

The Boys State Dispatch

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

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College Day Meets Boys State

Colin Miller - Puller City

Today, Boys State is offering College Day from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. in Kyle Hall (the business hall). College Day gives Boys State citizens a chance to ask questions straight to university representatives, getting information on the admission process, scholarships, life at college and any other info that the attendees need.

Some colleges will also provide flyers and take home information for further research and consideration. It's recommended that you come prepared with questions for colleges in order to visit as many as possible because there's dozens.

College Day will feature a wide range of schools. From in-state schools like University of Virginia and Virginia Tech, to out-of-state schools like University of Alabama and University of Mississippi. Military schools like West Point and the Naval Academy will also be attending. Boys State also gives a big thanks for the 2023 College Day sponsors, Mississippi State University and Washington & Jefferson College.

Attending Boys State also opens the door for many scholarship possibilities. Select schools offer scholarships for Boys State citizens, such as the Edwin (Eddie) J. Dentz Scholarships, the Lucian Butler Scholarship, the Presbyterian College Scholarship, and many

more. The colleges attending recognize the potential of all the citizens of Boys State. They want to support our futures and set us up for success. You can check the Boys State website for more information on scholarships, schools attending, and more.

Talent Show Compendium

Ethan Deplota - Bradley City

Now that the talent show has concluded, it's time to reflect on the amazing yet interesting experience.

Starting off the talent show was Henry City resident, James Glenchur. He started off his performance with the coveted "Mary Had a Little Lamb." Shortly after starting his performance and having the crowd sing along, he made a smooth transition into "Military Polonaise A Major" by Chopin, a great way to start the talent show as a whole.

Shortly after, Patton City resident Sam Sawyer, Harmonized with Toby Keith's voice in the song "Should've Been a Cowboy." After the performance, Sawyer mentioned his heavy musical influence from his family.

The next performance, Gravely City resident David "Big Papi" Evans, showed off his martial art skills by performing

various combat maneuvers in the air. Evans chopped, kicked, set boards and split them in two, ending in a great finale of kicking two stacked boards at the same time.

In the next act, Nimitz City resident Aubrey Hotchkiss, Nimitz City, both sang and danced along to the pirate chant “Man O’ War.”

The next two candidates came from the city of Eisenhower, with the first act featuring Aidan Mousavi; Mousavi went onto play the piece Piano Rachmaninov’s “Prelude in C# Major.” The music starts off slow and soft, eventually building to an emotionally climactic moment.

The next candidate was Jeremiah Hernandez. Hernandez proceeded to juggle three balls while advancing along the stage and spinning slowly in circles.

The city of Nimitz held the next participant, Noah Ubial. He chose to elegantly sing “Your Man” by Josh Turner while the crowd chimed to sing and clap to the beat. Semir Ali of James City, transitioned into the very beautiful Middle Eastern song “Danse Macabre” by Camille Saint-Saëns on the viola. Ali stretched his instrument to his full capacity in this non-Western piece and played elegantly.

Luke Pelletier of Nimitz City, A professional dancer at the international level,

chose to perform an impressive Irish jig. The crowd was ecstatic and reactive, cheering for every fancy move performed on stage.

Jayden Robbins, of Bradley wrote a rap about his and the crowd’s personal experiences along the week of Boys State. Robbins' rapping style was consistent and flowed gorgeously from bar to bar, an impressive feat for the entire song being constructed in only two days before the talent show.

Levi James of James City, played a very slow and calm flute song to serenade the audience. Gavin Yoder of Washington City, performed a very well known song by



most of the Boys State crowd, “Feathered Indians” by Tyler Childers.

He played the acoustic guitar and sang with his very unique voice while having the crowd’s assistance with both vocals and waves of lights to show support.

Jonathan Barnard, Nationalist Governor of Boys State, and Dawson Martin, Marshall City resident, walked from the main lobby to the stage while narrating

dialogue of *Into the Woods*. When the two met on stage, they both sang the song “Agony” together, emulating the vocalists Chris Pine and Billy Magnussen.

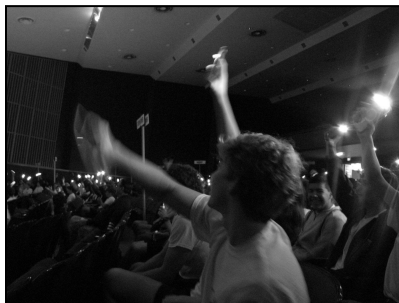
Aiden Sowers, Bradley City resident, brought an intense feeling to the talent show. Sowers soothed the crowd to complete silence while performing “Absidoles” by Bernard Andrés. The modern classical piece started off slow and uniform, then slowly built up into a cacophonous explosion of music.

Next up, Haden Funderburk shredded on the electric guitar. Funderburk traveled from deep strumming to tapping all across the fretboard in his act.

To wrap up the show, a jazz group consisting of both John Bascom and Dawson Martin, Marshall City resident’s, Frederick Klein, Washington City resident, Nico Gonzalez, MacArthur City resident, Benjamin

Perry,
Patton
City
resident,
and
Aiden

Sowers. The group performed the upbeat song “In the Mood” by Glenn Miller. After the jazz group was done performing, all of



the talent show participants congregated on the stage and sang along to “Don’t Stop Believin” by Journey with the crowd. The Boys State song was then sung by everyone in the audience and onstage, concluding the talent show.

Rockstar Review

Aiden Zoll - Bradley City

As a reporter I find myself with far less sleep than the average citizen. I fill the cavity of sleep deprivation with Rockstar Energy Drinks from the local campus vending machines. This reporter has gotten tired of the same old flavors, fruit punch, orangeade, lemonade, and original. Firstly, the orangeade flavor. This was probably the most decent flavor, and tasted about how the name sounds. Next, the fruit punch flavor. This was by far my favorite flavor. I have already drunk two. Next, the lemonade flavor. It basically tasted like watered down lemonade, manageable but a little disappointing. Lastly, the original flavor. Essentially, a slurry of chemicals that upsets my tummy is something I would not recommend.

Want an Easy \$10?

The FIRST citizen to provide PROOF of a Rockstar flavor that is not fruit punch, orangeade, lemonade, and original flavors, as well as provide PROOF that it came from a CAMPUS vending machine to Aiden Zoll will receive a \$10 cash reward.

Election Results

James Kennedy - Nimitz City

Fierce campaigns from Jonathan Bernard (Nationalist) and James Kim (Federalist) competed today for the position of Virginia Boys State Governor, as did the nominees for Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General.

After the conclusion of the Federalist and Nationalist Party Conventions, the candidates for the Attorney General race came down to Trevor Darr (Nationalist) and Zach Wagner (Federalist). Their speeches ensued, and once the election voting had concluded, Trevor Darr was announced as the winner of the race.

The Lieutenant Governor election was between Luke Pelletier (Federalist) and Dawson Moody (Nationalist). After their speeches and the tallying of the votes, Luke Pelletier was announced as the new Boys State Lieutenant General.

The Governor race, being the most anticipated election, electrified the audience with energy. Kim presented a very strong speech, heavily focusing on policies that he would implement as Governor. Bernard's speech was more personal, speaking about his experience with Boys State and how he wanted to represent it. He presented a speech he wrote overnight, but decided to

stray from his notes. During his speech, the audience caused a fair amount of chaos in the stands; chants, yells and pleas for Bernard's President Trump impression filled the auditorium. After all votes were counted, Bernard had won.

We would like to congratulate all candidates, on both the city and state levels. Even if you did not make it out of the primaries, or you made it all the way to the gubernatorial level, we all have learned something here at Boys State. Whether it was learning how to publicly speak, understanding how elections are performed, or just breaking out of your comfort zone. All of you deserve a standing ovation for your efforts. If you won your elections, be sure to lead others here at Boys State humbly and fairly, and, again, well done in your respective elections.

Poem: Behemoth of Steel

Logan Hudgins - Eisenhower City

A behemoth of steel, painted in a bright beautiful red color with gold accents thunders down iron tracks, releasing smoke and steam as it does.

The behemoth thunders through the tunnel to the modern era,

Leaving the weaken and tired horses behind to watch as they are left in time,

In time the majestic behemoth of steel is elderly, barely chugging along, its beautiful paint has since chipped away, and its gold accents long to be polished for they are tarnished,

The once majestic steel behemoth can't get up the hill to the future era, so it sits and watched an electrically powered bullet of steel shoot up the hill to the future, but it is not spelling smoke or releasing steam, its clean and fast,

And this bullet of steel replaced the once majestic behemoth of steel.

We leave old things behind, so that we may find an easier life. But the bullet of steel will never forget the behemoth of steel and the horse behind him, they helped the bullet of steel be made, so we should also not forget those who came before us.

For without them, we would not be here.

Mysteries of Moot Court Told

Joshua Davidson - Burke City

Today, the citizens of Boys State will witness the final arguments for Moot Court. To many, Moot Court is something that is unfamiliar, and the specific details of the trial itself are shrouded in mystery.

Moot Court is a simulated appellate court, where students argue for either the

side of the commonwealth, emulating commonwealth attorneys, or for the side of the defense, also known as the council for the petitioner.

What started out as a 16 seed bracket, with 4 cities receiving bye rounds at the start due to there only being 12 cities, our finalists have now argued the case 3 different times and have argued for each side. The opening rounds, as well as the quarter and semifinals were held in front of real attorneys and judges, with the decision being up to them as to who moved on.

Within this Moot Court case, Joseph Swift has been found guilty at trial court on two charges, those being that he was in possession of marijuana, and also intended to distribute marijuana. Now, the council for Joseph Swift has sent its appeal to appear before the Boys State Supreme Court.

The city of Gravelly will be representing Joseph Swift as counsel for the petitioner, trying to overturn the original ruling and prove there is insufficient evidence to persecute Joseph Swift. The city of Bradley will be the commonwealth attorneys, attempting to uphold the original ruling, aiming to reaffirm that Joseph Swift was in possession of marijuana, and did intend to distribute it. A short summary of the events that led to this: on June 2nd,

2020, a search warrant was executed by the Bradley City Sheriff's department. Within Joseph Swift's residence, the cops found him and Sue Deal, his girlfriend, sitting on the couch. The room was filled with smoke, and there was a warm pipe as well as leftover marijuana residue found on the main level.

Within a walk-out basement, sheriffs found a list of money and names, as well as packaged marijuana in a pocket of a jacket labeled "Bad Joe." They also found 9 ounces of marijuana packaged separately into 9 zip lock bags, but within these bags there was mold. There was also a box of zip lock bags that were found to have the defendant's finger prints, however the zip lock bags that contained marijuana did not have his fingerprints. These are the very generalized details of the case, and some have not been included as they will be expressed during today's arguments.

Today at 10:30 AM in Preston Bondurant, the Boys State Supreme Court will preside over the final hearing, and will decide the champions of the Moot Court of the 80th Boys State of Virginia. Best of luck and congratulations to both the cities of Bradley and Gravelly today, and compliments to all others who participated.

The Bookstore: a Pleasant Surprise

Alexander Owens - Marshall City

Hidden under the cafeteria, there is a little treasure trove of obtainable deals and commodities. This goldmine of knick-knacks and doohickeys features a variety of products which have widespread appeal. Of course, I am referring to the campus Barnes & Noble Booksellers. The Bookstore offers Radford merch and fun games to purchase to later play with fellow citizens. Additionally, the store offers candy and drinks to citizens hoping to satisfy their sweet tooth. The Bookstore offers a great spot to cool off and hangaround while browsing interesting deals. Like others, I too was pleasantly surprised with my experience within the Bookstore, finding the staff particularly kind and helpful. While doing my fair share of ogling, I stumbled upon a personal favorite, Risk, the board game. The game that uses global domination as a way to establish "world peace" and "prosperity". I instantly gravitated towards it and rushed to the register out of curiosity. The initial price was an expected \$29.99, which disappointed me. Yet in an unexpected twist, the item was on sale. The price dropped a resounding 50%, a deal I couldn't refuse. This, however, was not the only generous deal featured; several sweets also promoted

deals of a lifetime. Marshall City citizen Declan Bryant exclaimed that the Bookstore offered “a great selection with even better prices.” Objecting, Bradley City resident Aiden Zoll commented that the prices are “inflated” recalling a story where he paid \$17 for an umbrella, yet Bryant countered stating that “good deals are present, you just need to find them.” Needless to say, the Bookstore has several hidden gems that are waiting to be discovered.

Want Your Jacket Embroidered?

Go to Washington Hall rm. 138 -
1pm cutoff time!
Bring \$5



The Bookstore: a Pleasant Surprise

Alexander Owens - Marshall City

Food is an art form, a mural, a collage of different flavors, accents and spices. Each element plays its own and equally important part in a dish, regardless how prominent said flavor is. The food at

Boys State up to this point, like any food is art, no one may call the grub we have eaten a masterpiece of fused flavors, but it was art, nonetheless. The efforts put forth by each and every person who has worked to make this food accessible to us is laudable. The task of feeding the 450 young men of Virginia Boys State is nothing short of impossible, but these hard workers have managed to do so every day this week. *Jake's Jambalaya* is loaded with negative remarks on the food, but I personally want to remind and implore you to thank everyone you see that has helped feed, clean up after and care for you, even though you may not always notice them. They operate behind the scenes, silently working to make your experience better. Now, for the juice you were waiting for.

“Breakfast is consistently mid,” noted MacArthur City resident Connor Madison. Most would agree with our dear friend Connor, and many agree even more a few hours after the fact, when they feel a beast within, causing their stomachs to make a creaking and wailing noise. A sound that resembles the noise an animated tennis player makes with every thwack of the ball. Breakfast today resumed the tummy trouble. Eggs, pancakes — a definite winner, ‘taters’, sausage and biscuits. No one needs to hear

about the eggs and their lacking ability to please the palate, but I can't help but fit an egg pun in the column before we depart from Boys State.

How did the hen get to work so fast? She used the 'eggs-press' lane... Moving on, the pancakes received distinctly positive feedback. "The pancakes were moist, fluffy and flavorful," noted Gravely City resident Matthew Suarez. The pancakes were a beautifully microwaved buttermilk patty. The texture may have been slightly off-color in contrast to the average cake, but they were good enough, and with a moat of syrup surrounding each individual floppy disk, they passed the test. Now for the one and only, the mercurial, the spectacular and likable — lunch.

Lunch this week has stepped away from its two mealtime competitors. "Breakfast is a laxative, lunches are superb and dinner could use work," stated James City resident Barry Ewell. Lunch provided us with favorites, like yesterday's fried chicken sandwich, mac 'n' cheese and today was no different - General Tso's Chicken. This dish has graced the tables of many and satisfied the bellies of countless famished teenage boys – at Boys State... something of an unheard myth, but it came true. The chicken was flavorful, crunchy, friable and

juicy. The chicken bits were slathered in a pool of viscous sauce in a manner that reminds one of the way one's dad would coat any rusty item with WD-40. "The chicken was crispy," noted James City resident Samuel Golden. Lunch has done its job to the fullest, and it has reached a legendary status in the meal hall of fame. Dinner, however, falls short of this praise.

Dinner was a fajita concoction that was sure to leave a deuce in the discard pile. "The fajitas were bland and disappointing," noted MacArthur City resident Jeremy McInerney. Dinner achieved another mediocre approval rating; but again, we must remember the work that goes into creating a feast for hundreds. James City resident Michael Fulton wisely noted, "As a food lover, I'll eat what's in front of me."

Another addition to mealtimes is the sandwich bar and panini press. It is the hidden gem of food here, as it is far less likely to leave you with a lingering urge to relieve yourself. "The sandwich bar is underrated and not as well known," noted James City resident Austin Pham.

I think, my dear readers, that this may be the last article I write for you. The last bathroom alliterations and over the top intros you will hear from me. I want to thank you for reading my column. And to all those

I interviewed, thank you for your exquisite and inspirational quotes. Thank you — Jake

The Boys State Band

Edgardo “Jed” Gonzales - Washington City

The Virginia Boys State Band is a traditional concert band consisting of Virginia Boys State citizens, who volunteered to join. Members were encouraged to bring along their instruments during the week of the event to audition for the opportunity to join the band. The band is taught by instructor Christopher Fens, veteran of the Marine Corps, who received his Bachelor's cum laude and Master's magna cum laude in Music Education at Virginia Commonwealth University. He has orchestrated the boys, who started out as strangers at the beginning of the week, into a rich and applause-worthy band in a matter of a few hours during Sunday.

The Boys State Band has performed each and every day of the program's week-long duration, for assembly events in the Preston Bondurant Hall. They play to create an exciting atmosphere, honor the distinguished guest speakers and serve ceremonial presentations. Members of the band are extremely talented, with some even performing in the Talent Show. Some played in a jazz quartet performance, while others

performed solo pieces. Clearly a talented group of young men with bright futures ahead of them.

Poem: An Ode to Our Nation

Joshua Coleman - Eisenhower City

Look and see,
The spangled sky,
Bought in bliss.
Out of brave struggle,
Of honor unbound.
A nation rose from the sea,
To peaks on high.
And came the isles of freedom,
As man against man fought,
A new hope born.
The minds of many dreamed,
The light of day began to dawn.
Here the wonder came,
Here the stars shone,
A master of cherry,
A wrangler of lightning,
A writer of rights,
And a new nation was made.

College Day Registered Schools

- Belmont Abbey College
- Bluefield State University
- Bridgewater College
- Bryant University
- Catholic University of America
- Chowan University
- Christopher Newport University
- Concord University
- East Carolina University
- East Tennessee State University
- Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
- Emory & Henry College
- Fairmont State University
- Geneva College
- Glenville State College
- Hampden-Sydney College
- Hood College
- James Madison University
- Johns Hopkins University
- Liberty University
- Longwood University
- Marshall University
- Mary Baldwin University
- Marymount University
- Old Dominion University
- Radford University
- Randolph College
- Randolph Macon College
- Regent University
- Roanoke College
- Shenandoah University
- University of South Carolina
- U.S. Merchant Marine Academy
- U.S. Military Academy at West Point
- U.S. Naval Academy
- University of Alabama
- University of Lynchburg
- University of Mississippi (Ole Miss)
- University of Richmond
- University of Virginia
- Virginia Commonwealth University
- Virginia Military Institute
- Virginia State Police
- Virginia Tech
- Virginia Tech Army ROTC (VT Corps of Cadets)
- Virginia Wesleyan University
- West Liberty University
- West Virginia University
- York College of Pennsylvania