

# The Boys State Dispatch

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- Gavin Jarvis - **Editors** - James Rioux -

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## *McMillan Gives Advice for Candidates*

Aiden Zoll - Bradley City

Trenton McMillan spoke to Boys State today about his experience as a citizen and governor last year. He started his speech with a strong statement, "You only have one shot at this." McMillan offered his advice about campaigning, networking, and candidate ethics and values. Some of McMillan's biggest notes were to start campaigning as soon as possible, avoid campaigning during breakfast, don't make false promises and he strongly encouraged buying newspaper ads to "get your name out there."



McMillan strongly warned against straying to controversial topics and said: "Keep your party political, professional, and respectful... always put Boys State first," but ultimately stated that voting so early in the week is truly a "popularity contest" and will not become extremely competitive until Tuesday when party conventions take place

claiming. "Party conventions are critical for votes."

"It's not a one man show" McMillan adds, going on to explain how important your cabinet members are, as well as their diversity from other Boys State cities.

Overall the information McMillan provided informed the Boy's State participants about campaigning. He hopes the best for this year's Boys State

## *Monday's First Hoop Session Ends in Upset*

Noah Petras - James City

James, Marshall, Bradley and McArthur's

basketball teams

showed up today in the fitness center for an exciting round of tournament



battles. Through

the seven games played we saw an emphatic display of talent in our young men here at Boys State. In the end, James City took home the day's title by going 3-0 throughout the tournament. Huge congratulations to the team and a solid good game to all cities that participated and performed well in a multitude of games.

## *Hon. Wendell Walker Addresses Burke and Bradley*

Joshua Davidson - Burke City

Today's first instructional session, "Virginia General Assembly - Origins to Today," involved a number of distinguished speakers from both the Virginia House of Delegates and the Virginia State Senate. The cities of Burke and Bradley were fortunate enough to hear from the honorable Wendell Walker, who has represented the 23rd District since 2020. Before pursuing his position as a delegate, Mr. Walker was a small business owner in the city of Lynchburg, the district he would go on to represent.



He educated the citizens of Burke and Bradley about the process of creating and passing bills, including the process within the General Assembly itself and also the lobbying process needed to reach that point. He then moved on to a brief questionnaire about the history of Virginia, and gave out prizes to those who answered correctly. After the questionnaire, he explained why the legislature meets longer

on even years versus odd years, with the primary reason being to set the budget.

During this time he was quoted as saying, "The Founding Fathers [of Virginia] were wise to limit the time to do the people's business." There was then a brief Q&A with the citizens of Burke and Bradley about what should be done with the billion dollar surplus in Virginia's budget. Mr. Walker agreed with one citizen who said that the money should be returned to the public through means such as tax returns and other methods.

Afterwards, he explained the process of becoming a part of the judicial bench, which judges can pursue through the General Assembly.

He finished the session by having a general Q&A with the citizens of Burke and Bradley. Some of the common questions involved how to increase voter turnout and civil engagement, as well as the significance of historical statues in our communities. A true example of the values that are exemplified by the Boys State program.

When asked about the future of politics in Virginia, he said, "The future will be determined by you." Both the citizens of Burke and Bradley, as well as the entirety of Boys State, can not thank Mr. Walker for taking time out of his day to speak with us.

## *Weekly Weather Report*

Edgardo “Jed” Gonzales - Washington City

As the citizens of the Boys State program finished off their second day, it became clear that weather has affected the overall experience with the cancellation of certain activities and the changing of plans.

Athletics took a hit with the postponement of flag football, disc golf and on-campus travel with the rainfall drenching the majority of the program's population. With that being said, hats off to the staff for being able to properly adjust to the situation and creating new athletic activities to replace those canceled.

Unfortunately, the unfavorable weather will seem to continue throughout the duration of the rest of the program with inconsistent intensities of precipitation each

day partnered with reports of possible thunderstorms coming.

In light of all that, the average temperature of the week should be staying around the 60s and 70s, keeping it comfortable and nothing dramatic on the cold or hot ends. With all of the days throughout the rest of the week being evidently rainy, the citizens of the Boys State should protect their uniforms from the inclement weather and wear raincoats. Boys State raincoats are still on sale at Washington Hall for \$35 a jacket. However, supplies are running limited with sizes medium and large being sold out. Sizes small, XL and XXL are still available but buy fast because inventory is limited. Keep it safe throughout the week, and take cover from the rain.

Day of the Week	Temperature in °F (high/low)	Precipitation Report
Tuesday	68°/62°	96% Rain
Wednesday	66°/62°	86% Rain
Thursday	72°/ 64°	85% Thunderstorms & Rain
Friday	77°/63°	58% Scattered Thunderstorms & Rain
Saturday	76°/62°	58% Scattered Thunderstorms & Rain

## *Jake's Jambalaya: Food Critic Extraordinaire*

Jake Janus - McArthur City

It was feeding time, the sharks were swarming around the minute and puny minnows. The eye of a shark is penetrating, soul-searing and fear-inducing. The minnows were at a standstill, their tiny minds were racing, clinging to the hope of an improbable escape. Alas, the eyes were not that of ravenous sharks, but the bleary eyes of Boys State citizens. The eyes ogled at the minnows, or in reality, the steaming assortments of breakfast classics.

There were platters overflowing with potatoes, eggs, sausages, french toast sticks, and of course, the alluring, golden and superbly flaky biscuits. Appearances however, are certainly not everything. The palate pleasing capability of the food is what matters most to the grub-lusting citizens of Boys State. Opinions varied, but in comparison to the previous day's reviews, breakfast had an exceedingly more positive



very American bite.” Regardless of the

outcome. “The biscuits had a solid texture, not too moist, not too dry,” stated MacArthur resident Trevor Darr. “The meal was a

overall approval of breakfast, there were still plenty of pessimistic-minded views on the cuisine too.

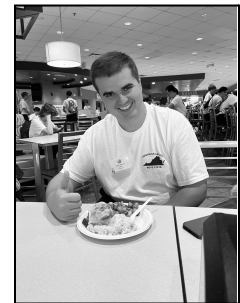
“I feel bad for the staff making all the food, but I feel worse for my stomach,” remarked Burke resident JP Janus. This remark is surely agreed upon by a healthy handful of citizens, as a change in diet schedule is to say the least — a culture shock to the digestive systems of many.

“The consistency of the eggs was on par with that of applesauce,” noted Bradley resident Daniel Dias. “The barbeque sauce gave me shivers, it jiggled like jello.”

Barbeque of that caliber is sure to disturb the common citizen. Breakfast came to a close, but it set a new tone, a hopeful tone for the meals to come.

Lunch was — less popular than its morning counterpart. There was now pasta, chicken, steamed veggies and garlic bread.

Similar to yesterday's meal, the veggies were essentially untouched. A few, however, dared to venture into the murky green, yellow and orange seas of broccoli, zucchini and carrots. These seas have seen many leave and few return to tell the tale, but one brave sailor did return with a positive





review. “The steamed veggies took me to a new place,” said MacArthur resident David Wall. “The flavors melted in my mouth.” There was, however, a popular course on the lunch table. The crunchy, crispy, mouth watering garlic bread. “The garlic bread was by far the highlight of the meal,” said MacArthur resident Jeremy McInerney. “I would give the lunch a 7.5/10, a score any chef should be proud of.”

Of course, no day of food ends with lunch, there was one more meal to complete the day. Dinner. Dinner was average, that is the only way to put it. The platters were now teeming with baked beans, corn, pulled pork, mac ‘n’ cheese and cornbread. The pulled pork was burnt to a nice ashy and charred texture, such that it might remind someone of the charcoal their dad would use in the grill on July 4, or a volcanic rock one might find in pompeii. One of the dinner dishes however, stood out among the rest. The beloved, oozing, lumpy... mac ‘n’ cheese. The chemically yellow mac hit the spot, raising the spirits of all those who partook.

“The macaroni was on a whole different level, trumping all the other dishes,” stated James resident John Talton. The cornbread tasted as it should, but... it was firm and yet also somehow squishy and squelchy which made it unappetizing to most. “The cornbread was a strange phenomena for my unsuspecting taste buds,” noted Gravely resident James Russo.

The review will return tomorrow... look forward to an in depth report of the stressful situation known as the “Soda Dispenser Disaster” which will take a deep dive into the watered down excuse that is called Mt. Dew. Till next time — Jake.



## *Opinion: The Effect of Social Media on Public Speaking*

Jaden Barnes - Gravelly City

After a series of presentations from multiple sources throughout the Commonwealth, the boys headed towards a class that seemed like the least exhilarating of the bunch. As they dragged their feet and trudged up staircase after staircase, to find what they were seeking. Better Speaking was their reward for their struggles. After diving into the lesson, we were posed the question, “Does social media play a part in the vast fear of public speaking?” I believe so.

I think we all can agree that social media has been a part of our lives since a very young age. Most of us have had a device in our hands since we were children. During the pandemic, our phones and most notably social media, seemed to ravage our time away from us for hours on end. Ever since then, the relationships and conversations we would normally have, especially in front of large groups of people, seem to be a lot more challenging. Not having face-to-face opportunities demolished students' chances to polish their public speaking skills. Looking at a screen and answering a few questions is far easier than standing up in front of a class and speaking your mind. Understanding this

reality is what I took away most from this academic session.

I think that if we take time to set our devices down for a few hours a day and focus and create actual relationships with those around us can help us become more sociable members of society. From what I have discovered, Boys State is about friendship and comradery. It's about team-bonding and building life-long alliances with those in and outside of our city. It is about turning strangers into lifetime friends. So, I challenge some of you this week, set the phone down and just say, “hello.”

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## *Dominguez Pursues Marine Corps*

Maleeq Jennings - Washington City

Anthony Dominguez is a Virginia State Boys Citizen of Washington city. He is representing Orange County High School. He was first introduced to Boys State from his peers from school who went.

Being a member of JRTC, Dominguez thought it was interesting and figured it would be a great once in a lifetime opportunity. He decided to ask his Chief Ward Officer if he could enter Boys State. He was told he had to join the American Legion, so when he did, he did community service with them. A few months later his

Chief Ward Officer told him he was chosen for Boys State.

The main reason Dominguez wanted to be accepted to Boys State is because he is interested in going to VMI, a military college, or joining the Marine Corps after school. Dominguez wants to be a part of something bigger than himself.

When younger, Dominguez was a troubled youth who was pushing away from his family and in a bad state of mentally. In his own words, JRTC was the best thing that happened to him at that point in his life. Not only did he learn to be a better citizen, he also learned discipline.

His inspiration to specifically join the Marine corps came when his older cousin joined the brotherhood. He is inspired when he sees Marine veterans about and still representing their corps. Dominguez wants to be a part of that.

He thinks the Marine Corps will really test what he is made of. He wants to take pride in being a Marine and he wants to wear the Uniform with honor, but he thinks any branch he joins would do great because of his work effort and the things he has learned.

When joining the Marines, he is interested in doing recon, and therapeutic medicine, but he is open minded to do

anything. In his own words, his mom always told him to take any opportunity you get because you will never know when you will get another. He wants to prove to his family and most importantly himself that he can be a better person than he was before.

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## *Outlets: An Uncommon Evil*

James Kennedy - Nimitz City

Working in the newsroom results in some late nights. Walking back to the dorms yesterday at nearly one in the morning left me with a headache, and all I wanted to do was lay down and go to bed, but I could not because one evil thing was stopping me: the outlet charging ports.

Now, we are all familiar with a general charging outlet. A plastic tile face flush with the wall plaster, usually with two charging ports on each. But here at Radford, it seems that the charging ports are a bit different. The outer edges of the simple, hard-to-mess-up plastic tile is NOT, in fact, flush with the wall, but instead protrudes out; almost as if to discourage late night guys like me, who just want to plug their phones in and head to bed.

A citizen of Nimitz City echoed my exact thoughts by saying, "I think there is no reason for an outlet to go an inch into the wall," and really, there is not. I've heard

from multiple cities that citizens had to resort to plugging their phones in the bathroom outlets because they were the only ones that would work! Come on man!

There is no reason for these outlets to be such an obscuration of the common format. In fact, the very newsroom that I am typing from has completely normal outlets. So, why are the dorm outlets the only strange ones? That's a good question, Virginia Boys State, and it is one that I just cannot answer. The dorms with these disturbing outlets are pretty new, so it would make sense for them to have some nice, normal outlet charging ports so they could have a more ergonomic use of space. But, of course, they do not, which begs the question: why?

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### *City Sheriffs Officially Sworn In*

Colin Miller - Puller City

The first full day of Boys State saw elected Sheriffs being sworn in at Preston Bondurant just after two pm.

These sheriffs represent law, order, and the uniformity of their respective cities. Sergeant Jason Stitt was responsible for introducing the following 2023 Boys State sheriffs:

Bradley City - Ellison

Burke City - Duton

Eisenhower City - Smith

Gravelly City - Alonso

Henry City - McGregor

James City - Davidson

MacArthur City - McGuire

Marshall City - Joon

Nimitz City - Hoton

Patton City - Kim

Puller City - Brunner

Washington City - Kimsanonich

## Have a Short Story Idea?

Sent it to  
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for a chance to be featured in our next edition!



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