



The American Legion Boys State of Kansas *Staters Union*

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The State of the State Address

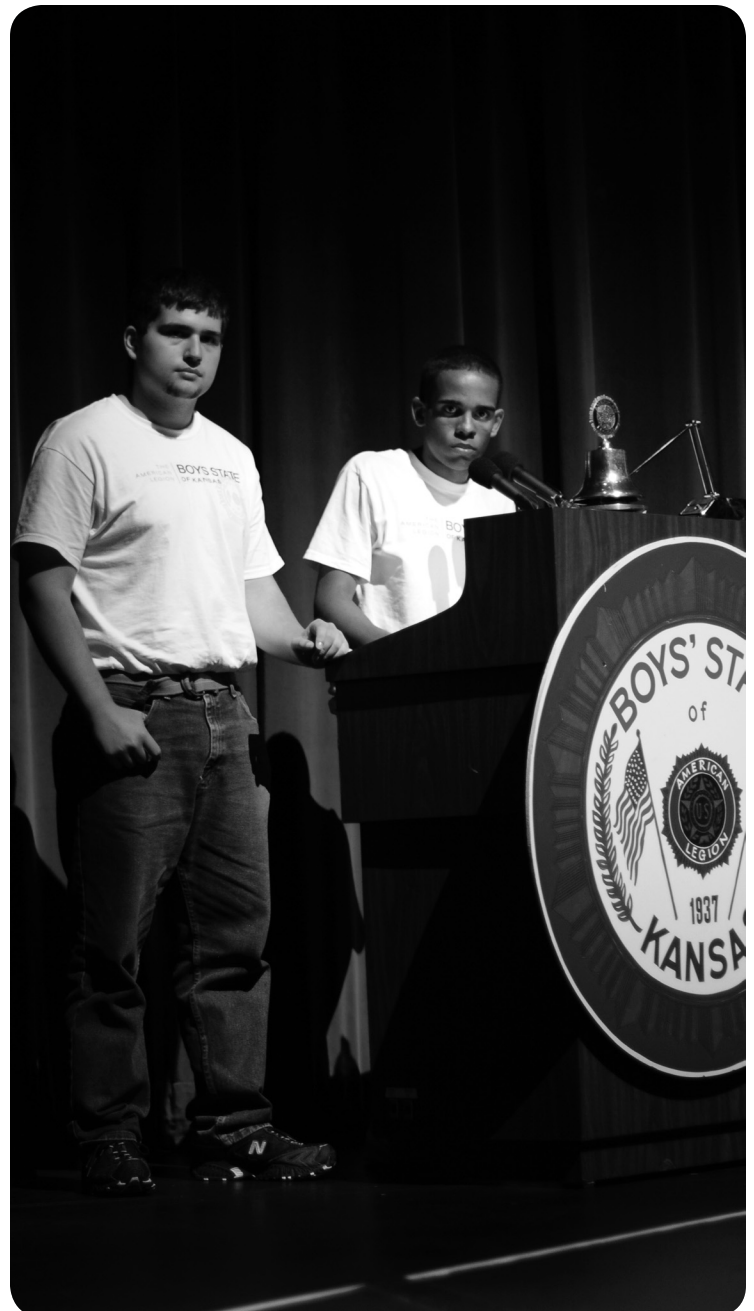
David Stanislaus & Jacob Rude
Staff Writer & Editor-in-Chief

The Staters marched to McCain Auditorium Wednesday morning for a mid-week orientation and the State of the State Address. The delegates reigned in the meeting with the yelling of their county and a fist to the skies. Thane Chastain, the Director of Development for Boys State, opened with an optimistic review of the week's activities so far. He then gave tips on how to benefit the most from Boys State. Chastain had many key points. He characterized the concept of Times of Reinvention with his two-word mantra, "Be Relevant." He stressed the idea that everyone should work to reinvent themselves during times of prosperity, not only in despair. He also espoused quotes such as "Most people miss opportunity because it looks like work" – Thomas Edison. He reviewed the things the Staters experienced during their first few days, such as: Raising money for campaigns, dealing

with special interest groups, running for political office, and the unpredictability of the economy.

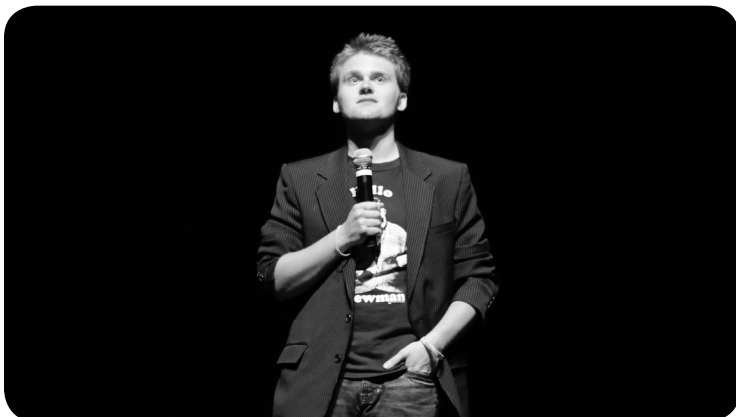
In the second part of the mid-week orientation, Chastain spoke of the days to come. Key topics included: dividing and conquering, the stabilization of the budget, and joint committees of the House and Senate to hear from special interest groups and other concerned conglomerations. The primary focus centered on balancing the budget.

Next, Governor Simwinga issued the annual State of the State Address. He spoke about the actions the Executive branch had taken concerning the budget and other related issues. The changes made were headed by increases in the education, energy, and agricultural sectors. He increased the sales tax by one percent, but decreased the corporate income tax. He also improved the potential of minority advancement.



Talent Show

Martin Cram
Kansas Boys State Photographer



City council

John Thompson
Staff Writer

While not the most glorified position in Boys State, members of the City Council have one of the most important jobs in the simulation. True, it is people like the Governor and the Treasurer who have the power to distribute funding and regulate legislation. However, it is up to the City Council to put the resources they've been given to good use. Being able to prioritize and knowing which investments are worthwhile is no easy task, and it is something Council members are faced with every day.

Before the Council members could get down to brass tacks, they had to fill out their daily project reports. Each day begins with a new specific problem to face, and yesterday's big issue was education. They were tasked with getting students a usable, efficient education while maintaining a safe learning environment. Council members also had to establish safeguards to prevent minority segregation and discrimination within the school system. While the project plans require no definite course of action, they force the cities to think about all the potential solutions to a complicated issue.

After the project reports were completed, many Coun-

cils began to discuss the necessity of usable roads. Even those from other branches of government walked in on the meeting and stressed the need for roads. The topic then turned to discussion about what kinds of roads would be built, and what traffic laws would be enacted.

To start any infrastructure improvements, however, the City Council has to enact the necessary ordinances, a city-wide law. Ordinances allow the Council to build roads and schools, as well as regulate noise levels or set standards for public decency.

However, for every ordinance that will actually benefit the city, there are those that are proposed just for the entertainment of the City Council. One such ordinance, proposed by City of Hiatt, King County would give petty criminal offenders the option of either serving jail time or receiving 10 sexy whips. The gender of the distributor of these whippings was not specified, and whether or not this law would lower the crime rate or raise it significantly is still up for debate.

County Commissions

Taylor Gravett
Staff Writer

Yesterday afternoon all the elected county commissioners met to discuss issues that were facing not only their county but also their home cities. The commissioners of King County worked to finish their ordinances and put them up for passage. Some of the ordinances that were brought forth ranged from their own form of the Bison Bill, which would help protect the wildlife of King County. The commissioners also passed their own speed limit of 20 miles per hour through all roads inside city limits.

The county commission of King County has been effective not only in passing ordinances quickly, but also selecting ordinances that promote the well being of the residents as a whole. The commissioners sponsored a bill to regulate the sanitation industry, and to provide an effective sanitation department. Trash pick-up day was set on Tuesdays, while recycling day in King County was put on Thursdays.

Also discussed at the commission meeting was whether or not to build more roads, as it provides the county with a huge amount of revenue and it even gave King County the Achievement banner Tues-

day night. King County commissioner Alex Cohen said that there are many different ordinances and regulations that they hope will make King County one of the best counties.

After the county commission meeting was over, members of the commission decided that they would try to lobby money from the PAC's in order to establish infrastructure and advancement inside of the county. Some of the commissioners visited the League of Industrial Workers, only to find out that that they didn't know exactly how much money they were going to receive due to the budget that had not come out yet. They were told by the League that once they found out how much money they would receive from the Governor's budget they would give the commission an estimate on what they could do.

Commissioners also went and met briefly with the Assembly for the Advancement of Minorities trying to lobby their support for enhanced money to build. The Assembly told the commission too that once they found out the total amount of money that would receive in the budget, they would get back with the commission to discuss again.

To Annex, or Not to Annex . . .

Matt Carrillo
Staff Writers

After lunch Wednesday, the people of Kennedy County decided there was a need for change. At the time, the whole county was facing many challenges. The Kennedy County Commissioners raised taxes and the City of Finley wasn't too harshly affected by this, but the City of Haney was a different story. Haney was very close to bankruptcy, approximately only twenty dollars was left in their bank account. While all of this occurred, the County received \$5,000 from the two cities.

This whole ordeal concerned the City of Finley and its councilmen. The Finley City Council, according to them, cared for Haney and wanted to save them from going bankrupt. They started to search for ways to do so. Soon enough, the Council learned of a way to help from the Boys State Constitution. They found a statute that says basically, if certain steps are taken and followed through with, the City of Haney could annex into the City of Finley. The Finley City Council has headed the pro-

cess to accomplish this and is actually pretty far along. The City of Haney and the rest of Finley have been very cooperative as well. The only step left to accomplish this crazy task is for a city meeting to be called where the Haney citizens would agree, and sign their names, to be part of Finley.

Haney will still be a city. All the buildings owned by Haney citizens in Haney will officially be owned by Finley. The buildings owned by the City of Haney and the State though,

will still be owned by Haney. The Finley Councilmen is excited with what they are trying to do. They have declared, once the deed has been done, the City Council of Finley will be renamed "The Supreme City Council of Finley." This city council has shown great determination, and they won't stop until the "Kennedy County Commissioners have been slain by the White Knights of Finley," said the Councilmen.



On Wednesday, Legionnaires visited Jim Schroer at the Stonebridge Rapid Recovery facility in Manhattan where he is recuperating from a recent illness. Jim has been with the Boys State program for 18 years as an Advisor and mentor to Legionnaires and attendees alike. He was presented an encased retired flag that had flown over the Boys State assemblies since the program moved to Manhattan 19 years ago. Visiting Jim are (standing from the left) Legionnaires Don Thomson, Dave Hinkson, David Rothwell, Terry Camp, Don Peters, Jim's daughter Grace, Chuck Shoemaker, and Jim's daughter Marty. Jim is seated next to his wife Grace.

Schultz Ed. Reform

Paul Thomas
Staff Writer

As education issues inundate other lackadaisical cities across the state, the city of Schulz, in Powell County, has begun taking steps to crack down on its approach to city-based schooling.

Schulz was recently hit with a major recession in the steel and coal industries. With an unemployment rate of 69%, and an estimated 17-25 percent of the city barely passing state required tests, the city commission has been diligently and astutely searching for ways to bring its citizens back from the brink of intellectual destruction. Luckily for Schulzians everywhere, progress has slowly started to dissolve the city's tricky quagmire.

During the June 9th city commission meeting, debates raged. Commissioner Patrick Klebba, an outspoken proponent for the people, stood up and screamed, "Knick-knack, patty-whack, give a dog a bone!" — a tongue-in-check reference to what he believed was the unfair taxing of the citizens of Schulz for educational purposes.

Finally, the debates cooled and reason took over. Joey Hentzler, Senate minority leader and citizen of Schulz, proposed several ideas to

tackle the mounting educational issues of the city, including city-sponsored programs catering towards sports, arts, and the establishment of a community college.

The city commission expressed particular interest in the latter. One citizen of Schulz, sitting in on the city meeting, stated that the installation of a community college would not only bolster the education level of the city, but it would also attract new students from across the state desiring a higher quality education at a lower price, thus increasing city-wide revenue and decreasing the unemployment rate.

In the end, the Schulz city commissioners decided that the best approach would be to petition the county and state governments for additional funds for increased teacher salaries. On the issue of a city-sponsored community college, the commission maintained that they were still particularly interested, but at the present moment the project was not feasible. Finally, Klebba, with a tear in his eye, announced, "We are currently using all our available resources to better our city."

Press Release

Andrew Borowick
Mantey, Patton County

The following items will be included under the unclaimed property regulations: court deposits, dormant checking accounts, dormant savings account, dormant certificate of deposit, oil and gas royalties, safe deposit box contents, utility deposits, dormant payroll checks, stock and cash dividends, real estate, impounded vehicles, dormant death benefit checks and life insurance proceeds, health and accident insurance payments, Housing and Urban Development and Federal Housing Administration refunds, property not allocated in the probate of an estate, and probate court decisions.

In accordance to http://www.kansasstatetreasurer.com/prodweb/up/disclaimer_page.php the state of Kansas's policy in regards to unclaimed policy is "As you may know, many states have adopted laws which open but limit access to public documents. Our act is known as the Kansas Open Records Act (KORA), K.S.A. 45-215 et seq. Under the KORA and our civil code, lists of names and addresses obtained from public records cannot be used for the purpose of selling or offering for sale any property or service to the persons listed

(i.e. commercial solicitation). The civil code statute, K.S.A. 2006 Supp. 45-230, provides that we would be subject to civil penalties if we furnish such information to you, and you in turn use the information for commercial purposes. K.S.A. 2005 Supp. 45-230 also provides that you are also subject to a civil penalty of up to \$500 for each occurrence if you use this data to sell any product or service to the individuals listed in our database." Therefore, the Boys' State government of Kansas under the Office of the Treasurer will enact the same policy. These activities will be carried out by a newly established Secretary of Unclaimed Properties under the Division of Administration who will liaison between those involved with unclaimed properties and the Treasurer.

PACS

Sam Rourke & David Stanislaus
Staff Writers

Wednesday's PAC meetings were the opening opportunity for the PAC's to decide on their strategies after the election results from Tuesday.

One prominent story line was the League of Industrial Workers manipulating the State Government elected officials into promising them 11 percent of the state budget. The Industrial Workers were able to get signatures from the Governor and other elected officials before the election in exchange for campaign donations. Because of this promise the League of Industrial Workers feel they have the most power out of the PAC's.

The State Government was attempting to resolve the contract concerning the percentage of state funds given to the League of Industrial Workers. The governor did not wish to allocate such a large amount of the budget to one PAC and claimed that the agreement was the result of a misunderstanding. Governor Simwinga indicated that he believed the mix up would be an easy matter to resolve.

However, The League of Industrial Workers was very pleased with the budget and did not wish to make any attempt to reach a new agreement. When asked how they would feel about the Governor

and his cabinet attempting to reduce their share in the budget they responded, "If we do not get that money from the budget, we will be suing immediately."

This disagreement has the potential to become a defining issue for the future of the state, especially if neither side will compromise. The Governor must choose between upholding the perceived honor of the State and retaining the budget for the people, not a few special interest groups.

Other PACs were hard at work attempting to secure more funding for various projects. The Oil and Gas association was attempting to secure funding for refineries, but because of the Industrial Workers contract Gov. Simwinga could not promise money from his administration immediately.

The Farmer's Alliance had several issues they were facing, no money, the possibility of getting sued, and the fact that none of the candidates they supported won in the general election.

The Association for the American Way was extremely pleased with the results of the general election and concerned with generating revenue to help build infrastructure in counties and cities.

Lunch w/ Governor

Jacob Rude
Editor-in-Chief

Yesterday the governor held a lunch meeting with his cabinet and the various department heads. The primary focus of the meeting was to start figuring out which communities needed money and how the government was going to provide these funds. The conversation at the start of the meeting was lighthearted.

Once the meeting got underway the topics became more serious. One of the main topics of discussion was the controversy over Lane city's prejudices against the Reds. This issue is very touchy and referred to as a hot button issue. Handling this effectively could possibly one of the defining events in Simwinga's government.

Governor Simwinga said, "I don't want to press charges on them but rather talk to them about why what they are doing is wrong."

One other major topic that was thoroughly discussed was the financial aid to be distributed among the counties. The details included what PACs were most likely to donate to the cause and a back-up plan in case they did not.

"Our last resort for the backup plan is to increase taxes, but that is completely

the last thing we would do. If the PACs choose not to cooperate then we will take it from government jobs. There is still some fat that can be trimmed off. We won't get rid of entire departments but rather precision cutting."

We will inevitably see the outcome of this plan today and in the beginning hours of tomorrow. Only time will tell if the government's plan to gather the funds necessary to enact the financial aid to the counties.

Politics . . .

Austin McFarland
Staff Writer

Yesterday, when things were winding down for the day, I met with our Governor elect. I just had one basic question that might have been lingering in the back of your head. Just how did our Governor raise money for their race to their offices? Joel and three other people campaigning from the nationalist party decided to run together. This allowed them to raise less money so that they could focus more on their topics instead of dealing with fundraising at the same time they are campaigning.

As things started to play out, this plan began to work for them they began receiving help from a lot of the PAC's and even individuals. These groups of people pertained mainly to the poor and middle class citizens, Oil and Gas Industry, Advancement for Minorities, and Farmers as well as many more. There was only one group that gave money to Joel and Joel only. This party was the People for the American Way.

They are thankful to everyone that gave them money but as of last night our state elected officials were placed in a little bind. Joel had signed a contract with the League of Industrial workers. This contract was in exchange for \$600

toward their campaign but in exchange for that money they had to give roughly 10% of the state budget to the Industrial workers. After looking at the budget last night they realized that this was literally impossible. As of today there is no word on the solution to this problem.

The Facebook logo, consisting of the word "facebook" in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font, followed by a registered trademark symbol (®). The logo is centered on a dark gray rectangular background.

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Boys State of Kansas!**

**Share with others you
amazing stories about Boys
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The Newspaper

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 with your actual name to be considered for publication. Any anonymous letters will not be considered. All letters will be edited for space, grammar and legality. Letters should be taken to the Stater's Union Office.

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All errors are unintentional

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Personally I still have some questions and concerns for our new governor. First of all, why do the PAC's and Committee's have to give their funds to the state? Why can't they just give their money directly to cities and counties of their choosing? Take out the middle man. Instead, our governor wants to take all of the wealth and redistribute it to cities and counties as he sees fit! Now he says that we have a capitalist and free market economy, but I'm pretty sure that redistribution of wealth is a sign of SOCIALISM.

And Mr. Governor, why is it that you said that you are going to tell the cities and counties what to do with the money? To me, all this money and power that is now held by the governor and his cabinet sounds more like a "socialist-slush Fund" than a capitalist way of supporting our cities and counties in debt.

I am only saying this because nobody else seems to have the (explicative deleted) to say what is look at them in the face: That our Boys State economy is now a socialist mess.

Governor, I hope you can answer these questions.

Signed,

Anonymous Concerned Citizen

Disclaimer

All letters submitted to the Staters Union reflect the opinion of the particular individual or group. The American Legion Boys State of Kansas does not endorse any of the following statements.

Quotes of the Day

Different men seek after happiness in different ways and by different means, and so make for themselves different modes of life and forms of government.

- Aristotle

"Today was good.
Today was fun.
Tomorrow is another one."

- Dr. Seuss