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STATERS UNION

A WEEK THAT
Changed
MY LIFE

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2013 Town Hall Meetings

Student body presidents address Staters

By **Luke McGowan**
Staters Union

Although in most circumstances a Kansas State Wildcat and a University of Kansas Jayhawk would meet in a state of competition and rivalry, Boys' State, as per usual, changed it up a little bit. Marcus Tetwiler of KU and Nate Spriggs of K-State, both former staters themselves, met with the youth of the 76th session to provide the boys with stories and guidance for both state and life and provided valuable insight.

Marcus Tetwiler, a former candidate for Boys' State governor himself as well as a former Student Body President of KU was quick to find and congratulate the newly elected governor, Carl Palmquist, making note of his hard work. He then presented to staters his recommendation to get the most out of their brief time at state. Tetwiler says that the best thing a boy can do here is to "Be Goofy!" He urged staters to find friends and connections that will prove "invaluable" later on in life. He concluded by also voicing his interest and enjoyment in seeing those daring souls to "stick [their] necks out" and reach towards a goal.

Following Tetwiler, fellow stater and two-time Student Body President of K-State, Nate Spriggs spoke to the Staters

about passion and hard work. He also talked about what several Staters could be feeling after the results of the election, and that is disappointment. Spriggs touched on how the proverbial closing of a door is the opening of another, saying, "Sometimes the things we don't get are the most wonderful strokes of luck." Spriggs would go on to talk about the importance of hard work and the success that follows, insisting that Staters never underestimate their importance as a piece in the "machine" of life.

In response the presentation, August Murphy-Beach of King County said, "It was an intriguing experience to meet [KS Boys State] alumni who had gone on to succeed in college."

Another resident of King County, Karthik Kailish also added, "They were both great speakers, and they have definitely been the highlight of my Boys State experience so far!"

Following the presentation the distinguished guests and alumni of Boys' State requested that their contact information be provided to any staters that had any questions:

Marcus Tetwiler - marcustetwiler10@gmail.com

Nate Spriggs - nspriggs@ksu.edu



Feds Fed Up with Party

By William Montgomery
Staters Union

The Federalists and Nationalists both held party conventions last night for their running candidates. The idea of this was to suade each party toward voting for their respective candidates or maybe even vote for the opposing candidates. Which way the Staters' want to go as far as choosing who they want to vote for may be affected by how the conventions went.

The Nationalists felt pretty confident with their candidates after a fun, exciting, night that couldn't of persuaded them any more. However, on the federalists side things didn't go so well. According to some of the members of the party it was good at the beginning and everyone got into

it. When the Q and A came along, though, staters began to lose confidence. The Federalist Governor Candidate Yang Yang was losing confidence from his people according to federalist Zach Martin. Others said that Everyone was up and dancing.

The Speakers knew what they were doing and trying the best they could to win the federalists' votes. Most Staters also said that everyone was electrified.

When compared to the Nationalists party the federalist convention was not as fun.

"They did not get candy thrown at them," said Nationalist Jonathan Rogers.

They didn't have a raffle for free items and no donations given to the party. The speakers did give very good, inspirational speeches. One Stater's

opinion is that the Federalists are not at all conservative and the candidates are not good. There also seems to be a disagreement on something between the Heritage Foundation and the candidates. Yang Yang also says the Federalists have no money.

These parties really helped their people in deciding why they are the better candidate for their position and what they will do to make Kansas a better state. The Staters' will get one last shot on which candidates they want to vote for before the General Election today at the Debate. Remember no matter which party you are from vote for which candidate you think is right and will make Kansas a better state even if they are not from your own party.

Your Ad Could Go Here!!!

The Staters Union is a designated forum of free speech. The print edition is published every day of Boys State by the Staters Union Staff. It is distributed for no charge throughout Kansas Boys State. 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 and the writer's county indicated to be considered for publication. All letters are subject to editing for length, legal, grammatical and factual reasons. Letters should be taken to the Staters Union office in the basement of Marlatt Hall (Room 20). To contact the Staters Union, please email us at ksbsmedia@gmail.com.

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Life Is a Highway

Staters sworn in as state troopers

By Dylan Crow
Staters Union

Ten Staters who were elected to their positions as a Highway Patrol member have had quite a unique experience so far. During the week, they will work with Master Troopers Mike Paynter and Mario Rios, who have a combined total of over 20 years on the force. The Staters will also take part in a diverse list of activities, including visiting the Wichita Penitentiary and the State Capitol.

Before becoming Highway Patrolmen, they had to pledge to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America, faithfully perform the duties of highway patrol, and uphold the values of the American Legion.

The Patrolmen as a group decided to elect Jack Daniel Curtis as the Superintendent of Highway Patrol. This position comes with a great deal of leadership, as he will organize the Patrol Members in their daily du-

ties, but Curtis feels prepared.

"Growing up with a military background and in a military household has helped me to understand what it means to serve and lead, and I felt that that made me qualified."

Curtis was encouraged to run by a friend of his because of his families' intense background in public service.

Other Staters decided to run for different reasons.

"I wanted to do something involving the Department of Justice, and [being a Highway Patrol member] was the first thing that came to mind," said Damian Vela.

Among all of the Patrolmen, there was a definite consensus to have a great time and uphold the law of Boys State. As of now, they are all sworn in members of the Highway Patrol, which was appropriately celebrated with a dozen donuts.



For more Boys State News, don't forget to tune in to the
>> **Boys State News broadcast** <<
every day online and during assemblies
at McCain Auditorium!



<http://www.youtube.com/ksbstate>

Counties in Chaos

Kevin Lansing
Staters Union

There are many counties this year that are doing well, or maybe not so well, financially. There are two counties in particular that have very interesting stories to tell. From Pershing county having every stater being unemployed to Seitz county that has many interesting facts on how they are doing financially, these counties have plans on how to raise money.

Pershing County started off the week well, then they decided to changes their taxes. When entering tax rates into the computer, it was entered wrong. Their tax rates instantly jumped from a low rate of one-tenth of a percent to ten percent. One of the City Council members clearly stated, "We are paying ourselves to not work."

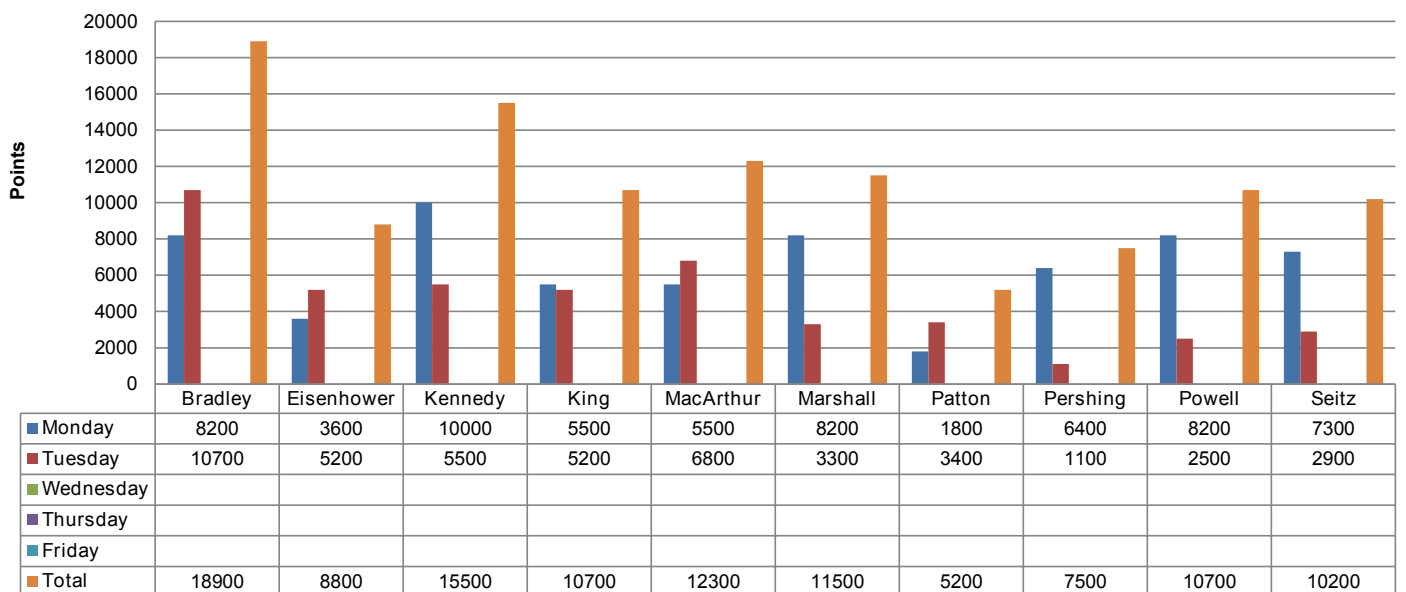
In Seitz County, the cities are bonding in different ways to come up with money. The city of Sullivan increased their taxes, though not by much, raising them to only one percent. Sullivan's property values have increased and their employment rate has not dropped as much as the other city in Seitz county, Wiles. The city of Wiles unemployment rate is now at 30%, due to the fact the City Council has decided to raise their taxes to seven and a half percent. Although they have raised their taxes to a higher rate, the city has made money because of their decision, but their decision is said to change because of their unemployment rate.

The county of Seitz has said they were trying to get money from PAC's so that they did not have to raise their taxes any more than they

needed to get money for the county, to put them in the right direction. The treasurer of the Seitz County Commissioners has said, "We have talked to the Education First PAC, the Advancement of Minorities PAC, Alternative Energy Alliance PAC, the Department of Justice, and the Department of League of Industrial Workers, to try and raise money for our county." He has said that the Education First PAC said that they would definitely help them out.

Although these are not the only two counties that have had problems financially, these two have very interesting stories. In conclusion, they do have plans on making their county financially strong and capable of movement in the right direction.

Athletic Score



Staters Hear Justice Pierron

By Dylan Crow
Staters Union

Staters had the opportunity to listen to Kansas Court of Appeals Judge Joseph Pierron during their town hall meetings Tuesday night. Justice Pierron served as a District Judge for eight years before becoming an appellate judge in 1990.

Instead of lecturing Staters, Justice Pierron involved Staters in a simulation of two court cases that eventually reached the Supreme Court. The first case, Chandler vs. Miller, involved the constitutionality of a state statute that required all candidates for public office to take a drug test. The second case, City of Indianapolis v. Edmund, involved the right of law enforcement to use drug-sniffing dogs at sobriety checkpoints.

Staters were picked from the audience and acted out the cases as lawyers, judges, and other various heads of state.

"I thought he was really cool and [the simulation] was a really fun and interactive experience," said Stater Matthew Keenor from Powell County.

Other Staters took away a new view of judicial process.

"He took the Judicial system and explained the key aspects in an exciting way," said Stater Lucas Berndt.

One of the main highlights of the simulation was the ability of Staters to give their own opinions on the cases by way of voting. Stephen Ogden of Seitz County enjoyed the props and giving his own opinion based on constitutionality.

Some staters voted to uphold the constitutionality of the statutes and practices while others did not. In the end, a majority of the audience sided with the decisions that the Supreme Court made, but all had agreed it was quite a unique experience.

O'Leary Gives Support to State

By Kent Chrest
Staters Union

One of the veterans on campus during Boys State had a magnificent story to tell about his personal experiences during his deployment. Ron O' Leary explained why he decided to come back to Kansas to help volunteer with Boys State of Kansas.

"I didn't actually attend Boys State when I was in school because at the time, the American Legion only sent one student from each school instead of the multiple kids now. I really wish I could have gone through the whole process. The students learn more about city, county, and state issues with a hands-on process like this instead of sitting in

government class at school."

Since O' Leary did not get the chance to go through Boys State, he learned about it through the American Legion. He worked for the Legion and heard about the system and immediately wanted to be a part of it. When he retired in 2010, he started to work the sessions and became more involved at Boys State.

He also added that Boys State looks good on resumes for when they apply for jobs. And who could forget all the good friends you meet and work together with.

O' Leary was one of twelve from St. Francis, Kansas that was drafted. Out of the twelve, ten were sent to Vietnam, one to Panama, and

himself to Germany. All the twelve from the town returned home without a scratch except for one. It was nothing major, he simply had a minor back injury while riding on a plane during R&R.



Candidates Debate Before the Election

By Jared Shelton
Staters Union

The debate which took place in McCain Auditorium was a chance for the candidates to further explain their platforms using questions from the media, PACs, and from the public. The process helped get good audience involvement because they could text in questions. Debate questions covered several topics such as land prices, trickle down theory, marijuana, fossil fuels, alternative energy, and much more.

In addition to using their cellphones to send questions to the candidates, this year the voting process included the use of telephonic means for Staters to vote for the candidates of their choice. Paper ballots were provided for Staters without this electronic ability. The whole process streamlined the voting system and provided a time savings for the election officials.

A question was addressed to each campaigner from each side. Whomever received the question was given a total of ninety seconds to answer. Following the opening argument, their rival received sixty seconds to counter the argument and discuss their view. Then, an additional thirty seconds would be given to the opener to further rebuttal his opponents statements.

As the debate started, it became clear the attitudes from the party representatives were very varied; some speaking nervously and slowly while others came full force. Many candidates possessed confident talking skills which they used to blast the crowd until their time was fully up. Overall, the time limits were used to their fullest, however some speeches ended way short of their given limitation. A bobble here and there would lose candidates valuable time. There was also, at least once, where the audience started shouting "time!" when the speaker continued talking after his limit.

Although everybody had different opinions on who did what better, pretty much all agree on the fact that most of the runners were passionate and educated about the questions asked. There were even certain topics that opposing sides would agree to, sharing the same views.

When the debate concluded, the winners of each were clear to each and every person, leaving little doubt whether or not who to vote for.

Afterwards, compliments and criticisms started to circulate. "I thought a lot of candidates were blowing smoke and not taking a stance, but some of the candidates were able to show me how smart they were," said Tyler Walock. People also liked seeing that each party fully supported their campaign mates views and statements. Also, some runners had views that the majority didn't agree with. Later, people realized that this displayed nobility, to be able to stand up for what you believe if versus changing your opinion just so you can gain votes. Criticisms could involve a couple times where the question being asked was not addressed. Also, some felt like there may have been some false promises that couldn't be backed up during this whole process.

Overall, however, the debate went phenomenally well! Congratulations to the winners of the election: Commissioner of Insurance: James Davis, Secretary of State: Andy Renteria, State Treasurer: Drew Stapp, Attorney General: Samuel Pate, Lieutenant Governor: Alex Houston, and our Governor from the Nationalist Party: Carl Palmquist.

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