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STATERS UNION

A WEEK THAT
Changed
MY LIFE

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SHAKEN BY DISASTER

EARTHQUAKE STRIKES BOYS STATE

BY KODI W. REED
Staters Union

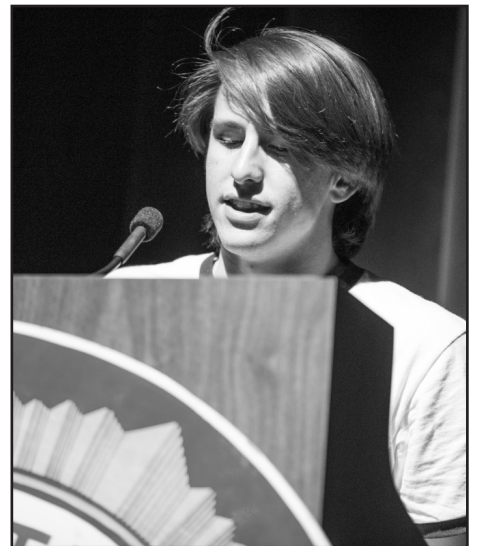
Tragedy broke out among the central parts of Boys State of Kansas. As of late Wednesday there was press release which warned staters about seismic activity being reported across the state. It affected mostly of the Central counties of Kansas, and the epicenter was located in the wetlands in the counties of Kennedy and Pershing. This earthquake did end up affecting all of Eisenhower and Patton counties. Parts of other counties were also affected including the following; Kennedy, Pershing, and Bradley. Casualties of those counties are unknown at the moment but it is known that there were gas line breaks and wildfires across Eisenhower and Patton counties.

Dr. Tyler Fox from the Wierman Geological Institute reported that

actual cause of the earthquake is unknown but it is speculated that it could have been caused by fracking in the area.

It's safe to assume that no single county is at fault, and in this devastating time we should not focus on placing blame but instead recovering from this disaster.

As this is the first natural disaster with our new elected state officials, it will be interesting to see how they will react. This brings the question will the speculated cause of the earthquake make it more difficult for those counties affected by the earthquake to get state support? It is important to think about this because in the past there have been conflicts with the oil and gas counties. In this time of devastation we need to come together and work as a state to improve



Governor Thill takes the podium to deliver his inaugural address, shortly before news of the earthquake breaks. Photo Credit Julian Kincaid

the situation, and use information from the earthquake disaster to help better prepare ourselves for future disasters.

HYDROPOWER MORE COMPLEX THAN ANTICIPATED

BY DEREK BRYANT
Staters Union

At the debate on Tuesday night, much of the conversation was over the proposed hydroelectric dam and how much power it would be able to produce. The Federalist party made it clear that they did not have faith that the dam would be able to power the entirety of Kansas. The Nationalists on the other hand assured us that the dam would be more than able to power the state of Kansas. This caused confusions

for many staters.

According to IT neither the Federalists nor the Nationalists were completely correct with their statement. The dam would in fact provide power to the entire state of Kansas however this power would only subsidise the state's electrical needs. According to IT the closer a county or city is to the dam the more power they would be able to draw from the dam.

Based on this information there is another aspect that the state should be taking into account when speaking of the placement of the dam. One possible solution to this could be to place the dam as far away from the oil and gas counties as possible. This would

mean that the oil and gas counties would still need to create the majority of energy for their portion of the state, creating jobs that are becoming obsolete as the state moves toward green energy. However the dam could also be placed on the border between the two oil and gas counties so that as jobs in the oil and gas counties phase out, new jobs would be available building and maintaining the dam. This second option would also allow the coal counties to still create the majority of the power for their portion of the state.

No matter where the state chooses to place the dam it is important that the state take the 20,000 foot view instead of the 20 foot view.

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 media@ksbstatesim.org.

Crazy Days at State

The Life of a State Election Candidate

BY TREY PEAT
Staters Union

As all of you know the process of running for state office starts with filling out an application on Sunday. After that the experience is a roller coaster. It starts out slow, like your cart being pulled to the top of the ride.

Monday morning candidates are doing their standard jobs; writing bills, debating in court, and applying for grants. However, as the day goes on candidates gradually realize that they are slowly losing their only chance to do campaigning to influence caucuses. Candidates are torn between their duties to their teams whether it be the House, Senate, or County Commission and their campaign goals. Many miss out on campaigning, but some slip away from their duties and buy a quick ad. As Monday draws to a close candidates go to a party meeting with all of the other delegates running for state office and realize just how much competition they have. They hurriedly post their ads on doors and elevators, head up to their county for bed, and stay up late prepping speeches and creating platforms.

Tuesday dawns, candidates go to breakfast and take advantage of their last chance to informally campaign, they circulate to every friend and acquaintance possible to tell them a bit about their platform and gain a few votes. Now to morning assembly, the parties split and walk to Umberger and... (read more online at ksbstate.org/news).

Schmitt City Examines Space Proposal

BY MATT GOECKEL
Staters Union

Ad astra per aspera. ‘To the stars through difficulty.’ The Kansas motto took a new meaning this week when Schmitt City in Pershing County began looking into a possible space program. This is a feat in which has never been accomplished in recent Kansas Boys State history. They planned to use the space program for solar power and resources. Revenue would be divided between the city, county and state with the majority of the money going to the state. The program would cost \$527,255.

Department of the Economy worker Hugh McPherson discussed the grant proposal.

“They did ask us for a grant in the hundreds of thousands of dollars”

he said. The department declined the grant proposal due to Pershing County’s poor economic standing.

“There’s so many things they need to improve on before they can have a successful space program,” Governor Thill said.

“You have to have a basic standard of living before you have astronauts.”

However, the administration does appreciate the ambitious idea. The Governor continues to reinforce the fact that, “The forward thinking of a space program is admirable and what we desire in Kansas Boys State. However, certain necessities need to be met before we can create such lofty goals.”

Conservation the Topic of Discussion in Congress

BY GUTHRIE TURNER AND LUKE STEINLE
Staters Union



STATERS examine a potential bill as part of their legislative duties. Photo Credit Julian Kincaid

Environment was a hot topic in the House of Representatives today. Representative Justin Grega (F) proposed an in-depth bill which would essentially set goals for Kansas Boys State to meet the requirements of the Paris Accord. Changes were made to make it a state level policy rather than a national policy. The state, as well as businesses, cities and counties would be responsible for providing emissions reports to the Department of Natural Resources. The goal is to reduce emissions by 15-20% in 3 years. After 5 years, the policy may be changed depending on the condition of the state.

Arguments were little to none in the morning session of the Senate on Wednesday as three bills were passed. One of the bills, authored by Senator Aidan Gray (N), was put in place to reclassify some nonviolent drug possessions as misdemeanors and also fund rehab centers from unused penitentiary money. Another bill piggybacked off of this idea in order to repeal the mandatory minimum sentence for felonious nonviolent recreational drug possession. The third bill proposed the idea of converting marshlands into hunting preserves and wildlife areas into state parks, thus creating a new source of income.

JUST CAN'T GET ENOUGH?

The paper is also published online daily at <https://issuu.com/ksboysstate> and more articles can be found at <http://ksbstate.org/news/>

