

# OWEN



## The Boys State Chronicle

Volume 81, Issue 5

“A SCREECH OF FREEDOM”

June 21, 2024

Designed by Taebeen Han

Editors: Nathan Benyame, Eli Kopp, Anthony Xu

[www.vaboysstate.org](http://www.vaboysstate.org) @vaboysstate

# Your Newly Elected

---

Nathan Benyame - *Gravelly City*

## The Honorable Governor Owen Hupp

---

Owen Hupp, the 81st Governor of Virginia Boys State, is a citizen of Gravelly city. Governor Hupp begun his political career as a candidate for the Mayor of Gravelly. Initially, Hupp did not see success in his Mayoral election. As a matter of fact, Hupp did not even get past the initial round of voting of candidates within his own Federalist Party. Dejected, as he told me, Hupp planned afterwards to merely resign towards playing Brawl Stars in the hopes of passing the days by quickly. However, somewhere along the line, Hupp decided to change his attitude, and take his shot.

Owen made his appearance at the Federalist Party Convention, becoming notorious for his “Shaggy” persona embodied in his hairstyle. After each round of voting, his margins gradually increased, up until the fateful third round, which “Shaggy” won the Federalist Nomination 125-62. As it became apparent that he was the contender to the explosively popular Kyle Soliday, it was time to abandon the old persona and simply become “Owen” for his campaign, meeting with city mayors and officials, and solidifying his commitment to provide 2-ply TP.

Yesterday, at the podium, Owen introduced his campaign planks, emphasizing 2-ply toilet paper, even bringing fresh rolls into the crowd, which was key to solidify his 257-123 victory against Kyle.

David Foster - *James City*

## The Honorable Lt. Governor Aarya Rajashekara

---

Aarya Rajashekara, the 81st Lieutenant Governor of Virginia Boys State, is a citizen of James City. After rigorously campaigning and debating over two days, Aarya came out on top and won the election amongst applause and boos. During the party conventions Aarya, after winning by one vote, caused quite the scandal. One of the City representatives counted their votes incorrectly leading to two votes not counted. This possibly won Aarya the nomination and he took that to heart. During the final debates, Aarya rallied both parties behind the idea of unity. He vows to make the senate run smoothly and effectively to pass bills and let all ideas be heard. Another important item to note, Aarya will be next in line for the position of Governor if our currently elected governor, Owen, is impeached and voted out. However Aarya has said that he would be opposed to a removal of the governor.

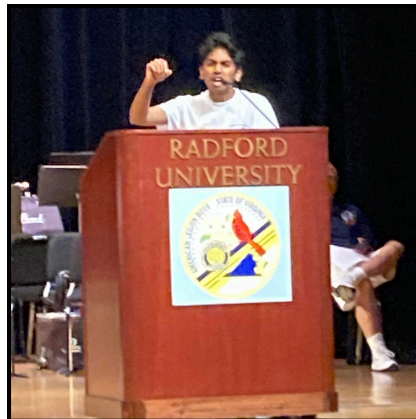


Photo credit: Eli Kopp

Joey Schlatter - *MacArthur City*

## The Honorable Attorney General Austin Clayton

---

Austin Clayton, the 81st Attorney General of Virginia Boys State, is a citizen of MacArthur City and current member of the 81st Governor’s Cabinet. Following a successful cityside campaign to rise up the judicial ranks, Clayton quickly rose to the position of the Federalist nominee for the Boys State Attorney General through his fervent passion for any given subject, extensive knowledge of amateur law, a desire to be assertive, and his vehement ambition to act as a safeguard for the citizens of Boys State, vowing to embody the principles of freedom and liberty. Although it was a relatively close call, the victory became clearer as the voting process steadily progressed, and Clayton was officially sworn in yesterday to immensely positive reception.

Born with limb-girdle muscular dystrophy and accompanied by his canine companion Nabs, Clayton never allowed that physical hinderence to obtrude in his vast ambitions for history and law, with a prominent example of this perseverance being Clayton speaking to an audience at Capitol Hill at the age of twelve. This event, among others, ignited a spark that continues to fuel any effort he decides to endeavor on, and it is evident that he has impacted the like-minded citizens of MacArthur in innumerable ways, serving as a radiant source of humor and positivity and proving that, despite what may ail you, you can overcome any obstacle with the right initiative.

# Meet the Supreme Court

---

*AUSTIN HALTERMAN, TIM HAKIM,  
SHANE HIGGINS, CADEN JOE, CODY MIN,  
MAANAV SHAH, OM SHARMA*

---

## Governor Hupp's Cabinet

<b>JACK NORMAN</b>	<i>Bradley</i>	<b>CHIEF OF STAFF</b>
<b>NATHAN MARX</b>	<i>Gravelly</i>	<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>
<b>NOAH GEAREY</b>	<i>Marshall</i>	<b>AGRICULTURE &amp; FORESTRY</b>
<b>NICHOLAS VITATOE</b>	<i>Patton</i>	<b>COMMERCE &amp; TRADE</b>
<b>AUSTIN CLAYTON</b>	<i>MacArthur</i>	<b>COMMONWEALTH</b>
<b>CONNOR BYERS</b>	<i>Eisenhower</i>	<b>EDUCATION</b>
<b>JORDAN MUTOTI</b>	<i>Burke</i>	<b>FINANCE</b>
<b>ELI LAIRD</b>	<i>Marshall</i>	<b>HEALTH &amp; HR</b>
<b>ANDREW WANG</b>	<i>Puller</i>	<b>NATURAL RESOURCES</b>
<b>SCOTT MENDENHALL</b>	<i>Gravelly</i>	<b>PUBLIC SAFETY</b>
<b>TRAVIS DELK-REYES</b>	<i>Henry</i>	<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>
<b>AARON LOPEZ</b>	<i>Washington</i>	<b>VETERAN &amp; DEFENSE AFFAIRS</b>



# ELECTION CONTROVERSY

Diego Quintanar-Pena - Eisenhower City

It's been tense here at Boys State. A highly contested election in which against all odds nominee William Jackson gathered an impressive 12% of the vote (solely through write in votes), this cycle will stand out in Boys State history for many reasons. Controversy about Owen "Shaggy" Hupp's speech stemmed from a controversial stunt in which he threw rolls of toilet paper into the crowd. Sadly, Hupp's victory has managed to not bring the stability and unity expected after the race, as word has spread that many are in favor of his impeachment, and some articles of impeachment are already on the table in the legislative sessions.

While it is unclear if the origin of these grievances are personal and petty, valid questions have been raised about shady moments during his campaign. The toilet paper passed out during his speech was one point of contention. While seemingly a popular move at first, after some thought, many expressed the concern that the rolls might constitute bribery. Rule 2 in the flag book states that campaign "literature or materials must be procured within the confines of the Radford University campus" (Flagbook 17). Even though it was a counselor who is said to have obtained the rolls for him, many still view this as a violation of the rule, since we all know there isn't a bathroom on campus that has two-ply rolls. Another question is whether the rolls could be considered campaign materials. If so, Rule 6 would have been violated, as "no campaign materials ... will be permitted on the speakers' stand in any lecture hall" (Flagbook 17). Even though the stunt took place in Preston Hall, the argument could be made that throughout the week, it served the function of a lecture hall since it was the only building with enough seating for the entire population of Boys State, and therefore he might be logically guilty of violating Rule 6.

Hupp's inauguration was hardly an elegant affair. Disillusioned supporters of William Jackson contributed to the sense of unease. The governor's address, which he clumsily stumbled through did little to garner the support of his opponents. This was illustrated by his closing line, which was supposed to be received in thundering applause. It was taken from our Boys State Song, praising "our great legion at old R.U." Instead of a standing ovation, there was awkward mumbling and scattered cheering. As the ceremony continued, the assembly became uncontrollable, as starting with awkward shuffling and laughs, near disruptive applause erupted, which went on for nearly five minutes. Finally, the Speaker of the House had to personally call for order, and even then, applause peppered and interrupted the ceremonial proceedings. All that noise only indicated the storm brewing elsewhere, as even during the inauguration mayors and citizens alike mobilized through word of mouth and in online group chats, discussing their discontent with the election results and throwing around wild ideas from secession to impeachment. There must be some consensus, and seeing as today is the last legislative session, it is unclear how far this will go. If impeached, Hupp will be the first Governor in Virginia Boys State history to be impeached. We wait anxiously and look to our elected legislators to represent the wishes of their constituents. Next steps are unclear. Some are of the opinion that the issue may end up before the Supreme Court, while some consider that the Board of Elections might be called to testify, as they hold authority on determining a violation of campaign rules. Hopefully today will bring us closure, as what was supposed to be a near uncontested election has turned into a quickly unraveling administration, gripping on for life in a race against time, as today may be his last day as Governor only if the legislature reaches consensus on the issue of his impeachment. We may very soon be addressing a Governor Aarya Rajashekara.





# Talent Show

All pictures by Taebeen Han

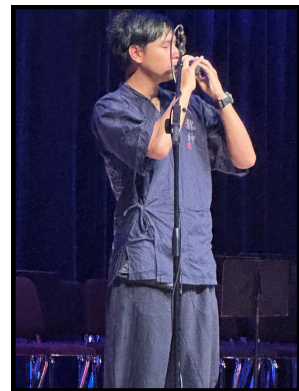
## Taebeen Han - Marshall City

Tiny font for today, everyone. Wow, the talent show was amazing. I have a bunch of pictures for you guys to see (I might be the best photographer in any city (ignore the quality please)), and I hope you guys enjoy this recap of the Talent Show from the 81st Boys State (the best)!

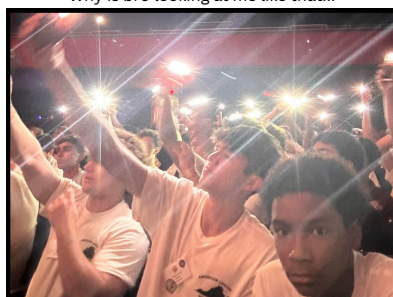
The first talent, from Guy “Donald” Howerton, started the talent show off with a bang, supported by shouts and claps from the crowd. Then, Josh Slagle came up on stage to play the “Last Dance” by Floyd Cramer, followed by a magic trick from Alan Pellissier (with Governor Owen Hupp as the volunteer). Alan performed a series of magic tricks (involving two - or was it three? - pieces of rope and a deck of cards), which led to some residents of Marshall City shouting, “What the sigma?” Next, our very own reporter Diego Quintanar-Peña played the “Sicilian” by von Paradis on the violin, providing the crowd with an impressive and emotional performance (the shifting was on point). Then, Evan Kreckman presented a rifle exhibition drill, spinning his rifle with one hand, two hands, throwing the rifle into the air, catching it, and much more. Next (I’m using too many transition words in a row), Hunter Walton came up on stage to perform the “Lacrimosa” by Mozart and excerpt of posterity from the movie “Tenant.” Oh wait, I forgot to mention that Mr. Guy “Donald” Howerton showed up to give a speech, causing loud shouts and noise from the crowd. Oh my goodness, it’s Marshall City resident: our very own Brandon Smith! He played “Viva La Vida” by Coldplay on an ocarina, causing the crowd to turn on the flashlight on their phones to wave along.



Guy Howerton opening up the talent show with the “Star Spangled Banner” on the electrical guitar.



Marshall City’s Brandon Smith playing



Why is bro looking at me like that...

After, another from our newspaper “club,” Anthony Xu, played “The Seasons ‘June’” by Tchaikovsky. I wrote “smooth to snappy in an instant” in my notes, and it perfectly describes his performance as well as the piece. After the fabulous performances mentioned above, the show took a turn when all the Supreme Court Justices were invited on stage by Ethan Edwards and Jacob Lindgren to help mix up the rubik’s cube they were planning on solving. Then, a competition of sorts began



Supreme Court Justices mixing rubik’s cubes for Ethan Edwards and Jacob Lindgren.

Afterward, our reporter Diego Quintanar-Peña appeared again, with Malcolm Cornish and Landyn Llewellyn, to perform the “Ashoken Farewell”: Diego played the violin, Malcolm the mandolin, and Landyn the guitar. After the wonderful performance, Scott Mendenhall, donning a wooden stick



From the left: Malcolm Cornish, Diego Quintanar-Peña, and Landyn Llewellyn playing an acoustic trio



MacPhearson Strassberg playing a bagpipe medley

(a sword), and a shorter stick (a dagger), showed sword and martial arts demonstrations. Then, another of our report-ers, MacPhearson Strassberg, came in the hall wearing a MacPhearson Clan Kilt and traditional Scottish attire. He played a medley of “Scotland the Brave, God Bless America, and The Marine Hymn” on bagpipes over 200 years old, which was incredible Next, Brett Fields, with his electric guitar, played

“Eruption” by Van Halen, leading to applause and cheers from the crowd (maybe a bit too loud, but the noise added to the hype. Also, I noted that there were phones in the air recording, which added to the hype and loudness/chaos even more. But hey, that’s the point of these shows: to have fun. Next... James Riffe and Collin Baron in a duo comedic thespian, performing Batman and Robin. Need I say more? Here are some of the pictures.



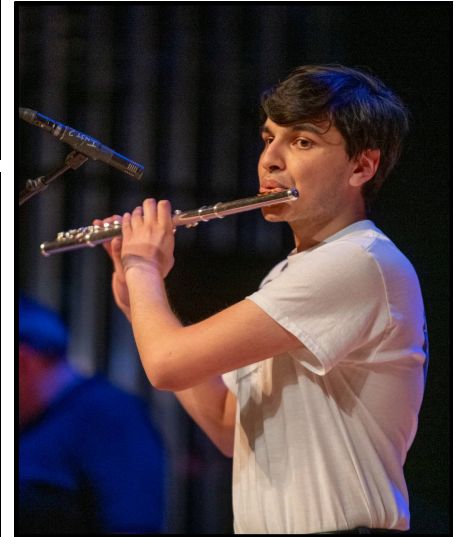
Literally the funniest skit/performance... it almost made me think that the characters (especially Poison Ivy) wasn’t a character at all, but the real persona... But on a more serious note, the acting and the comedic moves were on point and was so good.

As we near the finale of this amazing show (the duo comedy took like 17 minutes... 17 minutes of laughter), Landyn Llewellyn appeared on stage again to perform “Tennessee Whiskey” by Chris Stapleton with his guitar & vocal, which the crowd sang along to. Then, Anuj Damle, a fellow Marshall City resident, performed “Spain” by Chic-Corea on his flute, which sounded amazing (I also put in my notes “ ‘Oh he’s hit that’ from someone behind me” as Anuj played high notes). Finally, but definitely not least, Duke Flanagan played “Great Balls of Fire” by Jerry Lee Lewis on the piano & vocal, which the crowd sang and tapped along to. That concludes the 81st Virginia Boys State Talent Show recap! Thank you for reading!



# Talent Show Pictures

Photo credit: Andrew Wilds



## Sports

Nicholas Hourihan - *Washington City*

The Boys State sports tournament has come to an end, and the two most notable tournament brackets, soccer and flag football, were both won by Gravelly. An abundance of physical prowess was displayed by Gravelly in both sports. Gravelly won 32-24 vs. Patton in flag football, and Gravelly won over James 2-1 in sudden death (overtime). Sadly no interviews were taken of both cities participating in the championships. If you're curious on what Gravelly, or Patton has to say about their matches, make sure to ask them yourselves!

The whiffle ball Boys State champions are Washington City... which won by forfeit. Nonetheless, all cities benefitted from participating because merit points are earned through participation and sportsmanlike conduct. The cities that showed respect certainly earned them, and they could be crucial merit points to deliver their cities the win for best city!

There was also an additional physical activity at flags which was tug of war. Hype surrounded the unexpected event, and there were a few showoffs finished. The disappointing aspect was that the competition was never finished, and did not leave the citizens' competitive spirit satiated.

## Food Review

Taebeen Han - *Marshall City*

Food review is back, baby! For breakfast, the menu consisted of some scrambled eggs, chopped potatoes, gravy, biscuits, and pancakes (with syrup) - pretty much the usual other than the pancakes. Breakfast was pretty good, nothing too special. I'll rate it a decent 6/10. ★★★★★★☆☆☆☆

For lunch, the menu was General Tso's chicken, some rice, vegetable chow mein, broccoli, and cauliflower. I asked around, and the general opinion on the chicken - the main dish - was that it was pretty good. It had a decent kick to it, which made it more flavorful. However, the rice and chow mein was a bit lackluster, with the noodles being a bit *off* in terms of texture and the rice being just a tad bland. I'll rate it a 8/10. ★★★★★★☆☆☆☆

Finally, dinner was... yeah. At least the peach cobbler was good. Joshua from Bradley City told me that the peach cobbler was a "9/10" in terms of Radford food, whatever that means. Anyway, the chicken was fine (a bit bland for my liking) and the Spanish rice was really bland, like really really bland. I'll rate it a 7/10 just because of the cobbler. ★★★★★★☆☆☆☆

# GUILTY!

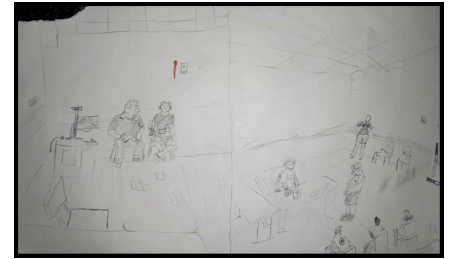
## *City of Gravely v. Nicholas Colletti*

The city of Gravely has found Nicholas Colletti - a former Nationalist candidate for Lieutenant Governor - guilty of Vandalism by Circuit Court Judge Jon Bolander. The initial crime took place on June 19th, 2024, when the defendant defaced victim John Thompson's - a former Nationalist candidate - room nametag. Alongside the defaced property, Colletti placed a note explaining to Thompson why he was a 'poor candidate', which was presented as evidence in the trial. The Sheriff Ethan Bryant confronted Colletti about the event, to which he received a written admission of guilt. Colletti's counsel for the trial was Electoral Board Member Nitish Shah.

However, after Colletti requested to see his summons, noting his concern that he couldn't be prosecuted without his parents around (this was not relevant as he was officially 18 under Boys State rule as to vote). Then, in a shock to the public gallery, he chose to plead "No Contest", nullifying his defense. When asked by Bolander if he was to represent himself or receive counsel, he immediately fired his attorney, choosing to represent himself, and then - admittedly, confusingly - changed his plea to "Not Guilty", at which a recess was called. Later, Commonwealth Attorney (and Supreme Court Justice), Om Sharma, presented the admission letter as evidence. Colletti asked how the court knew the letter was *his*, to which Judge Bolander read aloud from the letter:

*"This says admission of guilt by Colletti."*

To this, Colletti responded by asking how the court knew that *he* wrote that. In the end, Colletti was found guilty and ordered to pay \$10 restitution and write an apology letter to John Thompson.



Courtroom Sketch, by Secy. Scott Mendenhall

## *City of James vs. Jayce Joyner*



The city of James has found Jayce Joyner - city council - guilty by Circuit Court Judge Timothy Spera. Lets start from the beginning. According to the circuit court judge, "The story was Jace Joyner took Evan Kreckman's bed and put it in the common room." Jayce Joyner, while Evan Kreckman, the victim, accused Joyce of emotional damage, theft, and vandalism of his personal, and city property. Jayce was defended by Jackson Jones, a moot court lawyer, and prosecuted by Brennan Polson. After a long argument, Jayce was found guilty on all charges against him. The really interesting part is the punishment implemented upon Jayce that revived a nationalist party voting topic.

Joyce's punishment, for all counts, was not a fine or apology letter. It was **Seven Minutes in Evan's Closet**. After the seven minutes were up, Jayce was let free as a "changed" man. As a result of the conviction, however, James city fell into chaos with frequent ding dong ditching, and even taking a mattress outside instead of the common room. The result of this was noise complaints form citizens who were trying to get sleep. Overall, a very eventful trial that ended in a rather peculiar punishment.

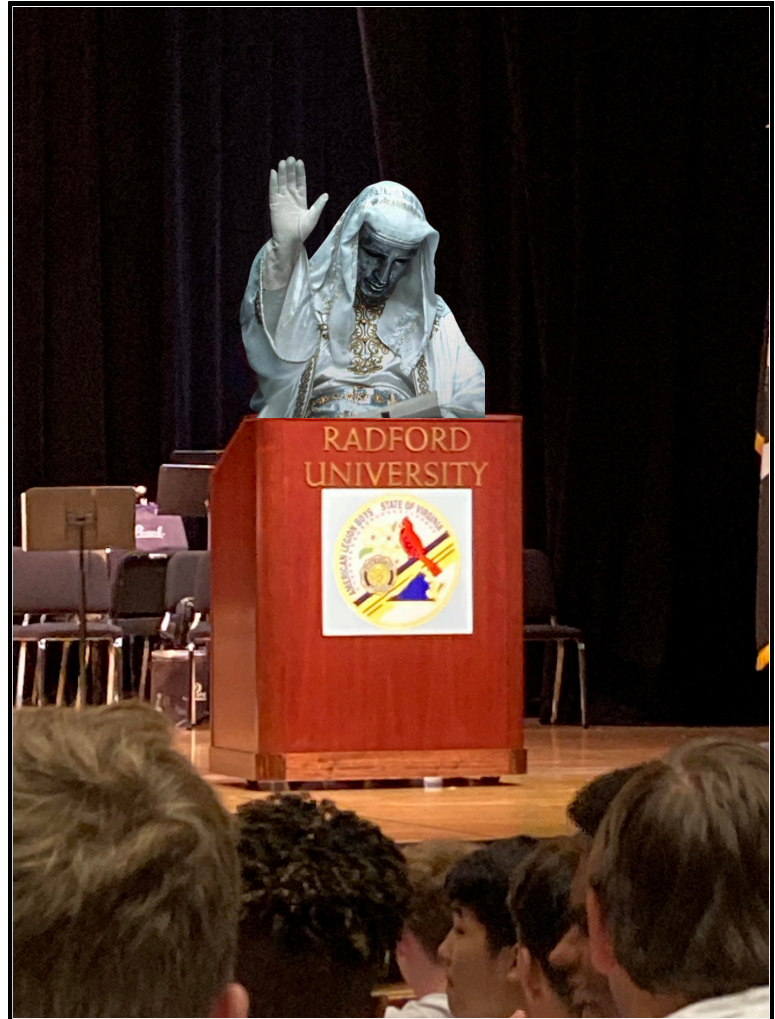


# The Rise & Fall of Kyle Soliday

Shatique Willis - Henry City

Going from unknown and irrelevant to the Nationalist party's candidate for Governor is something some citizens may consider an impossibility, but Kyle Soliday had done it; he rose from insignificance into the spotlight. Keep in mind, his boost in popularity happened in 24 hours, only one day; all because he proposed "tickle time" during his first speech for the primary election. The general populace of Boys State messed with his energy, thought he was funny, and somewhat enjoyed his speech. This is what got Kyle to be the Nationalist's candidate for Governor.

After passing the primary election, Kyle seemed to have grown a bit of an inflated ego, as he silenced the crowd with the mere raising of a hand during his speech. It seemed that the crowd had grown a little too cheery for his liking, and he needed to put them in their place in order to deliver his oh-so-convincing speech. After speaking to a handful of Boys State citizens, many felt thought it was funny, many thought it was kind of a d#@! move; some people even described his movement as an "Aura Blast" to shut up the audience. This really only seemed to spark his decline in popularity and the ferocious and speedy downfall of Kyle Soliday.



I luckily had the opportunity to interview him today. Very surprisingly, Kyle was kind of oblivious to his immediate lack of popularity. I informed him about the things said about him, and he claimed that it was "the opps" out to get him; which he's correct, people do in fact not really "fw" Kyle Soliday.

# College Day Colleges

---

Eli Kopp - *Burke City*

**College Day will take place on Friday the 21st from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM in the Radford Student Rec and Wellness Center featuring the following colleges/universities:**

Belmont Abbey College	Regent University
Berea College	Roanoke College
Chowan University	St. Andrews University
Christopher Newport University	The Citadel
Concord University	University of Alabama
East Carolina University	University of Lynchburg
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University	University of Mississippi
Emory & Henry College	University of Richmond
Fairmont State University	University of Virginia
Ferrum College	University of Virginia at Wise
George Mason University	U.S. Coast Guard Academy
Glenville State College	U.S. Military Academy at West Point
Hampden-Sydney College	U.S. Naval Academy
Hood College	Virginia Commonwealth University
James Madison University	Virginia Military Institute
Johns Hopkins University	Virginia State Police
Liberty University	Virginia Tech
Longwood University	Virginia Tech Army ROTC (VT Corps of Cadets)
Mississippi State University	Virginia Wesleyan University
Old Dominion University	West Liberty University
Radford University	West Virginia University
Randolph College	
Randolph Macon College	

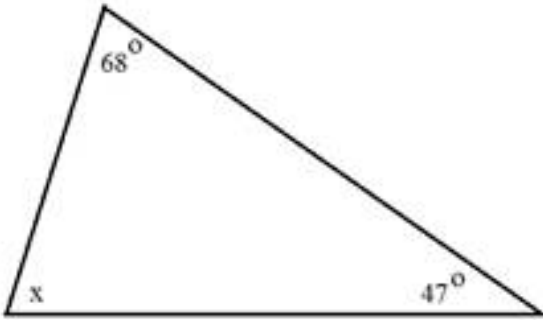
# Games

## Groovy Geometry

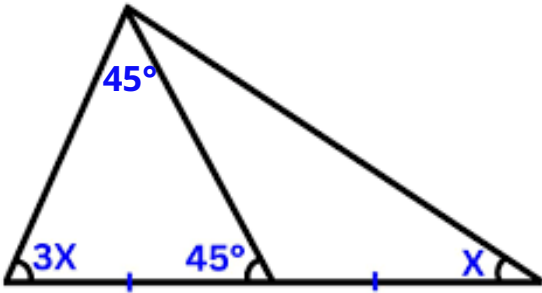
(Answers at Bottom of Page)

Silas Green - Nimitz City

1. Find the value of X in the triangle below:



2. Find the value of X in the figure below:



3. If the hypotenuse of an isosceles right triangle is 14, what is the area of the triangle, assuming that the total area of the triangle is not greater than 1443.2 sq. ft.?

- A. 49
- B. 144
- C. 63
- D. 64

## Word Scramble

Cole McConnell - Puller City

LABYEDR \_\_\_\_\_

UBKER \_\_\_\_\_

HEWESROEIN \_\_\_\_\_

LEYGARV \_\_\_\_\_

RNYEH \_\_\_\_\_

SMAEJ \_\_\_\_\_

TNGAHIOWSN \_\_\_\_\_

LRPULE \_\_\_\_\_

NPTTAO \_\_\_\_\_

MZTINI \_\_\_\_\_

AHMRLSLA \_\_\_\_\_

MHUTACRAR \_\_\_\_\_

SPRNETO \_\_\_\_\_

IHLLEMPH \_\_\_\_\_

KOCO \_\_\_\_\_

FEMTOTF \_\_\_\_\_

OLBILGN \_\_\_\_\_

NSIGLE \_\_\_\_\_