



THE American Legion Boys State of Kansas Staters Union

June 3, 2009

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Debates turn one-sided

Evan Ogborn
Staff Writer

As the debates for State Office began there was obvious tension among the candidates. While the curtain opened the Nationalist Party stood out as more organized. This was due mainly to the fact that the Nationalist Party was all standing in a uniform fashion, while the Federalist Party were obviously confused as to whether or not they should be sitting or standing. The confusion among the Federalist Party seemed to continue throughout the rest of the debate whereas the Nationalist Party controlled the flow of the debates from the very beginning.

The first were the candidates for Commissioner of Insurance - Tyler Egbert for the Nationalist Party and Elliot Hofmeister for the Federalist Party. During that debate for Commissioner of Insurance, it seemed, once again, that the Nationalist Party was the stronger and more organized party. Egbert made strong points with conviction while on the other hand Hofmeister danced around the issues and seemed disorganized. He also appeared to stumble over words and often times became caught up in his own stream of consciousness.

Next on the platform for debate were the candidates for Secretary of State - Schuyler Stump of the Nationalist Party and Spencer Chestnut of the Federalists. This Federalist candidate seemed as befuddled as

see [debates](#) page 7



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Boys State chooses its leaders



Governor

- Kyle Maddox, Hiatt, King

Lt. Governor

- Casey Connell, Spigarelli, Powell

Attorney General

- Michael Mohan, Mantey, Patton

Secretary of State

- Schuyler Stump, Johnson, MacArthur

Treasurer

- Matthew Cole, Schmitt, Pershing

Commissioner of Insurance

- Elliot Hofmeister, Aylward, Bradley

INSPIRATION



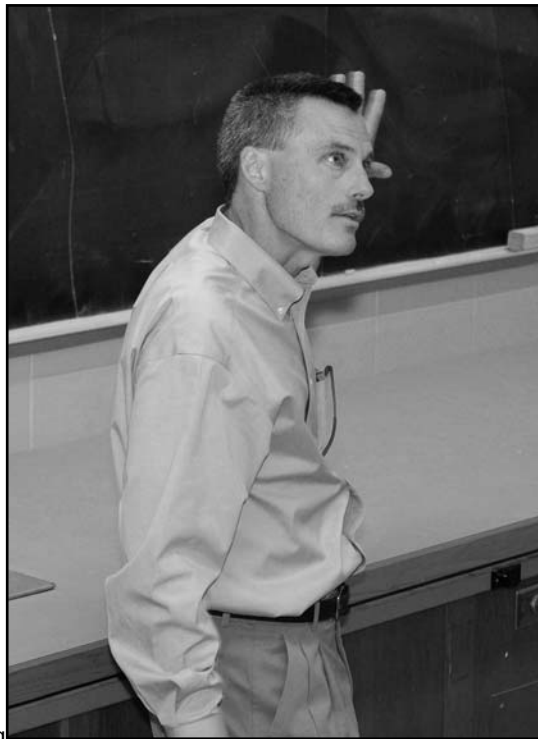
Raj Goyle speaks to staters during his town hall presentation.

Judge Thomas Sutherland is a district judge in Johnson County

Scott Seel is running for the House of Representatives in the 54th District.



Rob Williams, Andrew O'Malley, Sam Cott
Staff Writer, Staff Writer, Design Editor



As the streets and sidewalks dried and the temperature began to drop, Staters made their way to Cardwell Hall to begin the Town Hall Sessions. The Town Hall sessions included three speakers from various legislative and judicial professions around the state. The sessions were an opportunity for Staters to hear first-hand experience in some of the positions they've been elected to or learned about and what those careers entail in the actual Kansas government system.

In the Town Hall Session held within Cardwell 101, Scott Seel spoke on his views and methods in the upcoming elections in November of 2010. Seel is campaigning for the position of House seat of the 54th district of Kansas. Seel, who is 27, spoke on opposition and voters who question his age and ability as a policymaker in the Kansas House of Representatives. In response to this, Seel talked about how it is imperative that young people become active participants and the political

and policy making process. "Young people offer a unique perspective on the creation and enactment of policy," said Seel. "A lot of who you see in the current Kansas House of Representatives are in their 40s and 50s, and it's a fresh addition to have younger representatives," he said on how young people are not only beneficial but vital to the policy making process in Kansas.

Seel pointed out the two main points of running an election. First is the actual raising of money. "It's a sad truth that a lot of campaigns are money driven now," Seel said. An effective campaign, Seel stated, can cost anywhere from \$30,000 to \$50,000. Since supporters can only donate \$500 at a time, the fund raising process can be very time consuming, but worthwhile in the long run. The second hurdle that Seel said you must leap would be the process of going and talking to potential voters. While laborious, meeting with voters

can dispel doubts on issues such as age and other platform debates. "Most people just appreciate that you listen to what they have to say. It seems more important that they have an honest representative than one who agrees with their views." As the November 2010 elections approaches, Scott Seel continues to campaign in his quest for a seat in the House of Representatives.

Next, State Representative Raj Goyle addressed the audience. He is the son of Indian-American parents and the first of his ethnicity to be elected to the Kansas House of Representatives. He is also a graduate of Harvard Law School. Goyle felt it was important to return to Kansas after his education to run for public office, saying that he believes that the youth in Kansas needs to be present. Raj's reasoning was that fifteen years ago youth should've been making an entrance into politics, and their lack

of presence has contributed to the current economic crisis. Despite running as a democrat in a district with a two-to-one republican to democrat ratio, he managed to win by a significant margin. His strategy boiled down to door-to-door, person-to-person conversations with voters to win over their vote and to get a grasp on their personal wants and needs for the state.

Raj has been highly instrumental with the passage of two major issues in Kansas legislature since his election. Firstly, he helped allocate \$700 million in stimulus money to the unemployed in Kansas. Secondly, and just as honorably, he helped pass legislation to establish a 150-foot no-picketing buffer zone at Kansas funerals. Heated, inflammatory, discriminatory picketing has been a frequent practice by the Westboro Baptist church, particularly at the funerals of armed service veterans, led by Pastor Fred Phelps. He has

see [inspiration](#) page 6

Precincts prepare for general elections

Rob Williams

Staff Writer

Nationalist and Federalist precincts gathered together a final time to prepare their party for the state elections. Both parties were diligent in educating their respective candidates about possible debate questions and the opposite platform, and both were confident that their party had the upper hand. Campaigning

was fanatic for both Gavin Koester, the Federalist governor candidate, and Kyle Maddox, Nationalist.

The Federalists were fairly confident that they had the support of all oil and gas workers, and candidate Koester signed an agreement with Seitz County promising the Federalist funding of a nuclear power plant in Seitz. Ben Harstine, a Federalist precinct, said that the Federalists

have an advantage in their platform; he feels that the Nationalist platform has some vague points and that the Federalists are much less politically polar. The Federalist Party also has a plan to construct highways using a privatized, bid-based system.

The Nationalists were happy that their convention went "exceptionally well." The precincts were in the Cat's Den talking with their candidates

and People for the American Way representatives to prepare for the election. Phil Kroh, from PAW, said that PAW made a promise to personally pay for power lines across Kansas, and Nationalists are taking census of what counties want to do with the state lots. The Nats had hoped fairly confident that they could pull over moderate conservatives with their platform.

King County hears kidnapping case

Morgan Wilson

Staff Writer

A horrific crime was committed in King county as the 7 year old girl Daniel Van Dam was kidnapped murdered, and allegedly raped. The citizens of King county were in mourning over the loss of one their own but despite this they immediately set about trying to get to the bottom of this horrible crime. After some amount of investigation the prosecution found the man they felt was responsible for the crime, Mr. Badnam. Convinced they had enough evidence the prosecution brought Mr. Bandam to court Tuesday morning, with the intent of closing this case and brining some closure to the Van Dam family.

Proceedings started with the selection of the jury. The citizens of King County who had been selected for jury duty gathered in the courthouse and filled out their questioners. The prosecution and defense then got a chance to review the results of the questions and weed out those that they thought would be bias in deliberation. The defense decided to focus on getting rid of everyone who had a younger sister, because of the sensitive nature of the case. The prosecution on the other hand decided to try and sway the results of the trial in their favor by selecting only people who had a sibling. After about half an hour of intense

scrutiny the beginning pool of 25 jury members was whittled down to the 13 that would sit in on the trial.

After the jury was chosen and all the witnesses were gathered the trial finally got underway. The honorable judge Henry Chapman began the proceedings and then immediately asked for the prosecuting attorney Zach Birchmeier to give his opening statement. The prosecution began by giving a graphic description of the horrific crime and went on to say that it would be impossible for the jury not to return a guilty verdict. Defense attorney Adam Rosendahl, on the other hand, said that the overall lack of evidence was shameful and asked for a not guilty verdict.

After the opening statement, the witnesses for both sides were called to the stand starting with the prosecutions. Brenda and David Van Dam came across as rather irresponsible as both admitted to doing pot the night of their daughter's disappearance. Mrs. Van Dam reported seeing Mr. Bandam at the bar that evening and said that he seemed a bit upset at the fact she and her friends paid little attention to him. After the parents left the stand the prosecution called forth their material witnesses fielding an impressive variety of forensic scientists. Karen LeAlcala, a C.S.I., and Annette Peer, a DNA analyst, both presented evidence that tied Mr. Badnam to the crime with finger

prints, hair samples, blood evidence, as well as child pornography that was found in his possession. They also brought forward Brian Blackbourne a medical M.D. who said that the body's decomposition showed that she had been dead for anywhere between ten days and six weeks, he could not however, say how it was that Deniel died, or whether she was sexually assaulted or not.

The defense would fire back with their own set of witnesses starting off with Will Hascal, an entomologist (bug guy), who went on to say that he felt it was unlikely Mr. Bandam committed the crime because the evidence of insect activity showed that the body had been dumped sometime between February 12th and February 25th, a period of time in which Badnam was under police surveillance. The next set of witnesses the defense brought forward were a set of credential witnesses that damaged the credibility of Mrs. Van Dam when they said that she had been quite promiscuous and had even invited Mr. Badnam back to her house for sex. The defense would leave off with several witnesses that bolstered the credibility of their defendant with Janett David, Mr. Badnam's neighbor, saying that she couldn't possibly see him committing this type of crime, and with Marcus Lawson, a computer analyst, pointing out that the child porn could just have belonged to

Badnam's son.

After the Witnesses were brought forth and had testified both the prosecution and defense gave their closing statements. The prosecution made a touching speech about how much of a tragedy this crime was, and pointed out all of the forensic evidence that linked Badnam to the crime. The defense on the other hand tried to make Badnam appear as if he were an average Joe caught up in something that he had nothing to do with. The defense then went on to point out that there was no evidence that directly connected him to crime, and that it could just have easily had been his son that killed her.

After hearing both arguments the Jury departed for deliberation, leaving both the prosecution and defense waiting in the courtroom with tense anxiety. After twenty minutes of deliberation the jury returned with their verdict. They found Mr. Badnam not guilty on all charges, on the grounds that most all of the evidence was circumstantial. The Jury did, however, suggest that a further investigation be made against the son of Mr. Badnam. That investigation is currently underway, and it can be said without a doubt that the citizens of King County will not rest till they bring the man responsible for this tragedy to justice.

FLAG RETIREMENT

Legionnaires formally dispose of several worn American flags. Flag retirements are a long-standing tradition in the American Legion.



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Switch to green energy

Derek Symes
Staff Writer

When speeches were given during the primary elections on Monday, almost every kid was looking for the candidates' next mess up. This is normally why most people get nervous about speeches. One candidate would talk about how he loves God and is against gay marriages for that reason. But when asked about separation of church and state, he was for it all the way! This is obviously a contradiction. The candidate that said this tried to back it up saying, "I only am against the separation of church and state when coming upon financial matters." But this is just a small example of a confusion of words.

One big contradiction in the Fed-

eralist primaries was the switch to green energy. They would first start off saying that they want to switch to green energy, but when asked what to do with current oil companies in the oil-based counties they had no idea. One candidate who lost his primary election actually proposed a policy where he would increase both non-renewable energy and green energy. Who isn't going to hammer him for this?

The most realistic way to switch to green energy is to find the most reliable and lose the most inefficient. After this there should be no real rush; allowing a slow switch to renewable energy. Some would even go as far as switching large oil-based companies to green energy sources such as wind farms.

Eisenhower County hears kidnapping court case

Andrew O'Malley
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, June 2nd, a mock district court trial was held in all ten of the counties at Boys State.

The story was that of the murder of Danielle Van Dam, an actual victim in San Diego, California in 2002. This is the story of the Eisenhower County trial. The prosecution was headed by Stater Andy Cockrum, and the defense by Garrett Campbell. Ted Dower served as Judge. The rest of the trial attendants took questionnaires to determine their positions as a juror (requiring an unbiased experience with many issues pertaining to the trial at hand) or as a witness. Scripts were provided for the witnesses, judge and attorneys identical to those presented at the actual case.

The trial began with the admission by Danielle Van Dam's parents that they had smoked marijuana and drank before the kidnapping and murder of their daughter occurred. Brenda Van Dam, the mother, woke in the morning to find her daughter missing. Suspensions landed on David Westerfield,

the defendant. On his property, blood, DNA and fingerprints of the victim were discovered. Also, child pornography belonging to Westerfield's son was discovered. Also, his camping vehicle had been cleaned with bleach, perhaps to eliminate any evidence.

When the body was discovered, forensic investigators determined that the body had been disposed of while Mr. Westerfield was still under surveillance. After a final witness claimed Westerfield was an upstanding, nonviolent man, the jury was dismissed to determine their verdict. In the Eisenhower court, jury foreman Thaddius Tuck returned with the verdict of "not guilty." Despite this, in the actual case, David Westerfield was found guilty of his crime and sentenced to

death in January of 2003. He is currently imprisoned in San Quentin State Prison, in California, awaiting lethal injection. Convicted rapist James Selby later confessed to the rape and murder, but the police did not believe him. Selby committed suicide in his jail cell in 2002.

Kennedy makes plans for county improvements

Samuel Cott
Design Editor

As budget woes constrict other State counties, Kennedy County is finding their way in both wisely spending gaining capital. To begin, the city of Hanney just passed plans to build a county wide school open for all children of Kennedy County.

The cost of the school came to a grand total of \$1523 being split three ways. Kennedy County and both cities within the county—Finley and Hanney—will each pay roughly \$508 for the total cost of the school. The decision came after a rezoning of the city lots and it was

then decided that Hanney would be the best area for the construction of the school.

On the other side of the county, Finley has just approved plans to build a casino.

While at a glance it seems like a risky maneuver, but both the method for funding and the use of generated capital were obviously well thought out. The cost of the casino came to \$875, with almost no money coming out of the cities pockets. As stated by one member of the city council, Peter Ruby, almost all the money generated for the project came from donations

see Kennedy page 7

City of Hiatt starts Mud Wrestling Association

Evan Ogborn
Staff Writer

As strange as it may sound, the city council of Hiatt passed an ordinance yesterday to start a Mud Wrestling Association, or the MWA. This ordinance involves female volunteers that will go three rounds in a pit of mud. Scantly clad, these women will entertain the all male population of Hiatt at a price of five dollars per person.

One city council member states, "we believe the overall morale will increase due to the all male population of Hiatt." However, citizens of Hiatt are not the only ones invited to

attend this event. As well as passing this ordinance, the city council has begun plans for the building of brand new roads. These roads will help to bring outside commerce into the already prosperous Hiatt.

This wrestling match is scheduled to happen on Friday. It will take place in Lot #48. The city council members are very excited about the passing of this new ordinance and invite other citizens of other cities to join in on the fun. There is also hope among the city council that this MWA will greatly increase their city's revenue and help to create a stronger infrastructure to build on the future of their city.

Cities look for ways to increase revenue

Dustin Rhoads
Staff Writer

In the hustle and bustle of the state candidates running for office, many people seem to forget what this whole government is about, the people and their cities. In this severe economic crisis many cities are forced to share facilities, cut spending, and make proper investments. So, I decided that it was my duty as a journalist to bring to the people what exactly each city is doing to get out of this crippling deficit. (Goodnow counties are covered today, Marlatt will be interviewed tomorrow)

Finley City of Kennedy County plans on spending available funds to the gambling industry, and while this may seem risky, the city council assures me that it is not. The city has plenty of land and knows that businesses of this nature "sell themselves" to all members of the nation, and by looking at many other booming cities such as Las Vegas and Reno, they determined that

this would be a wise investment. The casino(s) will be owned by the city as a whole, and profits will be used to get out of the deficit and or spent on. They will set up the minute that they receive the funds and get approval from their county and state.

Finley's sister city, Haney, will be building a county joint school to cut expenses and increase profit. They figure that since they have the land, they will be perfect candidates for this building, and will split the costs between both cities as the county sees fit, seeing that Finley lacked the land for it, as did the county. It will be on Haney's 13th lot and may be ready as soon as tomorrow. Such splitting techniques are getting more and more common in Kansas, and many wonder if it will pay off in the end.

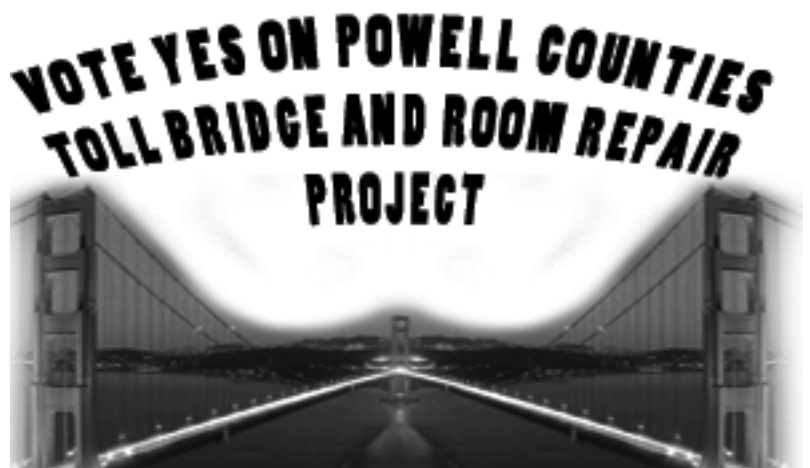
Alyward City (Bradley County) decided that the sheriff's department would

work best if based in the county rather than having one in each city. Placed in county lot #59, but receiving workers from both Alyward and Bramlage, this gives the cities the best of both worlds. It is funded and the land is available, all that is needed is the bill to be passed. This will also reduce the unemployment rate, and in turn provide safety and money for the whole county. Bram-

lage is elaborating on this by adding on a police station, and defining how the system would work. The Bramlage City Council said that it is already open, and while the county provides the building, the city will provide the workforce.

Johnson and Icenogle in MacArthur are abiding by the same principles, but are introducing

see Cities page 7



from inspiration page 2

also personally pledged to turn down special interest benefits during his term in Topeka, and has also taken a firm stance on the creation of alternative energy source infrastructure, particularly wind energy, for Kansas to both use and export.

The final speaker was Thomas Sutherland, a district court judge in Shawnee Mission that presides over civil court cases, mostly domestic and divorce hearings. He

started off his speech by explaining the differences between the federal and state judiciary systems, as well as the variances between the levels of the branches. As a civil court judge, Sutherland's knowledge of the criminal court was limited, but his extensive experience as both a lawyer and judge provided him with the necessary qualifications to answer the prying questions of Staters.

The difficulty that comes with

the judge's responsibility, Sutherland said, is the obligation to "leave home" all personal beliefs and biases and see only by the law. When asked about capital punishment, Sutherland said that the possibility of executing innocent people "pains [his] heart," but that

he honors the democratic process that put the death penalty law in Kansas. Sutherland's humor and knowledge made him a popular speaker.

SENATORS OF ALL STRIPES!

+ AGAINST RAISING THE CORPORATE INCOME TAX

+ SPEAK WITH PETER BRAY (THICK HAIR, GLASSES)

+ DRIVING AWAY
BUSINESS WILL NOT
HELP OUR ECONOMY

+ WITH OUR COMBINED
POWERS, WE WILL BE
POLITICAL GIANTS - NAY,
GODS!



TAYLOR MARLOW IS IN ROOM G416

(JUST IN CASE YOU WERE WONDERING)

COME TALK TO ME
ABOUT:

- "FUNDING"

- "PROTECTION"

- "INVESTMENTS"

OR STOP BY COCC!



JOE ORTIZ WANTED IN THIS!

Press Releases

King County announced today its intent to expand its transportation infrastructure. They plan to construct a two lane highway at the cost of \$600, a bridge at the cost of \$500, and repairs at the cost of \$450, for a total cost of \$1550. The county only has approximately \$630, and seeks funding from PACs to make up the difference. What cannot be raised will be split among the cities of Harris and Hiatt.

Pershing County announced today its intent to repair damage to its infrastructure and construct a new highway to connect the cities of Perrill and Schmitt. The plan also includes plans to erect a new bridge and establish a toll booth. The county will pay for the majority of the construction, with a \$100 city contribution.

Kennedy County announced today its intent to hold a county commission meeting concerning the current and future condition of its highway infrastructure and possible repairs. In addition they plan to discuss the possibility of replacing an aging bridge.

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Marlatt debates drinking age possibilities

Derek Symes

Staff Writer

The building of Marlatt bears many different views of the lowering of the drinking age (which is assumed to be eighteen years old). Patton County and Powell County were the only to disagree with the lowering of the drinking age as a majority. Members of Patton County back this up saying, "The drinking age works. Why change it? There would just be more deaths, and drunk driving charges."

It makes you wonder what life

would be like when your eighteen-year-old friend drinks legally but drives drunk and dies.

To refute this point, a member of Marshall County brings up European style drinking. For the most part, kids from Europe are brought up to drink responsibly at a young age, while a majority of American kids just want something else to get away with, starting from the 1920's flapper to the current 2000's, rebellious teen.

It was also brought up that American teens don't know how often they will get the chance to drink

so when they can, they normally get trashed instead of sitting down and enjoying a beer.

But the question is how low the starting age of some teenage drinkers would get. Some kids start drinking as early as the age of 15 while others don't actually start until college as of now, but if the drinking age was lowered the actual age kids would start drinking would be as low as kids in middle school for the reason that middle schoolers and high schoolers know a larger number of eighteen-year-olds than 21-year-olds.

And whether or not we like to admit it, it is assumed that mostly everyone will drink when you get to college, but what about those who decide to go to the armed forces. In every single county of Marlatt it was brought up that people should be able to drink if they have the choice of giving their life for their country. Another point is that if people have the responsibility enough to vote for their president why not be able to drink?

These are both reasons brought up from people agreeing with the lowering of the drinking age.

from [debates](#) page 1

the previous Federalist candidate, Hofmeister. This seemed a common trend for the rest of the debate with the exception of the Federalist candidate for Attorney General Michael Mohan. He seemed the only Federalist candidate that had his information well organized.

After the Attorney General was the debate for Lieutenant Governor. In this debate the Nationalist Candidate Casey Donnell thoroughly discussed and answered each of the questions within the time limits while presenting his arguments in a clear and concise way.

The final debate was between the governor candidates. Nationalist Kyle Maddox and Federalist Gavin Koester ensued. The two candidates seemed equal on many of issues except on gay marriage. Maddox promoted a policy of tolerance whereas Koester supported civil unions but would

not accept marriage rights for the homosexual community.

After the debates came to a conclusion it was clear that the majority of Boys' State had shifted to the Nationalist side and there was talk of a clean sweep for the Nationalist Party.

from [Cities](#) page 5

something that many other cities have not thought of, asking PACs for funding. As a county they are giving the hospital and fire department to Johnson while giving the police and school buildings to Ice-nogle. By splitting the cost of all four buildings between all three parties, along with the funding provided by C.O.C.C. the city and county councils figure that this will be the most cost effective way to deal with the four necessary government services. They are expected to be constructed by Wednesday.

Eisenhower County's cities of Crum and Chastain have a "dual" city policy, where Crum will be the industrial base of the county, and Chastain being the tourism center. As a county, Crum decided that they already had more industrial base than Chastain, and wouldn't mind housing the extra refinery in their city. However, they can't begin construction until they find suitable

land in their city, which is proving to be problematic. On the other side of the county, Chastain is focusing on transforming their town into a bustling tourist attraction by adding casinos, monuments, and anything else that appeals to out-of-staters. Although this seems to be a good idea, they may conflict with other cities like Finley, and these businesses could end up causing more harm than good in the long run.

Another original idea has sprouted from Hiatt City. They have begun to build an airplane factory. The new factory will provide airplane equipment to all parts of the globe, and will be a major source of income. The county's experience in the industrial fields will make their parts above par compared to other companies in the out-of-state regions. However the jobs provided by the factory will most likely be county exclusive, meaning that you must reside in King County in order

to get access to the job. It will be in business by today.

However, when it comes to Harris city, Haiti's sister city, they are so low on funds that they can't even begin to dig themselves out. Cities like this are in severe need of donations, for if one city can't dig themselves out of the whole, they will drag all of Kansas down, especially King County. I wish them great luck in finding a plan to get them out of this severe debt.

These cities of Goodnow have all created a solid plan to solve their economic crisis. Whether it is combining forces as a county, or trying to become the next Vegas, we can be assured that the new governor will have a ton of new bills on his plate, and his disapproval can be earth shattering to these cities. Stay subscribed for part two of this story, The Marlott Projects.

from [Kennedy](#) page 5

from PAC's and other groups.

The Farmer's Alliance donated \$250 to the city for the casino. When asked what was to be done with the revenue produced by the casino, the City Council gave two responses. First, some money will be saved to redistribute when it is seen fit.

Focused on the implementation of alternative energy, "We want to bring Finley into the digital age," said city council member Garrett

Haney, "by building sites for wind and solar energy." Finley seems to be taking a step in the right direction as it makes strides in one of the main problems facing Kansas and the Boys' State today: how to overcome the problems of fossil fuels and make the transition to renewable energy. To quote another member of the Finley City Council, Kellen Reeve, "It's gonna be awesome!" So far, it is certainly seeming that way.

THE
NEWSPAPER

Campaigns make empty promises

Rob Williams
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.

As one whose views fit into neither party here at Boys' State, I've sat to the side and listened to candidates from both parties make some pretty hefty promises and some questionable campaigns. One thing I immediately noticed was how both parties are trying to be good for everybody; idealism seems to be a theme here. I personally have attended the Nationalists' events instead of the Federalists', mostly because social issues seem to be the most discussed, and I certainly disagree with the Christian right socially (I'm a libertarian—economically conservative and socially liberal).

So I will use the Nationalist Party as an example of my hefty promises—that's the party I've heard

more about. At the Nationalist convention Monday, the candidates announced that they planned to socialize health care (isn't that, like, extremely expensive?), lower taxes for the low and middle classes, and raise funding for education, agriculture and industry. So the Nationalists are making promises that they will not be able to keep. You can't lower taxes for most of the population and raise your funding of everything at the same time.

The Nationalists can't answer "How?"

Now about the questionable social campaigns; the Nationalists are illogical economically and the Federalists are unjustified socially. The most annoying campaign technique of conservatives is the broadcast of their religious beliefs, especially when it comes to gay marriage and homosexual rights.

This topic has become so stale that it hurts me even to type of it. The bottom line is: there is no secular opposition to gay marriage or homosexual rights. The secular opposition (even though it was used only by the religious) used to be that homosexuals who became parents couldn't raise normal, heterosexual children, but many studies have shown that those children only exhibited one common side-effect: homophobia. Those raised by gays are more likely to be afraid of gays. Google it. Web M.D. It. If conservatives were willing to give a little leeway on these issues, I might jump on board, but as of now they have no exceptions when it comes to their opposition to gay marriage and abortion.

The Federalists can't secularly answer "Why?"

Letter to the editor

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Andrew O'Malley- Crum, Eisenhower

Derek Symes- Klassen, Marshall

Dustin Rhoads- Findley, Kennedy

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Chuck Shoemaker

As you may recall, in Monday's Staters Union, a declaration was made by a writer that he was in fact "probably the only libertarian atheist at Boys State this week." I would like to confirm the existence of a second proponent of the afore mentioned beliefs. I myself am a libertarian atheist, and although I cannot speak for the group as a whole, there are a few issues that I would like to address. Again, these statements I make are entirely my own and do not necessarily reflect the

opinions of any others.

Simply put, God has no place in politics. There is enough contention among political beliefs to make for interesting, heated debates and discussions without squabbling over the irrelevant. Your political beliefs should be just that: political. Political, meaning limited to social and economic issues. Both positions on every issue are debatable without a supernatural power involved. Also, there ought to be no judgments passed on the basis of religion, as

to any individual's political beliefs, as again the two are unrelated. It would greatly behoove all staters to examine everyone as an individual and if at all possible, look past disagreements and to determine the individual's worth on an individual basis.

I would sincerely ask all staters and counselors to consider what has been written here. But above all, just try to remember that for this week, we need to run a state, not a church.

Bryan Lunzmann