

# The Boys State Dispatch

Volume 80, Issue 3

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

June 21, 2023

## *Federal Party Convention Results*

Aiden Zoll - Bradley City

Noah Petras - James City

Tuesday night, the Federal Party met to vote on the State Party Chairman and the party planks. After a very energetic and loud night, two planks were struck down, with one plank remaining unvoted on and confusing speeches from City Chairmen.

First, the newly elected State Party Chairman. We asked a few Federal Party members about their feelings about the candidates. Carter Adams tells The Dispatch, "I hope Benjamina wins, he's the guy." We asked Connor Geberth how he felt about the State Party candidates, "Richard is the best" Geberth says. Each city presented a nominee for the Party Chair position after three rounds of narrowing candidates, Benjamina Cox-Nicol won against finalist Richard Jones with a tight margin of 89 for and 87 against. We spoke to Benjamina before the final vote. "I'm freaking out, and I need a change of pants," said Cox-Nicol, After winning the State Chair position Benjamina commented, "[Being elected] is a great feeling and I thank everyone who voted for me." The dispatch asked Jones how he felt about his loss of only a few votes. "It's fine we're all one party. As

Federals we have a disadvantage to the Nationalist party by a 2 to 1 vote in the City Electoral Board. We are the underdogs, what's the point of an underdog if we don't win."

After the Party Chairman was elected the party moved on to the planks selected by the City Chairmen. The parties first plank proposed was "Increasing awareness about the Boys State program," this plank received heavy opposition from the party members. Daniel Dias of Bradley City says "I am so against plank one." The plank was eventually struck down after the Delegates voted 47 for and 129 against the plank.

The second Federal party plank that was voted on proposed "Reforming the time of the day for recreational activities" Sean Lacalle tells us "I think [the chairmen] are discrediting the counselors efforts to support the sports and aren't taking into consideration unforeseen weather conditions." The two big sides to this plank were those members who were active in sports during the rec time and those who didn't. Plank two was struck down 79 for and 93 against.

Plank three proposed better education for Virginia. This plank remains

unvoted due to the lengthy amount of time taken on voting for the State Chairman and previous planks. Plank 3 will be voted in the next Party Convention.

Members of the party consistently asked for elaboration and clarification on plank topics. While the Chairmen either couldn't give a plan that they anticipated to act on, it was extremely clear no time was spent on how to carry out these planks. If the Chairmen did provide a plan, it often contradicted their fellow Chairmen with some Chairmen proposing to give the excess state treasury fund to schools while just a few minutes later a separate Chairman stated that this proposition was never the plan. At some points, Chairmen even outright refused to answer party members' questions. In the last minutes of the meeting one chairman went as far to say "I know nobody wants to be here." Between the uncontrolled crowd, which seemed to be enjoying their time unlike the Chairmen on stage taking a volley of profanity, heckles, and boos, from the crowd. The Dispatch asked party member Matthew Suarez how he felt the convention was going overall Suarez responded "It is a complete mess." Absolute chaos ensued following each vote, the party spent nearly two hours coming up with "terrible, no use, waste of our time planks." says Noah Petras.

With loud disruptive sessions, indecisive Chairmen, two out of three planks struck down and one not even being voted on tonight we ask how will the Federal Party and Chairmen amend these issues moving forward.

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### *National Party Convention Results*

Ethan Deplota - Bradley City

From 7:30 PM to 10:00 PM, the Nationalist party's cities worked together tirelessly to secure the most qualified position for their state chair, along with nominating an attorney general of the state; along with multiple nominations through the election, a plank and Nationalist theme song was also passed. Starting off the session, a Nationalist Boys State theme song was chosen by popular vote shortly after. The four songs in the pool of choice were: *Self Esteem* by Steve'n'Seagulls, *In the Navy* by The Muppets, *Call Me Maybe (Metal Cover)* by Leo Moracchioli, and *Wolf Totem* by The HU. Moracchioli's song passed with a landslide in the second round with 108 total votes, well over the majority vote line of 92 votes.

Seven representatives total from the cities of Bradley, Gravely, James, Marshall, Patton, Puller, Washington decided to run for State Chairman after the song's decision.

Although vote density was fairly even between the top runners, Jackson Ray of Bradley city was able to pull through and achieve his spot with consistent professionalism and charisma.

After Ray's promotion, Collin Miller of Puller city presented the first plank, which received an outburst of approval from the crowd: the weightroom, recreational center and swimming pool would be accessible to future Boys State candidates with safety precautions and advisors present. After being approved, an amendment was added to the plank. The crowd argued that although it would be a nice addition, maintenance of the pool area would be too costly in upkeep, and appointing lifeguards on duty may also serve as a problem. While ahead of the Federalists time-wise in the given election period, a mock plank presented by Ethan Um stated the requirement of each Boys State candidate making a ten minute phone call to their mothers, and required for them to say that they love their mother. The plank was passed with flying colors, and amended for

people who cannot contact their mother to have the opportunity to contact another candidate's mother.

Directly after, a candidate each from the cities of Eisenhower, Henry, Gravely, MacArthur, Marshall and Puller ran for the nomination of Attorney General. The running had a notable mix of weaker and stronger candidates, some even being booed and withdrawn from the voting. Trevor Darr of MacArthur city won by a landslide with 121 votes in the first round. This was roughly twice the amount of votes as the second place candidate. With the time remaining within the party convention, the election of Lieutenant Governor was conducted. One candidate per the cities of Bradley, Burke, Eisenhower, Gravely, Henry, James, MacArthur, Marshall, Patton and Puller gave their speeches before the party convention ended. Votes are to be determined in the next Nationalist party convention election.



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### Statements Made From Interview With James City Reporter

"The environment is without a doubt one of the most crucial aspects of our collective existence. Without the environment, the way in which we live our lives would be drastically different, as seen by the Canada wildfires. We need to do a better job of taking care of our planet the same way we take care of our homes and local communities."

"Currently, one block of athletics is not sufficient, especially as many of us have classes. While this is absolutely not a sports camp, physical exercise is part of being a young man, and should be more thoroughly practiced. I've exhibited my desire to improve athletics through my ultimate frisbee game and my participation in the running club. I will improve athletics by adding a second block of athletics either early in the morning, or directly following a meal."

"In order to create a better Boys State, I will improve athletics, make communication between the cities more efficient, and improve the dialogue between Boys State delegates and counselors."

"I wish to create complete unity within Boys State. Individuals from all cities need to be a part of meetings to enhance the complete communication of city to state. I am a governor for all, not just the federalist party or of a city. We need unity!"

"When we leave and our time here at Boys State ends, we will remember the positive times when all members of both parties, and all cities come together in cheering celebration. All fighting for one; one cause to enrich the quality of life, one common goal for the betterment of all, and one common desire to drastically improve the quality of life in Virginia and our country. One dream that one day we will all rest pleased with our works and efforts throughout our time here on earth, our home."

## *Bathroom Chicanery*

Apollo Hermann - Peoples City

Everyday, like clockwork, my belly rumbles. The Richter scale event signifies to me that Nature calls. It is a call that one can not ignore. In pursuit to find relief I made my way around the building to the nearest bathroom.

As I enter the restroom, I am disappointed to discover that it has been transformed into a lounge for boys attempting to hide away from their speakers. As an ethically minded person, I couldn't pass the burden of having to be witness to a Nuclear level "caca" to my fellow boys.

With my more convenient options eliminated, I had to wait for a better opportunity in one place I thought was safe, my dorm at night. I heaved my way into the bathroom and proceeded to drop the "bomb". I expected it to be bad but jeez, I was proven wrong, It was HORRENDOUS. The Vents were clearly not working properly, as I nearly suffocated. It was the closest to death I have ever gotten. Arguably, death may just have been the better option.

As I wrapped up my "business" as I flush, I am bombarded with a noise that rivaled the sonic boom in NOVA and a deluge that put Noah to shame. The noise was so loud I think I developed tinnitus. The

cacophony did not just affect me as it affected my poor roommate as well. I could do nothing as I heard his groan of suffering as he awoke in a daze asking "Hello is somebody there?". In utter shame, I withheld any response and dragged my guilty feet to bed.

Ten out of ten experience, would do again.

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## *Stoney Engages Citizens With Speech*

Shivashish Das - Patton City

With every passing hour, the hundred or so heads of Preston Bondurant slouched down another five or so degrees. It was not until Levar Stoney graced the stage, entourage and all, that the perked heads of the morning replenished. The youngest Mayor that Richmond has ever seen — Stoney riveted with the story of his dynamic rise and how he plans to keep his position at the top. Born in 1981 to a working-class family, his mother, a single parent, worked as a custodian to support him and his sister. Stoney's upbringing instilled in him the values of hard work, determination and the importance of education: he would go on to become the first in his family to graduate with a college degree.

In 2013, Stoney joined the administration of Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe as Secretary of the Commonwealth, becoming the youngest member of the Governor's Cabinet. During his tenure, Stoney played a crucial role in restoring voting rights to more than 200,000 ex-felons, a significant step toward criminal justice reform. Stoney's powerful story gained further recognition when he ran for the office of Mayor of Richmond in 2016. At just 35 years old, he would go on to become the youngest mayor in the city's history and the first African American to hold the position. His victory resonated with many within and beyond Virginia's borders.

As mayor, Stoney launched initiatives aimed at reducing childhood poverty, improving educational opportunities and revitalizing neglected neighborhoods. Stoney's administration also made significant progress in tackling the city's crumbling infrastructure and promoting economic development. However, Stoney faced his fair share of challenges during his tenure. Controversies surrounding the city's handling of protests against racial injustice to his removal of Richmond's Confederate monuments. Despite these challenges, Stoney remained committed to fostering unity and promoting

inclusivity in Richmond. Stoney's story speaks to the transformative power of education in shaping political passion and determination. From his humble beginnings, to his rise in politics, Stoney has shown a dedication to public service and a drive to bring positive change to his community.

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### *Hon. Shannon Taylor Addresses Citizens*

Joshua Davidson - Burke City

Today, Virginia Boys State citizens began their day with the instructional session: Structure of the Virginia Legal System. As the name suggests, citizens from all states had the opportunity to learn from both Commonwealth Attorney's, as well as a Virginia Circuit Court Judge. One speaker that had a particularly impactful message was the honorable Shannon Taylor, who spoke to the residents of Burke City.

Mrs. Taylor is the Commonwealth Attorney for Henrico County, which is just outside of Richmond City. A native of Charlottesville, Mrs. Taylor began her session by educating the citizens of Burke about the path she took to become the Commonwealth Attorney. After graduating from law school, she answered phones for a time at a friend's law firm, before moving to a new firm to practice juvenile law. This, as

well as other career moves, led to her being asked to run for the position of Commonwealth Attorney. getting the democratic nominee in 2011 for Commonwealth Attorney for Henrico County.

She then transitioned into talking about the policy aspect of her job, and how her position is unique as one of the first modern progressive Commonwealth Attorneys from Henrico County. She views her role as Commonwealth Attorney as, “My role isn’t about ‘can I prosecute this individual because they check all the checkmarks,’ it’s also about what is going on with them.” The unique approach allows her to consider the mental wellbeing and stability of individuals, in relation to the crimes they are accused of committing.

Mrs. Taylor then moved on to holding a Q&A with the citizens of Burke, continuing a common trend of the week. When asked about what could be done in order to increase bipartisanship and calm tensions in the country, she said, “I believe part of the solution lies in you guys.” A trend of citizens in all of Boys State ask speakers their views on what can be done to ease tensions. This speaks to the importance of the issue both here at boys state, as well as across our country. A common solution

that has been echoed almost unanimously amongst the speakers, is that it is up to not just the citizens of Boys State, but to the entirety of the next generation. The citizens of Burke cannot thank Mrs. Taylor enough for speaking today, and neither can the entirety of Boys State to their respective speakers.

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## Have a Strong Opinion?

Sent in some details to [theboysstatedispatch@gmail.com](mailto:theboysstatedispatch@gmail.com) for a chance to be featured in our next edition!



*Hi I'm Jake Eklund. Did you know that you have rights?*

*The constitution says you do, and so do I.*

*I believe that until proven guilty, every man, women, and child is innocent.*

*And that's why I fight for you,  
Boys State!*

*Better vote Jake Governor of Boys State*

*Nationalist Party - Burke City*

*Questions? DM my insta...*

*IG @jake4vaboysofstategov*

*Jake* 



## *Radford Rain: A Problem at Boys State?*

Colin Miller - Puller City

Attendees of Boys State have had to face torrents of rain during the daily activities of the week so far. Some were prepared, bringing raincoats and umbrellas to shield not only themselves, but their valuables too. Many had to face the rain with nothing but the bare uniform and a resilient attitude. Thankfully, Boys State sells rain jackets which have provided relief in the intense weather. While jackets are available at Washington Hall, many attendees haven't been able to get one. Puller City members Seowon Min and Alex Spanta were unable to get their jackets today, due to the medium and large sizes being out of stock. This lack of common sizes may discourage a lot of citizens from getting a rain jacket. One must also note that the \$35 price point is difficult for many attendees to hit. With the recommended amount of money to bring being \$50, buying a jacket does not leave much money for purchasing extra shirts, campaigning or buying food.

The sports have also been hindered by the rain. With unfavorable conditions outside, athletes had to move inside to the Student Wellness & Recreation Center. This has hurt sports like volleyball; being

confined in a small racquetball room, with only space for four person teams, leaving a large crowd and spending the bulk of the activity time just waiting for a chance to play. It is not the ideal situation for many athletes. Thankfully, other sports like basketball and soccer had easier adjustments to their inside facilities.

So, the big question: does the Radford Rain pose a problem at Virginia Boys State? Thankfully, the Virginia Boys State members are resilient. Inspired by the words of political leaders, and filled with a drive to make the most of this once in a lifetime experience, many attendees aren't letting the rain bother them. "While it may be a little uncomfortable," said Puller City citizen Theo Villeneuve. "The people at Boys State are here for a reason, and we won't let a little rain ruin the great community we've assembled." Ethan Larimore of Washington City had a similar sentiment. "The rain is fine," Larimore said. "It's actually a little refreshing to have a break from the hot summer sun." Many attendees at Boys State continue to show their resilience and dedication to the program despite harsh conditions, making the Radford Rain a slight inconvenience at most, and certainly not a problem to sour the weeklong experience.

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## *Hypersomniac Plague Strikes Boys State*

Edgardo “Jed” Gonzales - Washington City

With the conclusion of the first three days, the beginning of the Boys State Program has been a resounding success. Members in various cities constantly show their enthusiasm and energy but concerns rise as to whether the boys have paced themselves properly to last throughout the week.

With the constant yelling and countless chants screamed all in the name of campaigning, bodies started dropping left and right as the citizens of Boys State struggled to stay awake throughout the day.

Many find themselves catching up on their not so good night's rest during lunch and in between lectures. The same citizens would spend the majority of their time awake complaining about the minimal amounts of sleep they got.

It became evident that sleep was a problem. An alarming amount of campaigns and slogans involved a promise to change the sleep schedule to allow for more time for members to rest before starting off the busy day.

Planks created during the conventions involved moving the early morning rise to later and a possible addition of a mandatory “nap time” as proposed in

the nationalist meeting. Boys State citizen Jake Janus describes the program as “an insomniac's nightmare” where sleep is minimal and left his eyes bloodshot, he also stated that “The citizens are hanging in the balance, many soldiers have dropped dead perilous lectures”. His descriptive vocabulary shows off his passion about the topic as it is shared by many of the members in the program.

Many are taking action and combating the plague by ingesting concerning amounts of coffee creating lines in the Dalton dining hall only unrivaled by any other beverage at the moment.


While many may suggest that these boys should use their free time in the night wisely and make lights out earlier, that suggestion is null and void as the grind never stops. While sleep deprivation may be harmful medically, it seems to benefit campaigns heavily.

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### *The History of the Star-Spangled Banner*

Joshua Coleman - Eisenhower City

“O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave... O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave...” These words sound familiar, don't they? Of course, most would recognize these as the lyrics to our National Anthem “The Star Spangled Banner,” but did you know that a Marylander lawyer came up with the now-famous tune? Furthermore, do you know the history and battle which inspired the song?

Francis Scott Key was an American poet and lawyer born in Frederick County, Maryland, August 1, 1779. Born into a well-to-do family, Francis enjoyed a lavish childhood, with his father a military man and his mother a tavern keeper.

Que June 18, 1812: America goes to war with Great Britain due to major trading disagreements. After the Brits burned the Capitol Building, Whitehouse, and Library of Congress, they turned their attention to Baltimore.

Then comes the second player in this song: Dr. William Beanes. Beanes was a

good friend of Francis that was unfortunately captured in Baltimore. Being the great friend he was, Francis negotiated his release with surprising success. However, though they were “safe,” the friends were forbidden to leave during the bombardment of Fort McHenry.

As the canons of ships fired and muskets let loose their attacks, Francis watched intently. The very next day, the Brits gave up. Out of the smoke, Francis caught sight of the still-standing American Flag over Fort McHenry. In an epiphany, Francis scribbled down a few reflections of what he witnessed. Those reflections were put to the tune “To Anacreon in Heaven” by John Stafford Smith, and thus the American National Anthem was born.

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### *Jake's Jambalaya: Vol. 3*

Jake Janus - MacArthur City

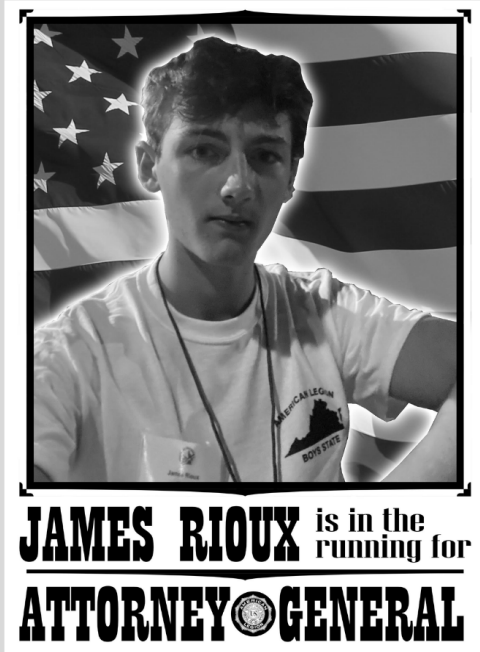
“I can’t wait to get my soda from the dispenser. I’m so excited to taste this bubbly, crisp and delicious Dr. Pepper from the soda dispenser,” said no Boys State citizen ever. The dispensers seem to have an abundance of water, but when it comes to the magic, sugary and tongue-tingling special syrups — there is simply an empty void, the beloved beverages go the way of the dodo, and leave the boring, flavorless aqua as the only

candidate in the race for drink champion. As promised yesterday, I will take a closer look at the tragic state of the syrup-less soda dispensers. “The dispensers are a disgrace,” stated Bradley resident Daniel Dias. “I just wanted some grape gatorade. The dispenser left my cup clear, instead of leaving me in the comfort of my artificially dyed purple bliss.” No solution has been provided or offered by any of the governor candidates. “My advice to the governor candidates is to solve this problem,” noted Gravelly resident James Russo. “Then they will have my vote.” The lack of soda is truly an abomination, an outrage, an all out shame and degradation of the Boys State Program. This dilemma will hopefully be amended soon, but for now, nothing can be done. At least water can quench the thirst felt by all those who consumed the waffles.

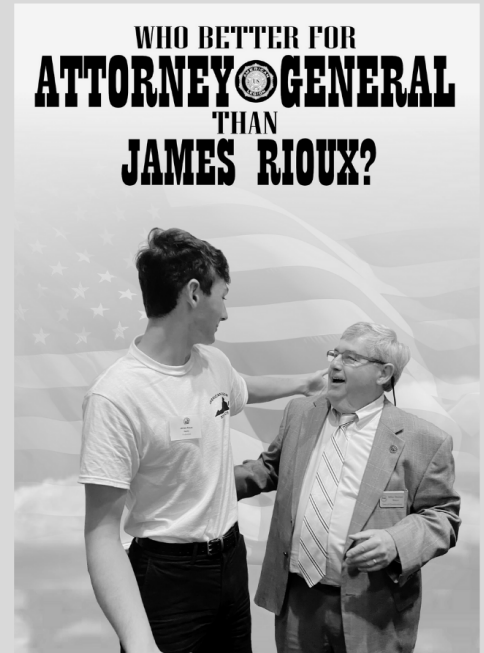
The moisture-wicking capability of the waffles was greater than that of a Nike t-shirt. One bite could be compared to a week-long journey in the Sahara Desert. The rest of the breakfast lineup was congruent with the taste standard of the waffles. The tater tots were stiff, bland and unappetizing. “The tater tots don’t really have the tater tot taste, [which] tater tots usually have,” mentioned MacArthur resident Ben Hays. The eggs were the same, if not worse than



@rioux4attorneygeneral



- Henry City Moot Court
- Co-Editor and lead of The Boys State Dispatch



Paid for by James Rioux despite affiliation

the previous breakfast. One might assume that Boys State chefs were supplied with eggs found on the side of the road, which were then cooked in a microwave and finally served to the disappointed citizens of Boys State. “The eggs were quite underseasoned,” noted MacArthur resident Lucas Maguire. Next up was the ham; the ham embodied the word bland very well. It wasn’t the worst, but nowhere near the best ham the young lads of Boys State have tasted. “It’s just ham,” MacArthur resident Jeremy McInerney said in a monotone, likely perturbed, grumble. Breakfast received an all around subpar approval

rating, but on the positive side; it can be ingested with minimal fatalities. The toilets on the other hand, have a grave task ahead of them, one I will not elaborate on.

Lunch, regardless of its supposed resemblance to fecal matter, was likely the best tasting meal thus far. The ground beef, tortillas, spicy rice, corn and black beans were a well-rounded smear of South American cuisine. The smear’s taste was still not exactly — good, but it was better than most previous meals. “The meat, rice and beans weren’t trustworthy,” stated Bradley resident Clint Ellison. “The food, I fear, may lead to an undesired aftermath.” The food is often advertised as something

that it is not, which was quickly realized by MacArthur resident Yared Pierce, who noted, “The spicy bean’s spice was similar to that of a white wall.” The desserts at lunch received much praise, save for the ‘Fruit Loop Krispies’. The krispies were an odd spinoff of the classic rice krispie treat. Much like every unwanted sequel, they were simply nowhere near as good as the original. “The fruit loops were just not it,” said James resident John Talton in an unimpressed tone. The cookies however made elephantine strides amongst the citizens. “The cookies remind me of Flat Stanley,” stated Burke resident Baker Green. “They are flat, but awesome.” Baker later went on to say, “Call me Santa the way I be eating these cookies.” Another cookie compatriot, MacArthur resident David Wall noted, “These chocolate chip cookies are the dog.” Lunchtime made leaps, and citizens seemed to be more pleased with the grub they gobbled. Would dinner change the tide of this ‘Era of Good Feelings’.

Dinner... the meal that ends the day, the meal that is meant to leave bellies fulfilled and content... failed to probably do so amongst the bellies of the poor Boys State citizens. The so-called ‘Salisbury Steak’ seemingly was an unknown piece of cow cooked with virtually no flavoring.

“The steak was like an unseasoned burger patty,” mentioned Burke resident JP Janus. The mashed potatoes portrayed a calamitous tableau. Potato skins glanced at all those passing by like dark, shady and shadowy monsters sneaking out of the depths of their lumpy lairs. The viscosity mirrored that of the sludge one finds at the bottom of a mud puddle. “The mash potatoes were vile,” noted MacArthur resident Lucas Maguire. The brown gravy did not only have the viscosity of mud puddle sludge, but was a carbon copy of the sludge itself. Again, at least it was edible. “Dinner was mid at best,” said Burke resident Andrew Greves after tentatively chomping down on his unseasoned hamburger patty. “I hope for the best with my next meal.”

That’s the review on this sustenance state of affairs for now, till next time — Jake

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## *McMillen Gives Advice for Candidates*

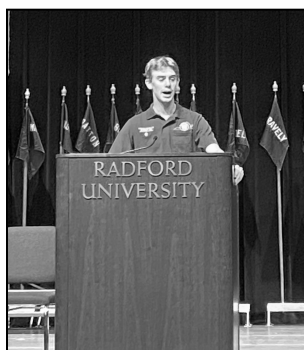
Aiden Zoll - Bradley City

Trenton McMillen 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.” McMillen offered his advice about

campaigning, networking, and candidate ethics and values. Some of McMillen’s biggest notes were to start

campaigning as soon as possible, avoid campaigning during breakfast, don’t make false promises and he encouraged citizens to use campaign materials.

McMillen 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” McMillen adds, going on to explain how important your cabinet members are, as well as their diversity from other Boys State cities.

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

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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 - Demyanovich