air. After everyone was thoroughly pumped up, the Federalist delegates for the state positions were introduced. Each gave a short introduction to their goals and where they stood.

The main attraction of the night was gubernatorial candidate Gavin Koester, in fact, cries and shouts calling for Gavin drove the Lt. Governor off the stage and brought forth the long awaited Gavin. Gavin voiced his concerns and promised to uphold the political ideals of the Federalist Party. After Gavin

finished, the senatorial and representative candidates took the stage and party organizers asked for Federalist members to support them as well.

Overall the Federalist party convention served its purpose. Most everyone left the convention feeling pumped and energized about the current state and

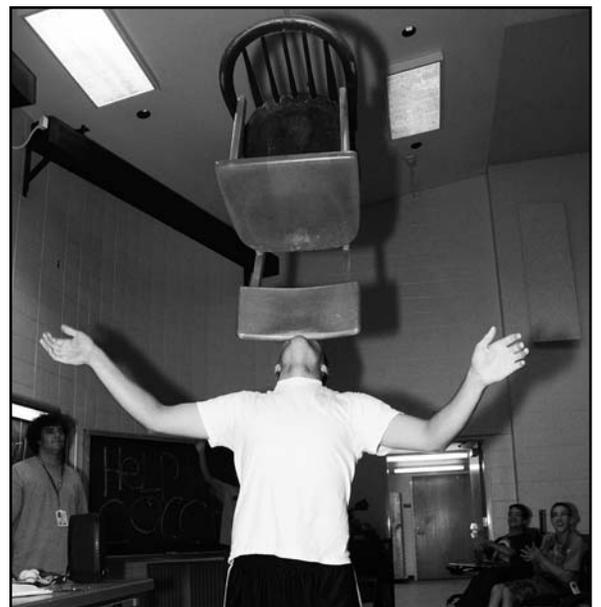


photo by Martin Cram

PACs begin interviewing candidates

Dustin Rhodes
Staff Writer

The Political Action Committees (PACs) are the base of every campaign's rise and in some cases downfall. These committees fund all candidates in order to secure the interests of their members. For example, C.O.C.C. (Coalition of Cities and Counties) supports candidates that promise to support more local government power.

As one can imagine, the PACs, having limited funding, want to support the politician that gives them the most bang for their buck. This makes competition for funding fierce, especially in the party PACs. In the case of the Heritage Foundation, they have had over twenty applicants and only one has managed to secure funding. However, if a politician can't be funded by his party, he is not out of the race; there are many other PACs that may have more money (such as the workers' PACs) that will willingly support members of either party in exchange for their business interests being placed in the top priority. Many people fear such deals, for the politicians may end up supporting their PACs rather than the people as a whole. An example of such an event would be the new governor lowering taxes around counties and the

REGISTERED PACS

PEOPLE FOR THE AMERICAN WAY - Represents the Nationalist Party and have supported governor candidate Kyle Maddox.

HERITAGE FOUNDATION - A conservative organization that supports the Federalist party. They supported Marcus Tetweiler for governor.

FARMER'S ALLIANCE - Will support either party but specifically protects farming counties and cities.

resulting deficit being placed on the shoulders of the other counties. This has a particular ability to raise tension between PACs, but so far no PACs have had issues with each other. However, when election time comes around and the administration starts to govern, one can only imagine the flare of attacks that will face every PAC, as well as who they represent.

There is one outlying factor though - a politician is NOT required to support the PAC once in office. If they are good enough, a politician can get money from every PAC and then do whatever they want. However, there are severe repercussions for doing so. Every PAC has openly declared that at the very least, a traitorous candidate will face a huge slander campaign and a large population of the state rallying against them. In fact, many people wouldn't be surprised if those certain candidates happened to run across a bit of "bad luck".

REGISTERED PACS

LEAGUE OF INDUSTRIAL WORKERS - Will support either party and protects industrial cities and counties. They protect industrial union workers' benefits and overall welfare.

OIL AND GAS WORKERS ORGANIZATION - Will support either party but most chosen candidates are Federalists. They work to protect the continuation of fossil fuel businesses.

ASSEMBLY FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF MINORITIES - Will support both parties including both majorities and minorities. However, they specifically support the minority race. They fight to protect minority equality in the community.

COUNCIL OF CITIES AND COUNTIES OF KANSAS - Will support either party and represent local governments. They support an increase in the powers of local government.

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Nats and Feds choose political platforms

Nationalists

- Leave homosexual marriage up to the courts.
- Keep conceal to carry laws; leave gun policy as is.
- Keep the drinking age at 21.
- Support of the legalization of marijuana and hemp and the institution of a heavy tax.
- Pro-union; wants it to be easier to form unions and co-ops
- Against the deportation of illegal immigrants
- Expand Medicare and socialize health insurance
- Supports the development of alternative energy

Rob Williams
Staff Writer

The party precincts gathered Sunday and Monday at committee meetings to decide the platform for each party. Although the conservative Federalists and the liberal Nationalists disagreed on many topics, there were some topics on which both agreed.

Education was probably the most discussed topic of both meetings, and support for educational reform and increased school funding was widespread. State office candidates on both sides of the political spectrum were quick to voice their zeal for higher quality Kansas education.

Both platforms also included support for alternative energy and the migration away from oil as a primary source of energy. Surprisingly, abortion was the least discussed topic of the meetings, and both Nationalists and Federalists dismissed the issue, saying that it was officially "not mentioned." However, many Federalists, did unofficially, voice their pro-life position.

Although the platforms were decided through an efficient democratic process, leaders did arise in both committees. Ben Harstine led the Federalist meeting in the Willowick Room, and Casey Donnell was the primary contributor of the Nationalists in the Cat's Den. When asked about their personal views, both expressed great concern for the current education system. Harstine wanted a higher concentration on individual students and the movement of emphasis from "tests to teachers"; Donnell called education his "number one concern." Candidates at the meetings were quick to talk about their personal platforms, and tenants ranged from Dylan Fehl's "far right" views to Kyle Maddox's support of "the little guy."

One topic that was strangely ruminated was the Nationalist's discussion of the legalization of marijuana. For a drug that has been illegal for so long, it's interesting to see such a consensus about its legalization; the Nationalists did have many points of justification for their belief, however. They support not only the legalization of cannabis, but the implication of a heavy tax on marijuana and a not-so-heavy tax on hemp.

Something the Nationalists did not mention, but was discussed by the Federalists, was the penitentiary system. The Federalists talked about the locations of Kansas penitentiaries, saying that "jails equal jobs" and that putting a jail in a county with high unemployment would be beneficiary to the economic state of that county.

Federalists

- Privatize Health Care and provide initiatives and benefits for the impoverished
- Promote lower, stabilized taxes
- More funding for education, teacher retention
- Increase domestic energy dependency and develop alternative energy
- Opposed to affirmative action, wants a color blind government
- Increased funding for the police and law enforcement
- Promote privatized bids for jobs, competitive infrastructure that "builds towards the future"
- Spend only the money necessary and save the rest.



photo by Scott Johnson

Parties consider candidates

The Whistle Stop Tour allows staters to consider their potential party leaders

Tyler Downs & Rob Williams
Editor in Chief & Staff Writer

Monday's Whistle Stop Tour allowed both the Federalist and Nationalist parties to cast their votes for the candidates they saw most fit to lead their party in the general election. The Federalists spoke in Goodnow while the Nationalists spoke in Marlatt. For the most part, the Federalist candidates held similar views, making listeners feel as though they heard the same person speak twenty different times.

Even if the questions were irrelevant to the office the candidate was running for, the same ones were asked: "What are your views on abortion?," "Do you believe in the death penalty?," and in the Federalist whistle stop tour, "What about gay marriage?" And almost all candidates had the same answer with slight variations: "I am 100% pro-choice," "I do support the death penalty," and, "I believe marriage should be between a man and a woman." Although they were all from the same parties the lack of variations made the platforms difficult to distinguish. Only a handful did not support the death penalty and only two candidates mentioned certain exceptions involving abortions.

All of the candidates could be separated into two categories: those who actually cared about the election and those who did not. Those who couldn't care less instantly started annoying the viewers. As soon as a candidate would enter the room, he was asked if he was serious about run-

ning. If he was, he got to speak. If he wasn't, he got the boot.

In the end, those who tried hard and were genuinely interested in helping the state were elected.

Nationalists gathered in Marlatt Monday afternoon to listen to the State Department candidates for the 2009 Nationalist primary election. In addition to some very well-qualified and intelligent candidates, there were some interesting and disappointing characters as well. AG candidate, William Newport, explicitly said, concerning capital punishment, "if they murder, they should die."

The candidates for governor seemed to be the most-qualified overall of the bunch, most of them having experience in politics before coming to Boys State. As expected from the Nationalist party, most of the speakers spent time talking about the legalization of marijuana, sometimes annoyingly so. One of the most disappointing positions was State Treasurer, with three of the candidates not even wanting votes and one of the candidates, Jesse Flax, saying he would put "half the money in a cookie jar and bury it in a football field." After listening to these speeches, the winners of the Nationalist primary were no surprise.



photos by Scott Johnson



Staters heard candidates from their party as they went from floor to floor campaigning for votes.



Scandal erupts between PAW and Federalists

Rob Williams
Staff Writer

Monday morning, at around 9 a.m., two men walked into the office of the People for the American Way. Although never explicitly stating their party, the two men told the PAW members that they supported the same candidates and that they shared the same views. The men requested a donation for James Wilson, a Senator that allegedly supported the PAW agenda. PAW members say that the two men mentioned being a part of the Nationalist precinct committee, but the consensus among Federalists denied it. After being convinced that the two men were Nationalists, PAW sent their treasurer to escort the two men to the bank to make the requested \$150 donation to the senator. The donation was made,

but when the treasurer returned to the PAW meeting room, the president noticed that the receipt, dated June 1st 9:09 a.m., said "Pay to the order of: Federalist Party." Some foul play had occurred.

Only minutes later, two men walked into the office of the Heritage Foundation and asked Heritage leader Josh Holsworth for a donation, mentioning that they had just successfully received money from PAW. Holsworth was impressed that the two men, who had just admitted to being Federalists, had received money from the organization representing the opposite end of the political spectrum. Heritage then made a donation of \$75 to the Federalist Party through the two men.

Right after that donation, a man wearing the Federalist nametag of

Phil Kroh came in and asked for a donation. Holsworth immediately recognized this man as Garrick Mallery, not Kroh. (Both Kroh and Mallery are members of PAW, but Kroh is listed as a Federalist on his nametag.) However, Holsworth let Mallery talk, and after Mallery spoke against gay marriage, abortion, and all of "the typical conservative stuff", as Holsworth said, Heritage removed Mallery from the room.

PAW is now working on filing a \$700 lawsuit against the Federalist Party. An out-of-court \$150 settlement was tried by Federalists, but was struck down. Mallery has personally admitted to using Kroh's nametag, and the attempted out-of-court settlement proves the guilt of the Federalist Party. Josh Holsworth, when asked about PAW's failure to thoroughly check the two

Federalists' background, said, "I'm not surprised by the irresponsibility of the American Way."

Garrick Mallery, a vocal representative from PAW, said this of his attempted scamming of the Heritage Foundation: "We were just trying to get the money. I asked for the same amount that we had given them, so I wasn't trying to cheat them out of anything. I knew that if I had asked directly, they wouldn't have given it to me." Mallery also said that PAW was "strapped for cash" at the time.

Both Federalists and Nationalists have had reactions to these events. Zach Olson, a Federalist, said, "I think it's very under-handed for the Federalists to act in this manner, but the American Way could have just checked their nametags to avoid this." Justin Briner, a Na-

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Counties debate over marijuana legality

Derek Symes
Staff Writer

A week long simulation government camp plus high school senior guys equals a lot of debating, especially about "hot" topics of today, i.e. the legalization of Marijuana. During the Whistle Stop tour Federalists candidates were asked questions on the topic, many candidates had a range of opinions.

One question that came up a lot during the Whistle Stop tour was whether or not marijuana is a gateway drug. A majority of the Federalist candidates opposed the legalization for that reason and also said that crime would increase. The Powell County Council also argued that crime would increase saying, "those who came up with the munchies from smoking the drug would steal food from local convenience stores."

To defend the drug, members of

the Bradley County Council say that marijuana is the perfect drug to legalize. Not only will it stimulate the government by sales and taxes but it will also open up many jobs. They also mentioned that the food companies would prosper because of those aforementioned "munchies". Hemp, processed from marijuana plants, is also a good bio-fuel. To refute the Powell County Council, those from Bradley County say that crime rate will actually go down. For example, when drug deals go wrong people can get killed, and for the fact that marijuana is one of the leading drug industries in the world, the death rate in this area would go down. It was also mentioned that people would kill less because marijuana brings happiness.

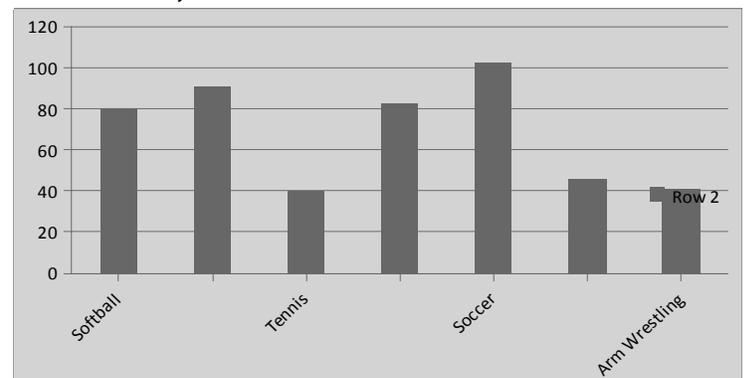
Softball falls short

Derek Symes
Staff Writer

Several counselors made a guess that softball would be one of the most popular sports at Boy's State. Well, wrong guess guys. Softball was actually fourth in line this year with Seitz and Ike not even being able to compete because they couldn't even fill the field.

Coming from a football-popular town, I would not think that I would ever in my life see soccer as

a popular sport. That thought was blemished as I tallied the number of people who signed up for the sport. With 103 members on the separate county teams, soccer was the most popular sport by over ten Staters. Basketball, with 91 Staters, was second in line. All counties had maxed out for this sport, four actually going over that maximum.



Two new conservative PACs begin with ease

Morgan Wilson
Staff Writer

Two new P.A.C.s, The Catholic Interest Association and the Boys State of KS branch of the National Rifle Association, were created Monday. Both parties were excited, and, perhaps, a bit concerned about the impact they might have on the election. I was able to meet with the committee members for the N.R.A. and get a feel for what their P.A.C. stood for and their political goals. Obviously the N.R.A. was primarily concerned with gun control. They said that they wanted some control in the form of permits, restrictions and tests (so no one crazy gets their hands on a mini gun or rocket launcher and makes a trip to the local mall). They believe that the right to own a gun is a constitutional right not a privilege and they support the conceal and carry law. The N.R.A. is a primarily Federalist, conservative group but they said

they were open to Nationalists who shared their ideals as well.

As for the Catholic Interests Association, they lived up to their acronym of the C.I.A. It took me half an hour to track them down, but when I did I was shocked to find that they had only two main active members: Zach Wilkins and Lee Keller of Seitz County. I asked Wilkins about what the C.I.A.'s official goals and priorities were and he told me that the C.I.A. is primarily a Federalist PAC that supports conservative views but is still willing to work with liberal nationalists. He went on to tell me that the C.I.A. has three main objectives: stop gay marriage, end the death penalty, and to stop abortions. They also hope to help build schools and churches in local cities

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Harris elects entire city council to mayor position

Evan Ogborn
Staff Writer

Yesterday Nathan Reed was the Mayor of Harris and Eric Timpe was the City Clerk, but tomorrow two new faces will take on the roles of Mayor and City Clerk. This is all part of an unorthodox strategy put in place by the city council of Harris.

The city council believed that it was necessary to have a leader, yet they were all equally qualified for the position of Mayor. So by unanimous decision they all decided to be Mayor. Everyday a new Mayor will take his place as the leader of Harris. This new Mayor will not have any more

power than the other council members, and will only be needed to sign documents for the city.

When I asked how this new Mayor will be decided I was met with the universal sign for Rock, Paper, Scissors. Councilmen John Makona remarks, "We think it is important to keep things simple in this hectic society."

So by using the "Rock, Paper, Scissors" tactic there will be a new Mayor and City Clerk of Harris ushered in today to replace Nathan Reed and Eric Timpe. I wish the City Council of Harris the best of luck with this new city government strategy.

Seitz county produces responsible politicians

Morgan Wilson
Staff Writer

The politicians of Seitz county wasted no time in getting down to business Sunday Evening. In fact, as soon as the senatorial delegates returned from their campaign orientation session they immediately set about asking constituents about their concerns and political outlooks. I myself was met at the door by senator candidate Geoffrey Hargas who immediately began asking me what kind of laws I would like to see passed. He was not alone as senatorial candidates Lee Keller and Samuel Small were also polling the citizens of Seitz county. It was nice to see a personal touch to the political activities that made it clear that the senators of Seitz County really do take their job seriously.

The senators were not the only ones who got down to business Sunday night. I was also confronted by Seitz county's candidate for state treasurer, Yan Weir, who, when asked about what kind of platform he was running on, said he wanted to lower taxes in general, but would focus mostly on income and gas taxes. He also stated that he would like to increase education spending as well. When asked about how he wanted to accomplish his goals while still working to balance the state deficit, he calmly replied by saying that he understood the realities of the situation and that his goals may seem farfetched but were quite possible if they "renovated" and "restructured" the state budget and tax structure. When I asked him to elaborate on this he said that he wasn't sure on the details yet but he would know more tomorrow.

Of the more interesting characters I met Sunday night was Federalist governor candidate Zach Ramirez, who was also getting a feel for his constituents' views. Zach won the Federalist nomination in a land-side victory over opponent

Lee Keller. Most likely, this was due to the impressive record he has being an Eagle scout, having attended the National Youth Leadership Camp, and having been accepted to both the Navy's and West Point's leadership training seminars. Zach also responded well to the questions he was asked, even on controversial issues like Roe v. Wade and gay marriage. He took a staunch conservative stand on these questions, saying that he was pro-life, and that he stood against gay marriage- citing a verse from the bible said marriage, is for people to have children, and pointed out that it is impossible for a gay couple to naturally conceive a child. Whether or not Zach's hard-line conservative attitude did not win out in the end remains to be seen, but one thing can be said, he most certainly made things interesting.

The most impressive local political action, in Seitz county, was done by the county commissioners Monday morning when they asked everyone to donate all of their money to the county fund. Their logic behind this action was if everyone gave them their money they would be able to use it to improve the county, specifically economically. They plan to build up the county in hopes that the donations will bolster the economy of Seitz and thus make everyone more money. This plan was met with some resistance, however, by the Sullivan city mayor Nathon Kohl who reasoned that the citizens of Sullivan should take care of Sullivan first and Seitz second. On top of this some citizens voiced their concern that if all the money went to the county commissioners then none of it will go to those who are running for state offices. To these allegations the county commission replied by

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from Conservative page 6

and counties. They plan to support senatorial candidates of the Federalist Party to help further these goals. Overall though Wilkens and Keller said that the C.I.A.'s progress was coming along quite well and they had high hopes for the PAC. When I asked them if they had anything else to say Wilkens said, "I just want people to know we aren't fanatics, we just have certain beliefs and we just want those beliefs to be put to law." He then went on to say that anyone was welcome to join or support the C.I.A. and that you don't have to be Catholic or Federalist. They are currently looking for more committee men as well.

It remains to be seen what kind of impact these new P.A.C.s will have on the political theatre, although it could be said that the Federalists seem to hold the current advantage in the race to get P.A.C.'s support, with both new P.A.C.s expressing their federalist support.

from Dispute page 5

tionalist, says, "It was dirty of the Federalists to say that they would represent candidates they had no intention of representing. It may be considered dirty, but at least it was fair of the American Way to try and get their money back the same way they were scammed."

Only time will tell how this dispute and lawsuit will be ended.

From Seitz page 6

saying that if anyone wanted their money back then they could have it, and also said that if they help the county now everyone will have more money to spend during the general elections on Tuesday.

In the end I think that the county of Seitz is in good hands, as our political leaders seem to be very proactive and caring about constituent concerns. I can only hope that the political activities of Seitz county are not just a fluke and that the leaders and delegates of the rest of the counties are just as hard at work.

Political fairs heat up

Sam Cott
Design Editor

As the hot Kansas sun beat down upon the cement basketball courts outside Goodnow residence hall, candidates and Political Action Committees grappled for their position atop the election pole. In one corner loud speakers blared the opinions of the state office candidates and political action committees tried to persuade passers-by to join their particular platform or group. met like an unorganized jumble of stagers, this was simply the first step of many in the election process for state offices.

After the first day confusion on what office they should run for, the political fair showed for the first time how far the young men have come in just a day's time. The political fair gives a significant stepping stone to all running for office. Alex Beemer of Bradley County said, "I think it [the political fair] is a good way for candidates to get their name out. It seemed as though two strong candidates had emerged from both parties for the office of Governor. "Bet on Tet," said Gus Hart, head of the Heritage Foundation, in regards to the candidate Marcus Tetwiler of the Federalist party. On the other side, various voters supported Kyle Maddox for the position of Governor. It was a good race, with fierce competition on both sides.

While perusing through the various PAC tables, two groups stood

out particularly in effective persuasion and presentation of their issues and stances. The Farmer's Alliance (FA), plans to increase the voice and influence of the farmer in the Boy's State of Kansas. "We support the hardworking little man," said one FA representative. The main issue they plan to try and change in the Boys State is taxes and insurance to the farmers. The other table which was wowing Political Fair viewers left and right, was the table presenting the platform of the Federalist Party. With a firm and well-represented platform—presenting plans for issues such as health, budget, and energy—they effectively showcased their abilities to sway a crowd and capture votes, Federalist and otherwise.

However, there was an ever-present tactic used by all PAC's and candidates. Under-the-rug slander and subtle encouragement to join a certain platform encouraged the title of this article. Granted, candidates and PAC's alike must do what it takes to grab their foothold on the slope to the top of the Boy's State government, are these tactics really an indicator to an honest government? With those thoughts in mind as we move on to the final elections down the road, the race continues to get tighter as campaigns become more—or in some cases, less—"fair".

THE ASSEMBLY FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF MINORITIES



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THE NEWSPAPER

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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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Tyler Downs- Johnson, MacArthur

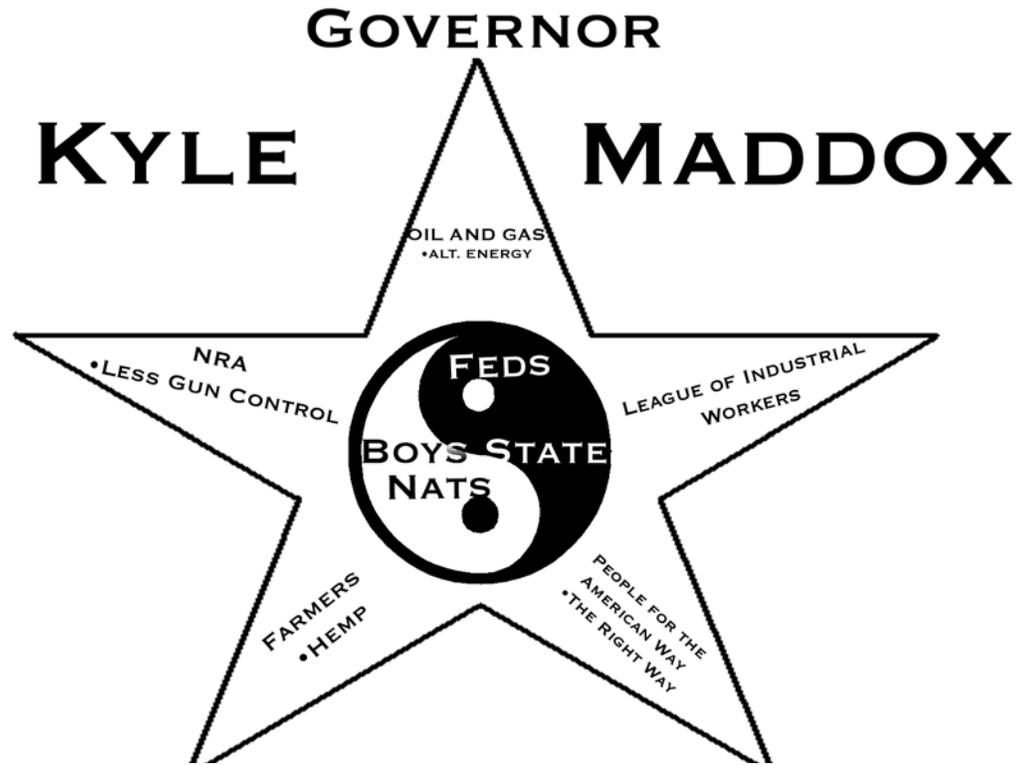
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