



# The American Legion Boys State of Kansas Staters Union

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## The Great Debate

John Thompson  
Staff Writer

Yesterday's General Assembly debate gave the state office candidates their one and only chance to flex their oratorical muscle in front of the entire Boys State student body, and they made good use of every minute of it. Despite the intense competition between the two political parties, the debate was surprisingly civil and informative. After all, the unique structure of the debate gave Staters a

chance to flaunt some of their previously unrecognized abilities.

First of all, the debate was formatted in a way that allowed candidates to demonstrate their ability to think on their feet. Since they had to answer questions that they were unable to prepare for in advance, any Stater that didn't have a handle on their specific interests and goals would have been in trouble. The

see **Great Debate** page 7



## Boys State Leaders Chosen

### **Governor**

Joel Simwinga, City of Newman, Patton County

### **Lt. Governor**

Evan Habluetzel, City of Sullivan, Seitz County

### **Attorney General**

Keenan Gregory, City of Johnson, MacArthur County

### **State Treasurer**

Andrew Borowick, City of Mantey, Patton County

### **Secretary of State**

William Wolfe, City of Wiles, Seitz County

### **Commissioner of Insurance**

John Cothern, City of Schmitt, Pershing County

# Working "Together" for Kansas' Success

Jacob Rude & Matt Carrillo  
Editor-in-Chief & Staff Writer

A couple days into the program, city councilmen and city commissioners are starting to really get the hang of their job. In Goodnow Hall, the counties are attempting many things to better their cities and counties as a whole. The objective of the city councils and county commissioners is to work together to provide the important needs that every community would need to be successful. These groups work constantly on passing ordinances to make their cities safer and more productive, creating an infrastructure of roads, police and fire stations, assorted energy plants, etc.

Some cities and counties have done pretty well so far.

Derek McAdoo, Bradley County, is a city councilman for Aylward. "I'm happy with my position on the city council and we donated to the county to build a police station for Bradley County and are currently working to build roads for our city."

Just on the opposite side of Goodnow's sixth floor, the city of has done

very well.

"We did fall a little behind with people not staying on task, but are now heading in the right direction," said Phillip Kurtzweil, city councilman of Bramlage.

These two cities have also good relations with the Bradley County commissioners. The whole group worked together to fund the building of a county police station.

Other counties though do not really have the same type of relationships quite yet. Currently,

there are problems in Kennedy County concerning city/county affairs.

"We really don't see eye to eye with our county commissioners," said Mack Hartwell, mayor of Finley.

They have disagreed with each other so much, that a city councilmen from Finley actually attempted to sue one of the county commissioners. The reasoning behind this will not be disclosed.

Kennedy County commissioner, Dustin Her-

mesch, said, "The cities had issues donating money to the county to build schools and a police station. Relations with Haney (The other city in Kennedy County) are good but the ones with Finley, well, not so much."

Hopefully, in Goodnow Hall, there will be continued success among the cities and counties. Hopefully, the counties and cities that are struggling to get along, will even out their differences.



## Building the Platforms

Sam Rourke  
Staff Writer

The Precinct Committee meetings were the final chance for the Nationalist and Federalist Parties to revamp their political platform in preparation of the general election. Each party had approximately fifteen members present ranging from PAC leaders, precinct committeemen and the actual candidates.

The Nationalist Party entered their meetings with a feeling of optimism. After hearing of discontent within the Federalist Party political conventions the previous night, the Nationalists were convinced their party was the more united and poised to dominate the election. A primary issue they focused on was how to allocate the remainder of their funds. They had already allocated \$100 to each county earlier in the morning in ways of gaining support. At the meeting they decided to donate another \$300 dollars to a poor county to increase their support.

They also maintained their party platform by making education the top priority for the afternoon debate.

"We will continue to emphasize education as our top priority, however, we will make every issue a priority to make Kansas the most prosperous state it can be," said PAC leader and Nationalist supporter Lucas Smith.

The Federalist Party had slightly more concerns during their meeting. The discontent over the issue of marijuana legalization was a concern for the Federalists. After originally supporting marijuana legalization, they changed their position on this issue after hearing from their constituents at the political fair.

The candidates attempted to clarify their positions on top issues by listening to tough questions brought forward by party members who felt these would be important for the afternoon debate.

## The Arm of the Law

Ben Morsman & Taylor Gravett  
Editor-in-Chief & Staff Writer

The District Court hearing got under way yesterday afternoon with the presentation of several cases before the District Courts.

To begin the jury selection process, the Staters had to fill out a simple questionnaire that determined whether or not they would be on the jury or a witness. Some of the questions on the questionnaire included: the amount of wages made, employer, relatives, and if they had any connection with the case.

Once the judges decided who would be who, the trial was underway. In the case that took place on the 3rd level of Goodnow Hall involved Dave Westerfield. Westerfield was charged with abduction, rape, and murder of a 7 year old boy. The defendants claimed that the evidence that was sent to the Court was not valid and that it did not fully point the finger at the accused.

The defendants also argued that even though there was evidence that was brought forward it was irrelevant to the case

and didn't give indisputable evidence to convict Westerfield. Both sides argued that the DNA that was presented in front of the Court was administered and handled in an ethical way.

They decided in the end that Westerfield was guilty of the crime that he committed, but what made the case even more interesting was that Westfield wasn't even in attendance at the hearing.

Talking to the jurors afterwards many said that it was an easy decision to make based upon all the facts that were presented along with the DNA samples that were shown to the Court as evidence.

Others said the decision was little bit tougher because they felt as though the evidence was faulty and was sometimes sketchy.

The Stater's now have somewhat of a sense on how the District Courts work and even how a case can begin at the District level and work itself up all the way to the Supreme Court.



# Shaping the Leaders of Tomorrow

Matt Carrillo and Stan Stanislaus  
Staff Writers

Tuesday night's town hall had guest speakers from each of the three main branches of the state government. Staters were divided among three different rooms, where they listened to the three speakers. All of the delegates were very respectful to the guests. Each speaker had a very unique approach to emphasize their main points.

Chris Biggs, the Kansas Secretary of State spoke of his career in which he started out as a public defender where

his first case was in front of the Kansas Supreme Court, concerning a first degree murder trial.

Through that job and others, he progressed his way up to the position of Secretary of State for Kansas.

He told the staters that the main task of the Secretary of State is to act as the primary clerk for the state and also to oversee the election process. He said that voter fraud is not nearly as big of a problem as voter apathy among younger adults. He also mentioned that

he hoped for all of us to not care about winning the fight (i.e. voting and elections) but to perform your public service. He fielded questions near the end of his allotted time.

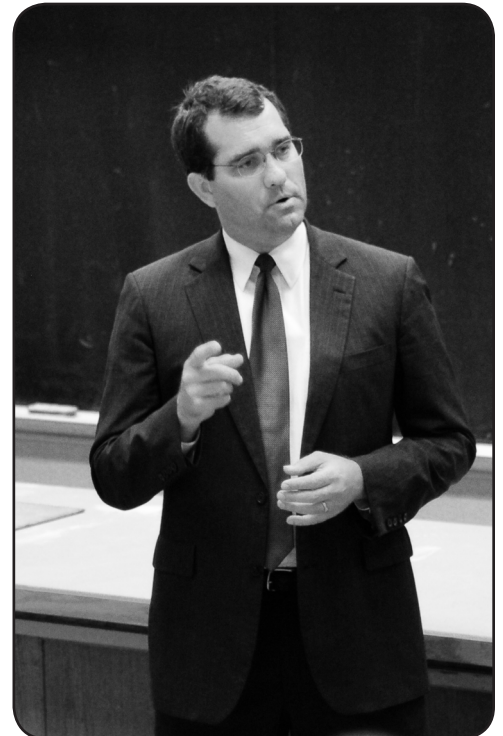
These questions concerned his ideas about illegal immigration, electronic ballots, and his most memorable moment as public defender.

When asked if he had been harassed because of his role as prosecutor, one of his responses was "When I was a prosecutor I carried a .357

under my arm." He ended with a performance of the state song, Home on the Range, with vocal accompaniment by the Staters.

Joseph Pierron, Judge on the Kansas Court of Appeals started out by speaking of his journey through judiciary branch to his current position. He also gave a brief but detailed history lesson about the founding of our system of checks and balances. He emphasized that there is a need for a strong court

see *Shaping Tomorrow* page 7



# Fresh Air Brings New Life to Delegates

Jacob Rude  
Editor-in-Chief

Sports have been a time tested way for youth to release all their tensions in a fun environment. Playing sports has been proven to promote qualities such as: leadership, teamwork, and social skills. Youth have enjoyed recreational activities at countless summer camps across the country. Recreation for staters is a great way to alleviate all the stress from a long day of campaigning, debating, and voting.

Rec. time at Boys State this year did not get off to a great start. In fact it was a horrible start to the eagerly awaited entertainment. Due to the famous Kansas weather,

staters were confined to their county floors, a proverbial prison when one looks out the window and wishes what could have been.

The delegates were not completely down-trodden however; most tried to make the best of the situation that they were given. Staters did activities that ranged from cards to conversation. In Marshall County some of the citizens dug up a hacky sack and had a great time. Some thoughtful delegates utilized their time to its greatest potential and practiced the great art of snoring.

In contrast a little ray of

see **Fresh Air** page 7



6/8/10

Lakers

91

Celtics

84

# Press Releases

Kansas Counties  
Boys State

## King County PR

King County, in collaboration with the cities of Harris and Hiatt, have deemed it necessary to build a two lane highway through King county. The new highway will decrease travel time and raise availability of transportation to industry. In order to fund the project the County and both cities will pay for 1/3 of the highway. The total cost will be \$1,800. The benefits of building the highway greatly outweigh all of the negative costs.

## Eisenhower County PR

Hello Eisenhower County from the Eisenhower County Commission. We have formed a highway project plan to replace and build new highways within Eisenhower county. The new highway will interconnect our cities.

We have decided to replace our existing highways in very poor condition instead of replacing them because we want them to last a long time and spend less money in the long run. The new highway we plan to build will increase commerce and encourage industry to move to Eisenhower.

We also plan to build a new bridge with a toll booth. The toll will create revenue for our county while keeping the bridge in great shape

## Seitz County PR

On June 7, Seitz commissioners announced their desire to expand the county's transportation infrastructure.

The proposition calls for the replacement and repair of a two-inch stretch of highway, and the installation of a new bridge. The expected cost for the projects is expected to total \$900. Both cities in the county of Seitz have agreed to pay \$400 toward the total, with the county paying the remaining \$100. Seitz County commissioners have elaborated on the reason for the sudden road revamp, stating that the project will get rid of a useless detour and unneeded miles of road. Several commissioners have expressed their hope that the businesses of Seitz County can both benefit from the easier access to their products and also see their property value increased.

## Powell County PR

Powell County is on the right path in both responsibly spending its tax payers' money, and improving the lives of its citizens. On June 8, key Powell officials addressed several problems with the existing inter-county highway system. According to city and county representatives, the existing highways are unsafe, filled with pot holes, and are in desperate need of repair. In an attempt to aid the people of Powell, the county and city commissioners decided to unanimously pass a motion that calls for the replacement and repair of the county's existing highway system, including a drastic repair to a two-inch stretch of road, and the addition of a new bridge. To further the economy of the industrial county, officials have proposed a new highway route that links the cities of Shulz and Spigarelli in an endeavor to assist the flow of people and goods. In order to offset the balance of construction, the county has decided to install toll booths at the beginning and end of each highway. The total cost for the en-

tire project is projected to be around \$1,345.

## Kennedy County PR

On June 8, key Kennedy County officials voted to repair as many county roads as possible. These projects, according to the commission, are the most cost-efficient ways to produce viable results. The commissioners of Kennedy County are hoping that the newly repaired road system and local city improvements will cause an economic boom.

While discussing the motion to repair the Kennedy County Bridge, it was decided by the commissioners to install a toll bridge for an extra \$45 to increase county revenue. Kennedy County also passed legislation to base a police station in the city of Haney, and create a new county school in Finley. Both the cities, Haney and Finley respectively, have expressed support for the county's action.

In order to fund these endeavors, the Kennedy County Commission has proposed raising county property tax up to 3.5%



from **Great Debate** page 1

back-and-forth nature of the debates also served as a spring board to highlight the differences between various platform ideals and strategies.

While it may seem counterintuitive, the simple time constraints on the debate also served a useful function (besides the obvious reason). By restricting each candidate to, at most, a mere minute and a half to express their answers in their entirety, it forced the candidates to focus only on specific, relevant information. After all, ninety seconds leaves very little time for irrelevant information and unrelated tangents. This technique not only discourages candidates from simple mud-slinging and slogan-touting but also rewards only the exchange of relevant opinions and strategies.

The format of the debate made it very tough for the candidates to express their opinions in a short amount of time. However, it also allowed for the candidates to issue rebuttals that gave

them a chance to rest any misconceptions that may have risen due to an attack on their issues.

It also gave the fellow candidates another opportunity to express optimism and interest in the election. The crowd even got involved with the occasional clap or, on a few select issues, an outright roar.

During the debate, Staters were given a mock ballot that they could take notes on which would hopefully make the decision a little bit easier.

When the debate was over, the Staters returned to their country rooms to cast their official ballot for the respective positions, the decision was going to be tough but if effective notes were taken it would be made easier.

from **Shaping Tomorrow** page 4

system to stabilize the government. He utilized interactive roleplaying to engage the delegates in his speech. The Staters were directly involved in court cases. He kept the mood light with some humorous comments such as "green leafy vegetation" and "drugs, weapons, and dead bodies."

Derek Schmidt, the Kansas Senate majority leader, began his presentation in recollection of the importance of his being a delegate at 1985 Kansas Boys State. He told the Staters of his being election as Governor. He deemphasized his position in Boys State, and made it clear that the effect the overall program had upon him was very important. Boys State sparked his interest in politics. Schmidt told two unique stories about passing a bill in Congress and the cooperation it takes to be successful in the legislature.

Overall, the Staters were very receptive of the messages the speakers were trying to relate. There was much learning, applause, and laughter throughout town hall.

from **Fresh Air** page 5

light shone on the delegates yesterday. Staters were allowed to finally compete in intramural basketball against other counties.

Although other sports such as soccer, volleyball, and softball were not taking place, staters were at least allowed to throw a ball around and be outside. What few rays caught were greatly appreciated.

With these first two days of our allotted recreational time being so bleak, hopefully today's rec. will be much brighter. No matter the conditions staters try to always put a positive spin on the situation.

# The Newspaper

## Letter to the Editor

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.

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\*All errors are unintentional\*

Dear Editor,

Before I came to Boys State, I had the preconceived notion that although politics in the real world are downright dirty, the politics of a bunch of high school boys from the heart of America would be cleaner than a boot camp toilet. I was wrong.

Now, I'm not going to give any names. I'm not going to make any affiliations. I'm not even going to mention any parties. But the fact of the matter is I saw a darker side of my fellow staters today.

I saw lies. I saw candidates running for very prestigious positions make empty promises and lie through their teeth. I saw corruption. I saw executive officers make deals with

inexperienced and under qualified individuals for high government positions, simply because they're friends or they live on the same floor. And worst of all, I saw nice, well-mannered boys disregard every moral bone in their body, just to gain a few more votes or a few more dollars.

What have we come to? Since when do we compromise our values for money? Since when do we barter virtues for political support? I understand that the race for an office is one of fierce competitiveness, but that's no excuse to ignore your beliefs. What you believe in and what you stand for are far more important than winning over a political favor for personal gain.

So what do we do? What

can we possibly do to better our behavior? Two simple words have never meant so much: Be Yourself. Don't listen to the politicians. Don't listen to your senators and representatives. Don't even listen to your peers. Isolate yourself for a single, solitary, moment today and ask: What am I here to achieve? What do I think is important? What do I believe? And when you ask yourself these things, remember that it is you who is in charge of this great state and its fate is in your hands.

And so I ask you this question: Who are you?

Signed,

Roy Wise  
Powell County

## Quotes of the Day

"Better a diamond with a flaw  
than a pebble without."  
- Confucius

"Be who you are and say what  
you feel because those who  
mind don't matter and those  
who matter don't mind."  
- Dr. Seuss