

SD The Statesman Daily

Welcome, Citizens!

-Andy Pan

The 82nd Session of Virginia Boys State is off to an excellent start. After an expedient check-in process on a beautiful Sunday afternoon, the citizens were given a broad instruction on Boys State in its entirety, along with the rules and standards citizens are held to.

The seeds for various political campaigns have been planted, political capital expended, and deals created. The week ahead holds many important alliances, nominations, and elections. A brief overview of the election schedule follows:

Monday - Nominations for Mayor, Senate & House of Delegates.

Tuesday - Elections for above at 9:30 AM.

Wednesday - Nominations for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, and Supreme Court.

Thursday - Elections for the three former positions at 10:15 AM.

Elections for the Moot Court, Sheriff, Chaplain, Athletic Director, and Newspaper Reporters have already occurred. The excitement of the citizens in their political and civic engagement was demonstrated by the competitiveness of many elections. For instance, 17 people competed for positions

in the MacArthur Moot Court while 10 people ran in Gravelly City. Primaries are being planned all over Radford in order to put forward each party's best candidate, further demonstrating the palpable enthusiasm of the citizens at Boys State.

Intense Rain Cancels Flag Ceremony

-Camden Fowler

Although anticipated, the sudden outburst of rain came as a shock to Boys State. Due to intense weather, the flag lowering ceremony was cancelled. Rain and storms are expected on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, begging the question of how it will impact the week's events.



New Chaplain in Washington City!

- Written Rydell Wilkins

The citizens of Washington City met together and have decided on a City Chaplain. Elijah Wiles was selected by his peers to represent Washington City. "It feels

pretty good. I'm glad; That's what I came for. I came here—I said you know what, I'm gonna be chaplain, so you know what I came in with the attitude and it was pretty nice to get it. I feel pretty anointed to get it if that. Since I was born, my family actually founded their own church and I've been involved in the church my whole life. Umm, I felt a strong calling to minister ever since I was very little, and I still feel that calling to this day" said Elijah Wiles (11).

Cross City Ping-Pong

-Camden Fowler

Burke and Henry Cities had a fascinating interaction on their first day. Throughout the free time provided, the two cities played Ping Pong together, possibly foreshadowing a possible future alliance between the cities.



Attitude, Effort and Admiral Dash

-Paul Manetto

The featured speaker of the night, Coast Guard Rear Admiral Russell Dash and

Virginia Boys State Alumni, delivered a passionate speech to the attendants of Virginia Boy State, welcoming them to the program and highlighting three pairs of values needed for them to succeed both in the program and in life; attitude and effort, patriotism and citizenship, along with opportunity and responsibility. To begin the speech, Adm. Dash recalled his time at Boys State and his pondering of the question "why am I here?" To answer it, Dash used a quote from Mark Twain "The two most important days in your life are the day you are born and the day you find out why." Dash dissented from Twain's opinion, saying, "if you live your life the right way...you are going to have more than one moment when you realize why you were born". Throughout the first portion of his talk, Dash had repeatedly connected his key points to the themes of attitude and effort, moving into the next section, he switched focus to highlighting the value of patriotism and responsibility of citizenship. He noted that benefits always come with responsibility, and that—with many Boys State Citizens coming of age soon—the responsibilities of citizenship, chiefly the duty to vote, will soon come into play. Dash quotes that "the threat [to democracy] today is probably greater [than when Boys State was founded] that threat is apathy", that being the lack of citizens voting and the lack of a proper education on the key issues. Dash notes that patriotism combined with citizenship is crucial and encourages Boys State Delegates to be grateful and proud of the country they are a part of. The final section of Admiral Dash's talk focused on opportunity and responsibility. Dash

emphasised four key tenets of a responsible citizen; following the law, paying taxes, remaining informed and educated, and serving in your community. These responsibilities empower the opportunity provided by citizenship, from healthcare to justice to education. To close his talk out, Dash left his audience with a piece of advice “Embrace the opportunity with the right attitude and effort!”

Gravelly Grit in Gravelly City

-Om Chhibber

In a remarkable display of determination and perseverance, Paul Toof, a resident of Gravelly City, earned delegate status in his city for Moot Court after having lost two previous elections. His unwavering persistence to represent his city truly reflects his strong character—embodying resilience, perseverance, and a deep sense of commitment. Paul’s bravery in confronting failure not once, but twice, and his ability to secure success, showcase his dedication and courage in the face of adversity.

What's up with James city?

-William Hoosier

Jason Woodard, a federalist, James’s city chaplain when asked about his position “I’m excited to be chaplain because I’m going to be able to help people grow and explore through faith at boys state.” Alongside James Nick Kellon, a federalist, (far left in picture 2) was elected sheriff while Janmanuel R. was elected athletic director

for James city. Even with a dominant party, James city is still regularly hanging out even playing blackjack for about an hour today as a city because they are able to put aside their differences.



Surprise Sight

-William Hoosier

Miraculously today a rainbow manifested inside the cafeteria inspiring hope in many of our young delegates just hours before they ran for roles that will shape their near future. This may also inspire new awakenings for delegates who have already lost some roles they may have wanted.



Sounds of Freedom:

Band & Chorus take center stage at Virginia Boys State 2025

-Felix Garcia

The 82nd session of the Virginia Boys State program has begun, and one artistic element shines brightly: the program's band and chorus.

Under the leadership of band director Christopher Fens and Chorus Director and Chaplain Demas Boudreaux, dozens of delegates who brought their instruments or vocal talent gather daily to rehearse patriotic melodies, hymns, and commemorative pieces.

A Background of Civic Tradition

Beyond their aesthetic value, the band and chorus bring solemnity and cultural coherence to the program. Their performances act as a unifying thread that ties together the patriotic spirit of the event with the practical learning of democracy and citizenship.



Conclusion: The band and chorus of Virginia Boys State 2025 are not just cultural additions - they are an essential component that brings solemnity, rhythm, and civic pride to the program. Every chord and voice reinforces the core message of the week: music, like politics, requires harmony, coordination, and a shared purpose.



Ordered Chaos:

-Enoch Tan

Music, beautiful music... is not what we were producing at our first rehearsal for chorus. Whether pushed by their counselors or going of their own volition, 50+ boys braved the pouring rain to go practice their melodies. Despite initial discordance and some funny looks from our director, we pushed through our initial unfamiliarity to hit our notes, stay on tempo, and add a little extra spit to our "p"s and "t"s. This culminated in our singing of the national anthem at the opening of Boys State, in zealous 4 part harmony.

We stayed on pitch... mostly. And stuck to our rhythm... kinda. But that's alright! Our singing not only marked the beginning of Boys State, but embodied its nature. Though unsure at first, we learn the notes and sing the refrains with the hope that our hesitant warbles would be transformed into an spectacular symphony by the end of the week. Now that we've started, all that's left is to continue our song and explore the opportunities and challenges set before us, no matter how unknown. Let's see what we can do this week!

Public Commentary from Citizens of Boys State

Why I Hate Packing

-W. Joel Simpson

I hate packing! Packing is the bane of my existence! Whether packing for school, day trips, overnights, or week-or-more adventures, the stress of packing for any event always seems to sabotage an optimistic attitude. Am I packing too much or too little? Will I remember everything? Will all my stuff fit in the suitcase? While there are methods to prevent packing mishaps, no matter how much experience you have, almost nobody packs perfectly. I can guarantee that nearly every citizen here forgot to add something to their suitcase before arriving.

While we may forget things to bring, and while we may know that we will never pack perfectly. Personally, I am not stressed by the fact that I will forget things; most of the time I can improvise with the resources around me. Reflecting on my feelings about the individual facets of packing, I speak for myself in saying and concluding that my distaste of packing is probably misattributed, and the stress I feel when packing probably comes from stress I feel about the unknown I am packing for.

Coming to Boys State, no matter how many documentaries or YouTube videos I watched, the experience ahead of me was still largely unknown. I imagine that other citizens have felt the same way. While each of us has our own individual stressors, I am comforted that I am not the

only anxious citizen that walked in yesterday. I can be confident that many of our stresses will be relieved as the week progresses. Chances are, if you're feeling some way, there are others here that feel the same way, and these shared emotions can foster connections with your fellow citizens. So go out there knowing you're not alone and try to connect with somebody.

Spirituality in a Diverse America

-Cabot Fisher

"For God and Country." These words, found in the preamble to the Constitution of the American Legion, guide the actions of both the Legion and Boys State. While it mentions God, the Legion takes special care to ensure that no religion is given favor or discriminated against. Given how Boys State is non-denominational, the chaplains thought it important to ensure the religious services highlight the different faiths found within both Boys State and our Great Nation. As someone raised in a mixed-faith household, I am especially aware of how different faiths can come together under shared principals and values. While the majority of the chaplaincy may belong to a certain religion, they were excited about the opportunity to highlight different faiths, and bring their own stories throughout the spiritual journey at Boys State. The chaplains plan to highlight different themes throughout the week reflected in both America and the various faiths found within her. One Chaplain said "We want to make everyone feel welcomed and comfortable but also be able to enjoy their faith and beliefs". We look forward to seeing the various stories shared across the week.

Questions from citizens on Admiral Dash's lecture on:

- *Javier Garcia, Bradley City*

1. What is the biggest difference between a bad and a good leader?
 - A bad leader has attributes of pride; whereas, a good leader has attributes aimed for the people.
2. How do you motivate someone who has a lack of effort?
 - When someone isn't motivated due to an effect of *lack of skill*, it is easy to deal with. On the contrary, people who aren't motivated due to a *lack of will* power are harder to deal with.
 - The main counter to unmotivated individuals would be to simply find what motivates them as a person. (ex. personal goals)
3. How do you get people to follow you?
 - You need to be able to *understand* people, and above all, you need to always *value* your workers.
4. How do you cooperate with other people that have different viewpoints than you?
 - You first need to ask *why* they think this way. *Avoid buzzwords* within your argument because you need to prove what is genuine to you.
5. What are the character traits of a leader that are needed as well as their workers?

- *Positivity*
 - *Proactivity*
 - *Collaboration*
 - **Credibility* → believe and do what you say to gain trust
6. What is more dangerous to have on your team, an apathetic person or a misinformed person?
- When misinformation *leads to bad action*, a misinformed person is worse.



Image of Admiral Russell E. Dash (Taken from history.uscg.mil/About/Biographies)

****Attention all citizens! Statesman Times is now accepting campaign ads in the local newspaper. Contact your city's news reporter!****

Sudoku of the Day

Made by *Javier Garcia, Bradley City*

-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	9
9	-	-	-	3	-	4	-	5
-	-	-	7	5	-	2	1	-
-	-	-	9	8	7	-	4	1
7	1	-	-	6	4	5	9	-
-	-	6	5	1	2	-	7	8
3	-	-	-	9	-	1	2	6
-	2	1	8	-	-	9	5	-
-	4	9	-	2	-	-	3	-