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STATERS UNION



A WEEK THAT **Changed** MY LIFE

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Life: A Juggling Act

By Maverick and Bradley
Staters Union

The world of politics and public service is a complex maze of policy and ceremony. Over the past 24 hours, through the rhythm of marching and the bellows of sound off, Staters have been introduced to this lively and relevant political simulation that aims to provide insight into the responsibilities and requirements of public office.

After arriving on the Kansas State campus they met their city and county counselors who help facilitate the operations of the state government, mediate elections, and otherwise assist the transition of power from the prior leadership. Following an exchange of introductions among the newly minted party members the counties formed outside on the lawn and received a crash course in marching from their counselors. The color guard led the charge to the union forum hall where the opening ceremonies commenced.

The main event at this year's commencement was a presentation from motivational speaker and former professional football player, Kendall Gammon. His speech series, called Laces Out, focuses on elevating personal wellbeing through emotional strength. This included an emphasis on balance between one's personal, professional, and family relationships which he punctuated throughout with an entertaining series of juggling stunts.

Despite the seemingly circus-like nature of the display, they tied deeply back into his talk by giving an example of how to manage the balance between the different areas of life. The talk also explored the sensitive subjects of rising rates of depression and anxiety among today's youth. One of Gammon's personal recommendations was something called a Gratitude Journal, which is used to help its writer appreciate the

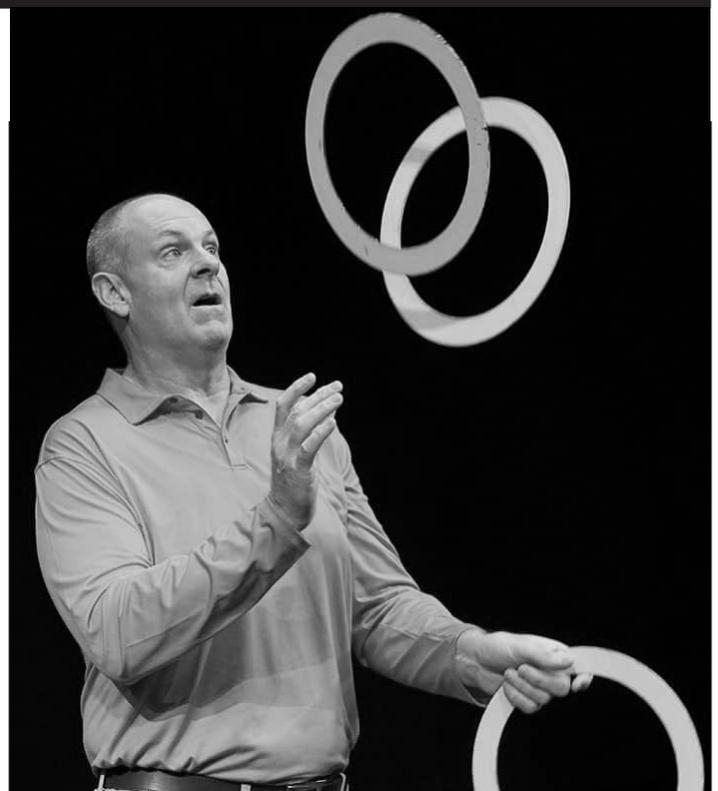


Photo courtesy of KendallGammon.com

little things that add value to their lives.

He ended his talk with a surprise juggling lesson for the audience where they used scarves to simulate the motions of juggling. This, along with being a fun and interactive demonstration for the assembled Staters helped to further drive home his message of personal value; with the motto of whatever you think is impossible you are just one step away from achieving it.

This exceptional speaker's message will surely help inspire the newly elected leaders to harness their innate leadership abilities to thrive in the governance of our state in the upcoming week. We'd like to thank Mr. Gammon for his words of encouragement and dedication to the youth of today and the struggles they face.

A candidate debate will be held Tuesday, August 2 2021, before the general election. If you have questions for the candidates, please get them to the Media Office located in the basement of Goodnow Hall (B-02) by 5 p.m., Monday, June 1.

You can tweet us your questions as well at @KSBoysState and Media@ksbstate.org

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 Goodnow Hall (conference room 2) To contact the Staters Union, please email us at ksbsmedia@gmail.com.

EDITORIAL

Even Split or Split Ticket?

By Luke
Staters Union

With a 50/50 split between the Federalist and Nationalist parties one would expect distinct party lines. However, this may not be the case at Boys State of Kansas, as no state has a perfect 50/50 split between the conservative and liberal mindset. The similarities in political ideologies could cause problems with party platforms being too similar and with infighting between party members.

Before this year's Boys State, the party lines have been loosely based on a questionnaire that was taken prior to the staters arrival, but this year, parties were chosen at random to create an even split. We will have to see how this grouping of parties impacts the party platforms and differences and similarities between the two.

Veteran Spotlight: Chuck Shoemaker

Chuck Shoemaker is a Vietnam era veteran who trained pilots and air crews in survival skills, he is also a distinguished member of the American Legion.



Shoemaker started his journey in the American Legion in Dallas, Texas, when a friend of his asked him to attend a meeting as a guest, after he attended he decided he wanted to be a part of the Legion and sense then he has had a long and distinguished career within the organization.

He has held all post positions and is currently the Service Officer for post 327, while also serving in the Honor Guard. Throughout Shoemaker's time in the American legion he has found that there are no finer people than those who serve veterans.

Meet the Media: Anchors Edition

Sam McWilliams

City of Lindholm, McArthur Co.

Q: Where are you from?

A: "Originally, Seneca; it's up in Northeast Kansas and a small, little town."

Q: What school do you go to?

A: "Nemaha Central High School"

Q: How did you hear about Boys State and why did you choose to attend?

A: "One of the legion members in Seneca brought it up to me, and they just told me it was something that was really fun and really cool. They told me all about it and what they did here, and it sounded really fun. I told one of my friends about it and he's actually here too."

Q: What can people expect from the KSB News broadcast?

A: "You guys can expect a lot of energy and a lot of fun, and we're also going to get the inside scoop from the governors and candidates and everyone who is going to be involved."

Q: Interesting facts about yourself?

A: "Grew up in a small town of 2,000 with my parents owning a restaurant, so I came out of the womb working. I'm gonna be a senior next year and I play sports all year round."

Q: What is the strongest animal you think you could beat in a fight?

A: "You know, I'm pretty confident in myself so I'm gonna go monkey."



Kier Bishop

City of Gardner; Eisenhower Co

Q: Where are you from?

A: "Initially I was born and raised in Wichita."

Q: What school do you go to?

A: "Wichita East High"

Q: How did you hear about Boys State and why did you choose to attend?

A: "So my parents brought up Boys State because both of my grandparents went, so I'm sure one of them elected me to go to boys state, and that's how I found out about it."

Q: What can people expect from the KSB News broadcast?

A: "People can expect our best effort and us trying to produce content every day to keep people entertained and informed."

Q: Interesting facts about yourself?

A: "I'd say the most interesting fact is that I am the youngest of six."

Q: What is the strongest animal you think you could beat in a fight?

A: "I don't want to sell myself short, but I don't really think I could beat many animals in a fight, so I'm gonna have to say a raccoon."

