

What is Boys State?

- Rydell Wilkins, Washington City

A week with the brightest young leaders in the state of Virginia. But what does Boys State actually mean? Well, according to Grant Gilman, Nationalist (N) “Boys State means hard work and dedication and surely having that pride for your country.” While Jack Statham, Federalist (F), “Boys State to me is a program to improve citizenship skills and patriotism to our country but more so to develop us as leaders.” Next, Jacob Corbett (F) said, “Boys State for me is an opportunity for the youth of America to step up in their community, step up in their state and step up in their nation to become the leaders tomorrow.” Then Gregory Garecht (F) said, “It's very important, it's a collection of young inspiring leaders, we are the next wave of people to run the county”. All excellent answers! Boys State is all of these. Sponsored by the American Legion, the purpose of Boys State is essentially to strengthen young men's leadership skills, build team work and provide young men with a glimpse into state politics.



Two of the most positive outcomes of the program were teamwork and friendship and demonstrated in the pictures. One of the many ways citizens of all cities bond is through meal time. This is essential in the further development of leadership as leaders need to be able to connect with people to exchange a wide diversity of ideas in order to solve complex problems. This is the foundation of strong leadership.



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City of Patton**



Heart to Help

-William Hoosier, James City

Travis Hackworth, a 5th district senate member, had a passionate speech earlier today detailing his willingness to help the economic backbone of the towns under his jurisdiction, jobs. He started with a passionate speech about the state of southwest Virginia; he then went on about how he was helping to bring bills to help his town.

Travis has also shown a passion for starting businesses in his areas to help the economy, with him stating "...we are very passionate about starting businesses," along with his stance on innovation, which are both shown in the bills he has tried to pass. Furthermore, his stance to befriend every person you can, with him commenting "Always find common ground" and "you always need relationships to succeed" show just how much of a role model he can be for many at Boys State.



Image provided by Ballotpedia

Walking by Faith: Honorable Wendell Walker

-Enoch Tan, Eisenhower City

Today, the citizens of Boys State had the opportunity to listen to a variety of outstanding speakers. This included Wendell Walker, the 52nd district representative. He started by quizzing the audience on various trivia about the history of the Virginian government. Following this, Mr. Walker emphasized the importance of the delegate's role in giving people hope and cited his faith in God as the foundation of his political career. Throughout his speech, Wendell outlined his political approach of practicing empathy and writing "non-political bills," bills not tied to a specific party affiliation but meant to help the people in his district. Wendell believes that carrying a learning mindset into the assembly meetings is critical to collaboration between different parties. "What can I learn that's something new, and why can't I share that with someone else?" Delegate Walker's open-minded empathy serves as an example to our political appointees to continue engaging in meaningful discussion, even with their opponents.



Speaker Kirk Cox: The Man in the Arena

- Paul Manetto, Nimitz City

Over 50 years after his time in the Virginia Boys State program in 1971, former Virginia House Speaker Marvin Kirkland “Kirk” Cox returned to Radford to pass on the knowledge learned during his 30 year span in the Virginia House of Delegates. His first campaign in 1989 ended with a last minute push, including a rush to find donors and the recording of a campaign ad with then senator Jack Warner, Cox secured his seat and was sworn into the House of Delegates, where he served until 2022. Cox was elected speaker after 28 years in the legislature, receiving his party's unanimous vote in 2018. Part of Cox’s goal was to explain the duties of the speaker, which range from appointing house officers and committee chairs to selecting a designated survivor for the State of the Commonwealth address. While Cox only served two years as speaker, he cited his biggest accomplishments as being the 120 pieces of Veteran Affairs Legislation passed during his tenure, the Coal Ash Compromise and the tuition rate freeze for the state. Coming into his 2019

reelection bid, Cox found himself in a newly drawn district, one that had voted plus five Clinton in the 2016 presidential race, however, against the odds, the Cox campaign pulled off an upset, winning the district by close to four points. Cox explained to the members of Boys State that he pulled through by showing care for the citizens in his district, doing everything from sending out Christmas cards to hosting movie showings. Speaker Cox provided Boys State citizens with an excitement for the legislative process.



Kirk Cox, official portrait

Jacob Corbett—called “Gov” by friends and rivals alike—is more than just a name. He’s a proven servant-leader, an Eagle Scout, and a passionate believer in the power of politics to uplift.

At Boys State, Jacob isn’t running on empty promises—he’s running on relationships. Every conversation he has is a chance to listen, to learn, and to lead. His platform grows from you, not just from a podium.

Among his key initiatives:

- Recharging Leadership: A new Boys State tradition—30 minutes of post-lunch rest time—because great leaders need great energy.
- Unity over Division: Though a Federalist, Jacob prioritizes purpose over party. He’ll appoint across the aisle to get things done.
- People Over Politics: He believes leadership is about humility, service, and representing every delegate.

Jacob’s record speaks for itself: he led his Junior class from \$200 to \$10,000, launched a youth leadership nonprofit, and earned mentorship from political leaders across the state.

He doesn’t want your vote for a resume. He wants it for the responsibility. To grow. To serve. To become a better man—and a better leader for you.

Jacob “Gov” Corbett
Humble. Proven. Yours.
Vote Gov. for Gov.

Sounds of Freedoms:
Behind The Scenes: Lemon Drop,
Hand signals, and Sunrise
Harmonies.

- *Felix Garcia, Burke City*

While the public hears flawless harmonies and stirring marches during the worship service and flag raising, what they don't see is just as admirable: the quiet discipline, curious rituals, and daily routine that make each performance possible.



Today, I ventured through the rehearsal rooms - I got lost three times looking for them - but what I discovered was nothing short of amazing. Choir members' warm up juice and sour candies - a home remedy to soothe tired vocal cords and sharpen those soaring high notes that echo across campus.



Meanwhile, over in the band section, delegates tune by ear and keep their eyes fixed on the director's hand like a lighthouse in a stormy sea. Rehearsals begin promptly at 8:00 a.m. when sleepy shoulders slowly rise with pride. They end in laughter, last-minute corrections, and occasionally someone too tired to play another note. But amid all that minor chaos, something beautiful emerges: a sound. A unity. A purpose. These are not just rehearsals - they are lessons in leadership, discipline, and trust.

So the next time the flag rises to the rhythm of the National Anthem, and choirs of voices sing praises to our God, remember: before the anthem came the warmups, the coordination... and yes, definitely, the lemon drops.

Celebrating Our Sheriffs

-Camden Fowler, Burke City



Congratulations to the newly appointed sheriffs of Boys State! Due to their leadership and character, these citizens were elected sheriff of their cities. The sheriffs are responsible for managing the cities until the election of the mayor and keeping track of the location and safety of city residents.

(From left to right) Washington-Gavin Maxey, Puller-Bryce Jones, Patton-Garret Rae, Nimitz-Liam Brough, Marshall-Will Miracle, MacArthur-William Dreyer, James-Nicholas Kellan, Henry-Charles Meyers, Gravely-Derrick June, Eisenhower-Jaden Watson, Burke-Daniel Gray, Bradley-Michael Amice

48 Hours From a Governor: The Lay of the Land

- W. Joel Simpson, Marshall City

It's exciting times for the Virginia Boys State for, as this paper gets distributed, we are nearly 48 hours from electing a Governor. While 48 hours might not seem like a lot of time to kick a campaign into gear, we spoke to some campaigns to see what their plans were for the next 48 hours, and from what we can tell from the campaigns we spoke to, these candidates have high aspirations and a lot on their to-do lists.

Nicola Granieri (F), a gubernatorial hopeful from James City, said he felt "very good" about his chances to be elected Governor,

anticipating the citizens' desire for a Governor that is "comprehensive" and that "represents the state as a whole." Jacob Corbett (F), a candidate from Marshall City, feels "pretty good" about his chances, hoping that citizens understand that he "cares about them and is a people's person." When it came to the campaign strategies moving forward, Corbett, whose campaign already has an instagram account, said that he's "going to try to talk to every single person he can," signaling his employment of an aggressive ground strategy. Granieri, on the other hand, is aiming to win voters over with his policy points, focusing on the economy and encouraging bipartisanship, saying "We all love this state...and we have a lot in common."

When asked what the one thing he wanted voters to know about his campaign, Granieri emphasized the fact that "[He] is [his] own man", and that he will represent all voters if elected. When asked the same question, Corbett responded by stating that he is "here for you guys", highlighting his experience with servant leadership and his willingness to do what needs to be done.

With 48 hours to go, the gubernatorial race is certainly heating up, but it will undoubtedly get more fiery as the race continues, with more candidates trying to break through every day. With party conventions taking place later today, be sure to keep reading *The Statesman Daily* to stay fully informed.

Our Flag Was Still There

-Camden Fowler, Burke City



After Sunday's unfortunate weather cancelled the first flag ceremony of Boys State, Monday morning's flag raising ceremony became even more special. At 8:45 AM, the Flag Detail crew, along with members of the band, honored the country by proudly raising the US flag for the first time in Boys State 2025.

Two Parties, One Candidate

-Cabot Fisher, MacArthur City

In an extremely unusual turn of events, the MacArthur city mayoral election will be between Qais Khairzad and...Qais Khairzad. A nomination from the Nationalist Party, the Federalist party of MacArthur chose not to nominate a candidate. On the back of this shocking turn of events, presumed Mayor Qais Khairzad shares insight into how he engineered such a feat. When he came to Boys State, he had no intention of becoming mayor. He said he wanted to "make friends with people and become more comfortable." As the first day progressed, he took on leadership roles, becoming elected Athletic Director and creating the MacArthur group chat. By the end of the first day, he had become a leader

within the city, and began to consider the Mayoral election as a goal. On that same day, he became friends with the presumptive sheriff and governor candidates. The three of them crafted a strategy, using the friendships they had cultivated, to encourage people to run for roles other than the roles they expressed interest in. In return for seeking different posts, the three promised to support their new efforts, and get others to support them as well. While the sheriff election was very close, with MacArthur sheriff William Dreyer winning by a single vote, this strategy found great success in the mayoral election. After winning nomination within the Nationalist party (One other candidate sought nomination, but only so the assembled Nationalists could hear Qais's prepared speech), he received the welcome news that the Federalists had chosen not to nominate a candidate, all but assuring his election. Additionally, when asked how to respond to the recent karaoke related scandal that emerged this evening, he responded "AI be getting crazy nowadays".

Weather Update

-Camden Fowler, Burke City

After Sunday's pessimistic weather forecast, it was a pleasant surprise that the weather did not interfere with any of the day's events. However, the forecast is not exactly bright. Tuesday predicts showers and scattered thunderstorms, and Thursday's

future is also anticipating gloomy weather.



Statesman Sitdown

-Andy Pan, Puller City

What is the most impactful position at Boys State? While some might point to the sheriff, who manages logistics, corrals his citizens, and leads his city across Radford. Others might posit the Governorship; the elected head of state, the face of the program.

Yet, it's the legislative offices who truly hold the most impactful positions. While not as prestigious as Governor and Lieutenant, the legislative branch has the unique ability to craft and pass bills, a power that those positions lack. Indeed, it is legislation that shapes Boys State into what it is. The executives execute. The Legislators legislate, holding the sole power to

fundamentally change the day-to-day workings of Boys State. Those who control the legislative branch control where the state rallies its efforts.

Nominated senatorial candidate Gavin Maxwell (N) of Puller exemplifies this. His legislative agenda targets light pollution, citing its ecological harm to Virginia's many Dark Sky parks. "Light pollution hurts the crucial habitats that Virginia needs," he argues, further noting increasing urban development as a worsening factor. Maxwell's proposal for expedited regulations to protect these vital ecosystems exemplifies the program's purpose: To engage in political action rooted from personal convictions. Its citizens like Maxwell, issue driven and policy focused, who shape Boys State at its core. Their work determines not just what the state looks like, but what it truly stands for.

Marshall: Unity Matters

- W. Joel Simpson, Marshall City

When the residents of Marshall City first arrived on Sunday, none of them knew each other by name or reputation, but they did know one thing: they needed to stick together. As the day progressed, this quickly became the core of the city's identity. Marshall residents described the integration of the unified city mentality as "immediate", praising the citizens for founding a solid identity on day one. Grant Meyers, a citizen of Marshall, said "As a city, we need to stick together and not be divided by party." Jordan Koller went on to say that he thinks Marshall's unity-based mindset separates them from other cities at Boys State

“because here at Marshall, it doesn’t matter what party you’re from; we care about what you’re doing for Marshall.” With the mayoral and gubernatorial elections coming up shortly, it will be interesting to see how Marshall’s mindset evolves, but if you ask citizens of Marshall, their goal is to move forward together as a city.

Cornhole Chaos

- Jackson Mayfield, Patton City

Yesterday during afternoon activities, City Patton had an eventful day, winning their ping-pong match and getting a bye in the flag football tournament. However, despite their success in the aforementioned sports, the Patton City cornhole team “got holed” according to one of the two Patton City cornhole players, Ivan Schaible, in their first round match in the Boy’s State Cornhole Tournament. Jeremy Dixon, Ivan’s faithful tag-team partner, expressed an equally defeated sentiment shaking his head saying, “We both sucked... immediately off the bat.”

The match ended 21-20 with Patton’s opponents taking the win and advancing to the next round, however, not without controversy. Ivan Schaible alleges foul play by their opponents after the winning bag skipped off another bag on the floor and onto the board to knock Patton out of the game. Despite Patton’s protest the Athletic Director ruled that the skipped bag counted, thus removing Patton from the tournament. Ivan said, “I believe the Athletic Director

got it wrong. I know how to play, I am very good at cornhole. It’s deep in my heritage.” With the loss behind the two, they plan on pursuing other sports to bolster Patton’s athletic prowess in hopes of winning the Athletic Cup.

Quarter-Page: \$5
Half-Page: \$10
Full-Page: \$20

Important Note: Advertisement designs must be made inside of Boys State and provided to the Boys State Newspaper Team. (This includes pictures put on the advertisement.)



For payment of an Ad, contact the editor:
Wilson Lucas - Wilsonlucas4@icloud.com

Flyer created by: Javier Garcia, Bradley City

Jumping the Gun

- Javier Garcia, Bradley City

During a question and answering segment with Scott Maddrea, a citizen was ***booed off of the microphone*** due to campaigning for the Secretary of Finance. Was this worth it? Some might say he is putting himself out there, but was this too far? Will there be other surprising methods of campaigning during the rest of the week? All we can do about that is wait!.....Although, in order to publicly put yourself out there, a better option would be to buy an advertisement in our newspaper!

Congratulations to all City Officers!!

	Bradley	Burke	Eisenhower	Gravelly	Henry	James
Sheriff	Michael Amice	Daniel Gray	Jaden Smith	Derrick June	Charles Meyers	Nick Kellen
Athletic Director	Sebasten Clervil	Ruger Young	Joseph Fowler	Will Muller	Colin Doran	JR
Chaplain	Barret Kindig	Logan Neal	Ian Wankum	Griffin McCallum	Elija Parsons	Jason Woodard
Mail Clerk	Elijah Keene	N/A	Brenden Seckner	Jack Statham	Harrison Riffle	N/A
Moot Court 1	Nathan Tran	Bristol Reese	Noah Coffin	Rafe	Tommy Carmody	Arsen Hakobyan
Moot Court 2	CK Kurihara	Connor Cromwell	Will Riisager	Zareef Said	Aiden Christian	Gavin Smith
Moot Court 3	Lex Waldman	Ray Rivera	Josh Seidensticker	Anon	Alessandro De Stefano	James
Moot Court 4	Mitch Brown	Jesse Summers	Joseph Sernock	Paul T	David Kim	Sagar
Moot Court 5	Adam Washington	Ben Collins	Ryan Moore	William R	Richard Valle	Ryan

	MacArthur	Marshall	Nimitz	Patton	Puller	Washington
Sheriff	William Dreyer	Will Miracle	Liam Brough	Garett Rae	Brice Jones	Gavin Maxey
Athletic Director	Qais Khairzad	Ryan Ridge	Jesse Gatto	Patrick Jury	Alexander Kayal	Archer Tweed
Chaplain	Cabot Fisher	Wyatt Nash & Nate Rommelmeyer	Nate Reed	Luke Shofi	Joshua Layman	Elijah Wiles
Mail Clerk	N/A	N/A	N/A	Nolan Banner	Kevin Bautista	Jackson Valasko
Moot Court 1	Isiah Peppey	Robbie Cleveland	Surafel Demeke	Cole Hill	Alexander Kayal	Grant Gilliam
Moot Court 2	Grant Patterson	Joshua Pun	Nithin Gopinath	Andy Kern	Jacob Glover	Samuel Keelson
Moot Court 3	Joshua Garner	Alden Lumagui	Zachary Young	Karl Dean	Hassane Doccure	Austin Blake
Moot Court 4	Mohammad Noorzad	Christopher Schlenz	Bryan Quintantilla	Luke Shofi	Jackson Childers	Jaidon Faircloth-Scott
Moot Court 5	Ryan Callohan	Devesh Stansbury	Darius Wilson	Nolan Banner	Brennan Hunt	Lucas Jones

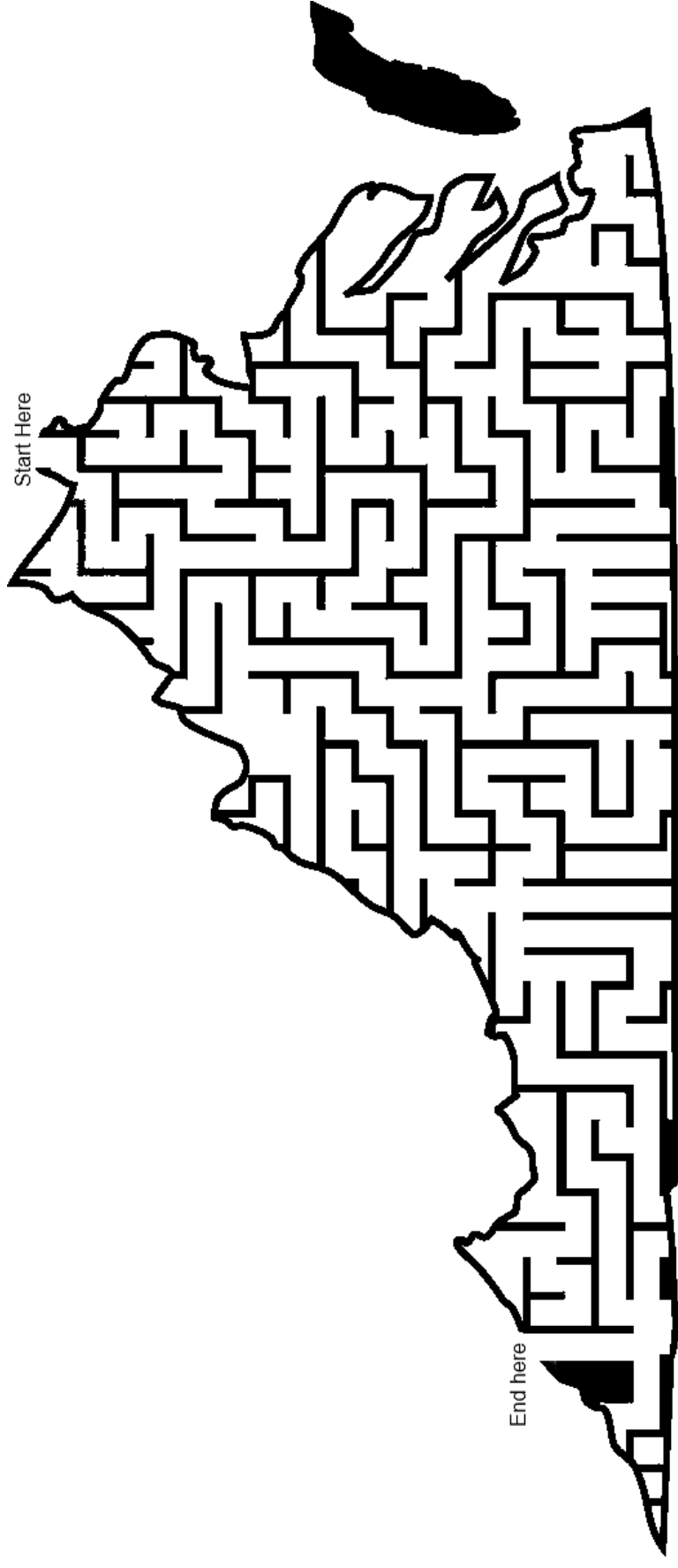
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VIRGINIA

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SHERIFF
WASHINGTON

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 **Matty T**



Lupus in the Summer

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