



The Whirligig News

American Legion Boys State
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BOYS STATE 2006 CITY AND COUNTY ELECTION RESULTS

Elected Court Of Appeals Justices Justices of The Court of Appeals

First Circuit

Smith, Spencer Madison	Williams
Beutler, Benjamin Jefferson	Williams
Swanson, Peter Jackson	Bingham

Second Circuit

Kehoe, Reggie Van Buren	Wisner
Galinato, Jose Polk	Blair
King, Jason Tyler	Blair

Third Circuit

Hart, George Buchanan	Baldwin
Deschaine, Zachary Lincoln	Bagley
Vertin, Eric Johnson	Bagley

CITY AND COUNTY ELECTION RESULTS

WASHINGTON (McClelland County)

Mayor
Gross, William Nationalist
City Council
Eber, Matt Federalist
Lonsbery, Pierce Nationalist
Meehle, Adam Federalist
Nestorak, Nicholas Nationalist

ADAMS (McClelland County)

Mayor
Chester, Andrew Nationalist
City Council
Braun, Andrew Nationalist
Harder, William Federalist
Popoff, Daniel Nationalist
Rybicki, Lawrence Federalist

JEFFERSON (Williams County)

Mayor
Longnecker, Dustin Nationalist
City Council
Birchmeier, Adam Federalist
Campbell, Jonathon Nationalist
Griffin, Brock Federalist
Jordan, Christopher Nationalist

MADISON (Williams County)

Mayor
Fancher, Daniel Federalist
City Council
Gehl, Andrew Nationalist
Goll, Michael Federalist
Ruhlig, Scott Federalist
Strahan, Jay Federalist

MONROE (Bingham County)

Mayor
Manning, Matthew Nationalist
City Council
Henig, Ben Federalist
Hertel, Benjamin Federalist
Hillyer, Matthew Nationalist

Walz, Tyler Federalist
JACKSON (Bingham County)

Mayor
Ciarkowski, Charles Nationalist
City Council
Hill, Joshua Federalist
Kavulich, Brett Nationalist
Mlynarek, Evan Federalist
Noffke, Josh Nationalist

VAN BUREN (Wisner County)

Mayor
Schilke, Robert Federalist
City Council
Dagg, Shawn Federalist
Miller, Scott Nationalist
Rivard, Marcus Nationalist
Singer, Thomas Federalist

HARRISON (Wisner County)

Mayor
Kiesel, Jacob Nationalist
City Council
Beutler, Matthew Federalist
Hall, Matthew Nationalist
Hokans, Hans Federalist
Stephens, Caleb Nationalist

TYLER (Blair County)

Mayor
Madziar, Christopher Nationalist
City Council
Clark, Dan Nationalist
Deschaine, Jared Federalist
Hill, Zachary Nationalist
Simpson, Justin Federalist

POLK (Blair County)

Mayor
Snyder, Kalan Federalist
City Council
Burgett, Stephen Federalist
Chmberlain, Derrick Nationalist
Rodak, Andrew Nationalist
Wolfgram, Peter Nationalist

TAYLOR

Croswell County

Mayor
Lucco, Jeffrey Federalist
City Council
Leslie, Andrew Federalist
Richter, Jake Federalist
Roell, Kyle Nationalist
Rosencrants, Troy Federalist

FILLMORE (Croswell County)

Mayor
Sowell, Brandon Nationalist
City Council
Johnson, Jacob Federalist
Rhoades, Matthew Nationalist
Shrader, Patrick Federalist
Zech, Eric Nationalist

PIERCE (Baldwin County)

Mayor
Fisher, Daniel Federalist
City Council
Brand, Matthew Federalist
Datz, Craig Federalist
Hokanson, Matthew Nationalist
Silveus, Travis Nationalist

BUCHANAN (Baldwin County)

Mayor
Wojcik, Jeffrey Nationalist
City Council
Collins, Nikola Nationalist
Heidtke, Alex Federalist
Herrygers, Gerrit Nationalist
Kartje, Ryan Nationalist

LINCOLN (Bagley County)

Mayor
Koch, Jack Nationalist

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ELECTION RESULTS CONTINUED**City Council**

Doll, Brian Federalist
 Hartstein, Eric Nationalist
 Ostrander, George Nationalist
 Samuels, Zachary Federalist

JOHNSON (Bagley County)**Mayor**

Jahlas, Corey Federalist

City Council

Barnes, Cody Nationalist
 Jones, Jacob Nationalist
 Kieffer, Dustin Federalist
 Lancaster, Jimmy Nationalist

Elected County Officials**MCCLELLAND**

State Senator
 Cibor, Alex Nationalist Washington
 Smallegan, Marcus Federalist Washington
 State Representative
 Beasley, Patrick Nationalist Adams
 Buzan, John Federalist Adams
 Kading, Patrick Federalist Adams
 Montague, David Nationalist Washington
 Sheriff
 Blake, George Federalist Adams
 County Clerk
 Kowalski, Kyle Federalist Adams
 Prosecuting Attorney
 Carpenter, Clayton Federalist Washington
 Judges of the Circuit Court
 Bauman, Joseph Federalist Adams

WILLIAMS

State Senator
 Knauf, Jason Nationalist Madison
 Strobel, Christopher Nationalist Jefferson
 State Representative
 Brown, Andrew Federalist Jefferson
 Flowers, Ian Nationalist Jefferson
 Hall, Brandon Nationalist Jefferson
 Kuper, Raphael Federalist Jefferson
 Sheriff
 Eickholt, Andrew Federalist Jefferson
 County Clerk
 Moore, Brian Nationalist Madison

Prosecuting Attorney
 Munzlong, Adam Nationalist Jefferson
 Judges of the Circuit Court
 Anderson, Gavin Federalist Madison

BINGHAM

State Senator
 Wilkey, Brandon Nationalist Monroe
 Witt, Bradford Federalist Jackson
 State Representative
 Little, Joel Nationalist Monroe
 Schonsheck, Tyler Federalist Monroe
 Sheriff
 Snage, Kyle Nationalist Monroe
 County Clerk
 Hazard, Derek Nationalist Monroe
 Prosecuting Attorney
 Galdys, Stan Nationalist Monroe
 Judges of the Circuit Court
 Bean, Ryan Nationalist Monroe

WISNER

State Senator
 Holst, Nick Nationalist Van Buren
 Rao, Ravi Federalist Van Buren
 State Representative
 Hignite, Matthew Federalist Van Buren
 Keller, Andrew Federalist Harrison
 Strauss, Michael Federalist Harrison
 Sutkowi, Joseph Federalist Van Buren
 Sheriff
 LaPrad, Blaise Federalist Harrison
 County Clerk
 Siakel, Brandon Nationalist Van Buren
 Prosecuting Attorney
 Cappaert, Peter Nationalist Harrison
 Judges of the Circuit Court
 Bluhm, Jeffrey Nationalist Van Buren

BLAIR

State Senator
 Foroozesh, Sohrab Federalist Polk
 Lai, Kevin Nationalist Tyler
 State Representative
 Durga, James Nationalist Polk

Ellsworth, Neal Federalist Tyler
 Kortess, Cameron Nationalist Tyler
 Schneemann, Jason Nationalist Tyler
 Sheriff
 Eboda, Oluwatobi Nationalist Tyler
 County Clerk
 George, Brendan Nationalist Tyler
 Prosecuting Attorney
 Kuzawa, Joseph Federalist Tyler
 Judges of the Circuit Court
 Walker, Troy Nationalist Tyler

CROSWELL

State Senator
 Loveland, Eric Nationalist Taylor
 Rosier, Collan Nationalist Taylor
 State Representative
 Holvenstot, Peter Federalist Fillmore
 Hopp, Chet Nationalist Fillmore
 Lannen, Nick Nationalist Taylor
 Stewart, John Federalist Fillmore
 Sheriff
 Fuller, Gregory Nationalist Taylor
 County Clerk
 Cornea, Jacob Nationalist Taylor
 Prosecuting Attorney
 James, Peter Nationalist Fillmore
 Judges of the Circuit Court
 Kuncaitas, Jake Nationalist Taylor

BALDWIN

State Senator
 Roman, Christopher Nationalist Buchanan
 Smith, Kyle Federalist Buchanan
 State Representative
 Dixon, Andrew Nationalist Pierce
 Graham, Trevor Nationalist Pierce
 Rao, Sudhir Federalist Pierce
 Stapleton, Joseph Nationalist Pierce Sheriff
 Faswana, Waleed Nationalist Buchanan

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ELECTION RESULTS CONTINUED

County Clerk
 Bean, Keegan
 Nationalist Pierce
 Prosecuting Attorney
 Jablonski, Nicholas
 Federalist Pierce
 Judges of the Circuit Court
 Wirsing, Michael
 Federalist Pierce

BAGLEY

State Senator
 Salter, Luke
 Nationalist Lincoln
 Thomas, Kevin
 Federalist Johnson
 State Representative
 Bearman, Michael
 Federalist Johnson
 Book, Michael
 Nationalist Johnson
 Jacobs, Mikeal
 Nationalist Johnson
 Morris, Ramone
 Nationalist Johnson
 Sheriff
 Claucherty, Matthew
 Federalist Lincoln
 County Clerk
 Miller, Karey
 Federalist Johnson
 Prosecuting Attorney
 Horny, Phillip
 Federalist Johnson
 Judges of the Circuit Court
 Bellmore, Hayden
 Federalist Lincoln

DeBaar throws his hat into Governor's race

There's a new gubernatorial hopeful on the block, complete with new ideas, new objectives and new solutions to the state's problems.

Shawn DeBaar, a federalist candidate out of Pierce city, announced his candidacy two days ago to strong support from his city. The citizens were inspired by DeBaar's experience in politics, as well as his extensive experience in leadership positions in general.

"I was elected Lieutenant Governor while I was part of the Youth in Government program," DeBaar said. "I was also elected to the Speaker of the House for two years in that program."

DeBaar says he has other things going for him than just experience.

"My goal for the state would be to not impede so much on individual city policies, but I also want to try to make the cities within the state more equal," DeBaar said.

"The objective would be to have the cities be equal in terms of creating jobs, providing

health care, and improving education. Also, the budget has to go up. I want to move the state into a surplus."

The ways he sees it, DeBaar says poverty, education, and the availability of jobs are the most important issues the state needs to address, because the issues all tie into one another.

DeBaar says he will appeal to each individual's interests as governor.

"I would be more of a one-on-one type of governor, listening to the individual to identify with the people," DeBaar said.

Bailey finally wins something

By Justin Jackson

You would think that not too many guys would want to play the role of a secretary. Well, that was not the case in the Nationalist party. Eight candidates started off the race, after several speeches, and three votes, a candidate was finally chosen. Trent Bailey started off the state convention by running as a Supreme Court justice. He did not make the ballot as a justice; so he moved on to try for attorney general. Failing in that race, Trent gave one last effort at the position of Secretary of State. Well, this time he was successful, winning the nomination of the Nationalist party after three votes. In his last of three speeches for the Secretary position, he said that he was not the typical political junkie. Like many other candidates, he is making the claim that he will fight 100% for the citizens of Boys' State.

Galdys get the attorney general nomination

By Justin Jackson

The attorney general's race in the Nationalists convention started off big with seven candidates vying for the position. After three votes, a majority was finally reached. The winner was Stan Galdys who is part of Monroe City, but calls Grandville home. The two questions that the candidates were asked were what they thought about suing tobacco companies and arranging plea bargains to help relieve the overcrowded jails. Stan said he feels that lung cancer is a big threat to our nation, and that he would go after the big tobacco companies. "Tobacco companies are acting irresponsible and viciously attacking consumers, especially teenagers." On the plea bargain issue, Stan felt that arranging plea bargains with criminals that have committed small, petty crimes should not spend six months in jail. He feels that the best way for them to serve their time is through community service. For those criminals who have committed serious crimes such as murder, they should not receive any type of reduction in

their sentence.

General Swanson?

By Brandon Hall

The federalist nominee for attorney general, Peter Swanson, has inspired many around Boys' State, even winning strong praise from the opposing nationalist party.

"Pete's really smart," nationalist Alex Cibor, said. "Even though he's a federalist, I am going to vote for him because Pete will do what's right. He'll put the good of the people above party lines."

Swanson, who won the attorney general spot on a straight shooting, anti tobacco platform, is extremely interested in law and thinks his experience and common sense will make Boys' State a better place to be.

"I have taken law classes at my high school," Swanson said. "It's something I really want to do. You are truly working for the good of the people in a very direct way and that's what public service is all about." Besides standing up against big tobacco, Swanson plans to stand tough against child pedophiles.

"Obviously I hate pedophiles, who doesn't," Swanson said. "I think it's probably the worst type of crime you can commit, to hurt a child like that."

Above all, Swanson plans to have no mercy on the criminals of Boys State.

"I am going to lay down the law," Swanson said. "You will not regret voting for me as attorney general."

Standing out

By Mark Ayers

The party conventions were held yesterday and there were numerous contestants running for the various positions. The largest hurdle that candidates had to take on was getting people to recognize, remember, and vote for them over all the other contestants. In the cases for the high positions, nominees numbered from 10 to 20. With such competition, the true test was standing out, either in the delivery of the speech or in the message itself. Candidate Callan Rosier of the Nationalist party came out with a strong voice in the education department and had a very defined plan, which pulled him into the final four, but he was unable to gain enough support for the party nomination.

Shawn DeBaar took the nomination though, after a few Caucus's, by a large majority. The party erupted into cheers for him and many are hopeful about the skills that he could bring to the position. No stranger to government, DeBaar is certainly a worthy candidate for the position.

(SEE STANDING OUT)

STANDING OUT CONTINUED

For all the disappointed hopefuls who did not receive their party's nomination, there are many appointed jobs that will need to be fulfilled as the new government steps in tomorrow afternoon after the final decisions for position. Make no mistake; every citizen is valued in Boys State, with each individual's opinion respected. Do not be disheartened by a defeat, use it as motivation to do everything possible to get involved. Whether this means getting appointed to a high end position or volunteering to frame or assassinate a politician, get involved, and I'm sure that you won't come away disappointed. While previous governor Casey Jones did not expect to become so thoroughly involved, remember that he did advise to get involved, and that you truly will get out of Boys State what you put in.

The Wilkening Way

By Brandon Hall

Many at Boys State have strong opinions. One of these Boys Staters with fierce opinions is Alex Wilkening. However, Wilkening is glad to leave his opinions at the door. Wilkening is one of 16 vying to become the state's next Supreme Court justices. "I am really opinionated," Wilkening said. "But I will be able to leave my opinions at the courthouse steps because that's where they belong. We all have biases, but you need to recognize them and purge them. If we had justices who voted on their opinion, on what was popular at the time, who knows what America would look like today for women and blacks."

Though Wilkening will not let his opinions influence his judicial decisions, he is willing to offer his position on the issues facing the court.

"For the advancement of society, affirmative action must continue to be implemented," Wilkening said. "We are not an equal society, and affirmative action strives to level the playing field."

Wilkening is a fierce proponent of same-sex marriage.

"It's a sad day when homosexuals don't have the same, equal rights as their heterosexual counterparts," Wilkening said. "It's because you're mixing church with state, and that's very dangerous."

All in all, Wilkening is eager to take the bench.

"I really want to do what's best for boys state citizens," Wilkening said. "If it's constitutional, of course."

BRANDON "NO BS" HALL

By Anonymous

Brandon Hall, nominee for Boy's State Board of Education, is a formidable opponent to competition. Hall, active in his school district and in his town's community foundation is up to the challenge.

Hall is very knowledgeable in education, where he is pursuing a career and is currently interning with Kevin Blanding, the principal of Rosy Mound School in Grand Haven.

Education in Boy's State frustrates Hall and he is eager to rectify those problems. "A lot of poor areas around Boy's State have been neglected, and if I'm on the board of education, I'm going to hound whoever is elected governor to take education off the backburner and start treating it like the serious issue that it is, by getting our cities and counties the money they need to get out of the hole," Hall said.

Hall detests across-the-board academic standards when in reality; every child is not the same. He will work to execute legislation that would integrate a more specific vocational curriculum.

"If we take the time with our students it will pay off in the future," Hall said. "Penalizing schools for taking their time and investing in students should not fly at Boy's State and will not fly with me on the Board of Education."

A UNITER, NOT A DIVIDER

By Alex Wilkening

In the bid for Lieutenant Governor, both opponents have excellent track records, however, the Federalist Joseph Sutkowi is the clear leader.

Sutkowi has the credentials—6 year member of his school's student senate, an honor student and the uncanny ability to think quickly on his feet when responding to questions at the Federalist convention.

The Federalist LG candidate made it clear that he is not interested in division, but in the unity of the parties, that when all is said and done he will serve all Boy's State citizens equally.

Some of Candidate Sutkowi's ideas for improvement of the state include abandonment of the No Child Left Behind Act in a sense that Sutkowi wants disadvantaged schools to receive more money for improvement. Sutkowi wishes to implement tax incentives for businesses to come to our State, and supports legislation for penalties to companies leaving the state

Sutkowi is charismatic and genial. He knows how to answer the tough questions and is not interested in apathy.

Big Man Bigger Heart

By Anonymous

Although he did not win the Federalists nomination for any of the state positions Monday night, Ryan Huntington showed many of the Boys Stater's what we are here for. Huntington displayed many characteristics of a good candidate but seemed to lack the overall confidence his peers were looking for in a candidate for a state position. I will not lie; personally I voted for Huntington at first not because I felt he was the best candidate but because he made me laugh. Yet as the convention proceeded I found myself warming up to the kid from the UP more and more. His sense of what the people needed and his experiences with poverty and with real life problems made me feel as though he was equipped to lead. Unlike many of the other candidates he was not up there bragging about what he could do for the citizens of Boys State to make us happy, he was talking about what he could do that was right. He knows what people need and how it feels to not be elite. Listening to him left me with the feeling that not only was he a good candidate to lead us as governor, but he was the best candidate. Alex Roman won the nomination for the Federalists party, but I did not vote for him. It was not that he lacked the knowledge or experience to hold the position, because truly he was the most knowledgeable of all the candidates. To say Boys State made a mistake in choosing him to be the Federalists nominee for governor would not be a true statement, I am proud he will be representing my fellow Federalists and myself tomorrow. Simply put I became attached to the big guy from a small town as the convention went on. He showed his true colors in each declaration he spoke and there was a sense of sincerity in his words. Huntington got my vote last night and by continually running after not winning the nomination for state positions he portrayed the type of person Boys State looks for. He kept his head up and he tried to stay involved and gain as much from this experience as he could. I have a feeling that Huntington will change people's lives in the future, whether it is here or when he leaves. Wherever it is he goes it was a pleasure to here a man speak as sincerely and modestly as him.

NOTE: All views and opinions printed in this paper are the views expressed by the individual authors and are not necessarily the views or opinions of The American Legion Department of

High Tensions With A Few Choice Words

By George Ostrander

The heat was already killing the crowd at the Nationalist State Convention, and everything was moving pretty slowly. The candidates for the Secretary of State positions were nominated, and read to give speeches. All that changed when Mr. James Durga of Polk City went up to the microphone to give his speech. As Mr. Durga began, it sounded like all of his fellow candidates speeches, but with his own personal pizzazz. The whole assembly was in shock as when Mr. Durga, while talking about the teen voting issue, used an analogy from the television comedy *South Park* to explain why teens are reluctant to vote. This did not take place without a few less-than gentlemanly words. As Mr. Durga continued, he had the whole group silently laughing as he, in his own cynical way, talked about the voting issue. Before saying one word, he exclaimed, "F*** no!" drawing a blank look from every member sitting at the convention. As Mr. Durga ended his speech, the feeling in the room was one of shown relief, and underlying laughter. Even though the words he said were offensive to many, he still managed to make it to the second round of voting, showing that he did have a little bit of success. Mr. Durga later said, "A lot of people told me at least I speak my mind." As for myself, the entirely inappropriate action still managed to draw a laugh out of me. When asked why he did it, Durga said, "I was thinking and thinking fast, and thinking of should I say it, should I not. And I said Yeah! This isn't Girls State; this is Boys State! Were here to have fun! And I didn't expect that reaction." Thanks to Mr. Durga for making a...memorable event that I will remember for many years to come.

Pop Culture Infiltrates Conventions

By Andrew Gehl

The Nationalist State Convention was at times a rowdy party and at times a well-organized group nap. Some of the most memorable speeches piqued voter interest by including references to pop culture items and famous trends. The first notable example occurred during the race for Secretary of State. It was during this race that Polk's James Durga related a storyline from Comedy Central's television show "South Park" to the monotonous politicians

that voters often encounter. "It's like choosing between a giant douche and a s--- sandwich," Durga explained. His choice of words earned him a friendly warning from the Convention leaders.

The next pop culture hero brought into the convention was Chuck Norris. Norris has earned a cult following due to the "Chuck Norris Facts" found on the Internet. When running for Lt. Governor, Christopher Roman was asked, "Who would win in a fight, Chuck Norris or Jet Li?" The crowd erupted in applause when he decided that Chuck Norris would receive a hands-down victory. The resulting election found Roman to be the decisive winner.

Again in the governor race, hopeful Jake Kuncaitis told a joke from the television show "Last Comic Standing" in order to back up his theory that public transportation would help to lower gas prices.

James Durga again cited pop culture as he ran for governor. During the end of his speech, Durga shouted a quote from rapper Kanye West's "Late Registration" CD. The quote was used to connect the youth at Boys' State to issues in their lives with the rising prices of gas in particular.

Pop culture is nothing new to politics. Bill Clinton was famous for gaining votes by playing his saxophone on television, and Arnold Schwarzenegger made use of his macho appearance and catchphrases to win the governorship in California. Clearly, Boys' State was not shielded from the popular trends in America.

What is a "Single Business Tax?"

By Marcus Smallegan

The Federalist Caucus nominees for both Governor and Lieutenant Governor brought up the issue of the Single Business Tax. This tax, which is used in the State of Michigan (and therefore, assuming it exists here), taxes companies on compensation, employee benefits, depreciation, income-based taxes, dividend payments, and certain royalty expenses. The tax, however, does not apply to medical expenses for employees that work in the state, and certain incomes reported on a federal tax return.

Because very few states (Michigan is the only "real" state) have this tax, business owners and entrepreneurs are discouraged from investing their business in the state. The tax forces businesses to pay extra to be in Michigan, or, in our case, Boys' State. When businesses chose another state that does not levy a Single Business Tax, revenue is lost from our state, and therefore, we lose economic growth, leading to a potential recession.

Right here at Boys' State, we have problems with unemployment- it is proven through the statistics given to each city. At the Federalist Caucus, it was determined that one of our cities has a 15% unemployment rate, which is simply unacceptable. We need to cut unemployment if we are to create a successful and prosperous state for our citizens. Using a tax on businesses leads to fewer jobs for our citizens, which leads to a higher unemployment in the state. A high unemployment rate throughout the state leads to a bad economy, which then leads to less revenue and much fewer benefits to our citizens. This is unacceptable and we as leaders must ensure our businesses have the incentive they need to get their jobs done here in Boys State, not in another state.

Persuasion Invasion

By Steve Lozier

Now that city elections have concluded, the race for a top spot in the state government has begun. With these new state elections comes the downpour of hopeful candidates with posters, stickers, promises, and a little bit of creative persuasion. In regards to the campaign posters, I just have one thing to say. As a quote from Washington City council member Pierce L., "There's no point to campaign posters, I don't even read them, I just go by the speeches". I don't know how many of you look at these posters, but I find most to be somewhat boring and redundant (Vote 4 [insert name here](#) for GOV.!!). I really haven't seen many campaigning stickers, with the exception of Brad Witt, so I can't really judge their effectiveness. However, it seems like the most effective type of campaigning strategy is making promises during caucus meetings. There was an interesting example of this during the attorney general election process in the Federalist Party. The story plays out in the hot and sweaty multi-purpose room and goes a little something like this. An anonymous source said attorney general hopeful Mr. Swanson made a deal with his opponent Mr. Thompson. This said that if Mr. Thompson told all of his supporters to vote for Mr. Swanson, that Swanson would in turn make Mr. Thompson his deputy attorney general. This voting deal made for an interesting turn of events as Mr. Swanson won the Federalist nomination for attorney general beating out his well-qualified opponent Lars Griffith. I've seen a lot of ploys to get into office such as quadruple size posters, and even throwing hard jolly ranchers at hungry supporters; but the most effective seems to be the secretive deals that go down during the caucus meetings. So I

guess if your planning on winning any type of election, you should plan on making some sort of deal with the other cities and counties to get your votes.

Heated Gas Controversy

By Karey Miller

The "mystery" topic announced for all gubernatorial hopefuls on Sunday was revealed to be the current high gas prices. This is a topic that might spark some much-heated debate, and will be a large factor for influencing both voters and candidates alike. It seems that almost everybody would like lower gas prices, but the main debate over this topic is whether or not the government can afford it. Many of the citizens living in Boys' State are seeking help in lowering gas prices, mainly by reducing the amount of taxation on gasoline. Opponents to this argument believe that the state cannot afford this reduction because it would mean a huge cut in much needed revenue for many of the government programs that are already in place. If such a cut were to take place, it would also mean huge reforms in the current programs, including cutting programs to counteract the cuts.

The newly elected Boys' State Governor is going to have to make wise decisions on dealing with the issue of finding and using new fuel sources along with deciding to cut gasoline taxes or not. The word around the state is that the gasoline problem is one of the biggest concerns facing the new governor. Hopefully the government at Boys' State will deal with this topic thoroughly, as with the other major state concerns, and end the week with good results.

Poor City, Rich Community

By Brendan George

The city of Tyler, to the unfamiliar eye, is just one of the poorest cities in Boys State. But take a closer look, and you will see one of the finest groups of gentleman to have ever graced the earth. After the very organized county and city elections, the citizens of Tyler went fast to work supporting their citizens running for State positions. Posters were posted, cheers were cried, and support was given. Brendan George is running for Supreme Court, and is using his disease (Diabetes) as a way to say to his fellow citizens of Boys State that he has problems in his own daily life, and is just an average Joe following his dream. Another citizen of Tyler running for a State position is Brad Low. Low is running for Lt. Governor, and is thought of highly among Tyler for his hardworking attitude and dependability. He has served Tyler as the Athletic Chairman, and is a friend to all.

If elected, Low plans on lowering the tax on big business to bring better jobs back to

Boys State. He also would like to bring back the Works Progress Administration from the FDR-Great Depression Era to lower the unemployment rate of Boys State.

Tyler citizens send out their approval of these candidates and hope that you will consider them for these positions.

WASHINGTON HOPEFUL FOR PROFESSIONAL SPORTS TEAM

By Alex Cibor

Aside from normal discussion in each city, including outsourcing, environmental pollution and sex education, word of starting a professional sports team became a topic of discussion in the city of Washington.

The possibility of bringing in a professional volleyball team was first mentioned in yesterday morning's initial town hall meeting.

Citizen Dirk Konyndyk was a strong advocate for bringing the team to the city.

"The volleyball team will help boost revenue and will help kids get active in sports," Konyndyk said. "We hope it will get the kids to aspire to be like their heroes." Mayor Will Gross also supports the possibility of bringing a professional volleyball team to the city.

"It will promote a sense of unity in the city because we will all support this team together," Gross said.

The framework of the team has been discussed within the city and they are now preparing to mail in a recommendation that a volleyball team be introduced into the city.

If the request is accepted, Washington will be home to the new professional sport.

"Hopefully our request for a volleyball team is accepted," Konyndyk said. "I'm looking forward to building the program."

Jefferson Domination

By Brandon Hall

The city of Jefferson dominated its county elections over sister city Madison on Monday.

The city took five out of six legislative positions, electing Andy Brown, Brandon Hall, Chris Strabel, Ian Flowers and Raphael "Raffy" Kuper to the capital.

In a closely contested county sheriff election, Jefferson's Andrew Eickholt edged out Madison's Clark Ramsey in Williams County's most passionate election.

Ramsey went on to be in the "Final Four for nationalist governor.

In state races, Jefferson sends Brandon Hall for Board of Education and Chris Jordan for Board of Trustees.

Madison sends persistent David Bailey as the nationalist nominee for secretary of

state. Bailey ran for many positions before he finally edged out Alex Cibor to secure the nomination.

Madison also sends Spencer Smith as a nominee for state supreme court.

Smith drew strong praise from Jefferson citizens.

"Spencer is the only person I've liked from Madison since I got here at Boys State," Brandon Hall said. "He's a very smart, classy guy and would make an excellent State Supreme Court justice that we could all be proud of as citizens of Boys State."

Jackson City Dominance

By Jeff Lucco

With four games in the books, Jackson City is truly letting their athletic abilities illuminate Boys' States recreation fields. The basketball team, lead by captain James "Who's Your Daddy" Nati, has proved to be too much for the competition. After starting off strong by beating Monroe City 10-7, they then showed their improvements by defeating the same team, 10-6. In a little bit more of a challenge, your "Jackson Five" City team competed and persevered against a tough Madison team. After starting out slow and exchanging buckets, our boys pulled through and won 10-7. However, the next game would prove to be on of intense pressure and high stakes.

Fighting for their lives, Madison started off by grabbing a 2-0 lead. Jackson, determined to accomplish their goal of winning, fought back to steal the lead 3-2. It continued this back and forth way until finally it was tied at 8. Peter "The Swan" Swanson hit two crucial shots, a jumper and then a lay-up, to seal the victory. In recollection of the game, it was a complete team effort the whole way through.

Steven "Addy" Depree plays with tremendous skill and leadership. Jordan "Big Poppa" Buckland controls the post by throwing his body around like a boxer would do with his fists. Adam "The Thief" Rowe steals the ball like he was wearing a black ski mask. David "Not so We-man" Wyman hustles the entire game and critical to the team by being the most selfless member out there. Derek "The Rainmaker" Bradley is the voice by being in control of all the smack talk and calling when it is going to "rain." With all these parts, the Jackson Five will be a team to mess with anytime a challenger steps up.

The Volleyball team has had a harder time with their endeavors but has still fought to a four and one record. Monroe City proved to not present any of a challenge for Our Jackson City team. After two straight 15-8 games, our boys moved on to an extremely deserving opponent. After getting shocked in the first game 9-15, Your Jackson Five kept their heads and won the next game in extra points, 19-17. Led by Co-Captains Brad "Pitt" Witt and Brett "The Jet" Kavulich, Jackson continued their gutsy

play by winning the rubber match, 15-12. Talking to the team, Josh "Mr. Key" Nofke showed off his athleticism and never die attitude by playing really well all four games. We hope these great efforts continue. Good luck to anyone who has to face our boys in the future.