



# THE JERSEY STATESMAN

VOLUME LXIX, ISSUE II

JUNE 25, 2014

## WEATHER

### TODAY:

Hi- 87°F  
Chance of Rain- 30%  
(Isolated Thunderstorms)

### TONIGHT:

Low- 71°F  
Chance of Rain- 50%  
(Scattered Thunderstorms)

## Assemblyman Raj Mukherji Returns to Boys State

Raven Haub

Without a doubt, Assemblyman Raj Mukherji's speech was the highlight of Monday night's General Assembly. The young representative of New Jersey's 33rd Legislative District kept the crowd of tired statesmen entertained during his speech, an inspirational piece that promoted good, dutiful civil service together with the fulfillment of one's life passions.

Mr. Mukherji enrolled in Bard College at the age of 15, while acting as CEO of an internet and software development company he started himself during sixth grade. In June 2001, he was a Boys State delegate, and acted as the Federalist State Party Chairman. However, after the September 11 attacks on the Twin Towers later that year, Mr. Mukherji decided that the best way to serve his country was through the armed forces, and enlisted in the United States Marine Corps at the age of 17. Serving in military intelligence from 2001 to 2009, he was appointed to various state positions that involved military and political collaboration, such as an appointment by former Senator Jon Corzine to his Military Academy Board in 2003.

After his service, Assemblyman Mukherji went on to work in several civil service capacities, including as the youngest ever member of the Jersey City Housing Authority, the former Deputy Mayor of Jersey City, and currently as the representative for New Jersey's 33rd Legislative District. A former serviceman, Assemblyman Mukherji says that the USMC has taught him to lead by example, with honor, courage, and commitment to duty being the forefront of these teachings. Mr. Mukherji's experience in the Marine Corps has greatly influenced his civil service policies and the attitude with which he approaches politics.

His speech Monday night, focusing on the nature of service and duty, and how to approach these responsibilities in a noble manner, was very well received by the statesmen. Delegates throughout the Assembly applauded his service and dedication to civil duties. However, it was quite clear his vocal skills in classic Italian and Irish singing were greatly appreciated by the exhausted delegates. Mukherji earned a powerful standing ovation expressing the statesmen's respect and enthusiasm for his speech—and especially his impromptu performance.

## The First Court Case of the Week

Nathun Bray

A toxic spill and an angry city later, we here at boys state have our first lawsuit. The problems started when Madison, a seashore community of 35,000 citizens, accused Adams, a comparatively smaller technological city, of spilling toxic waste in Madison's lucrative tourist destinations. Irritated, Madison dwellers went as far as to holler at Adams dwellers, including myself, claiming they had a huge "problem with us." Since then, the prosecutor, defendant, and judge have been having heated discussions, which have evolved into a pseudo-rivalry. Although we should have an open borders relation with neighboring cities, in this instance, it is most appropriate to lend a reversal of president Ronald Reagan's words and "build up that wall."

## Wednesday Schedule Highlights

**12:30pm-2:00pm** Guernational primary election  
**7:00pm** Deadline for prospective Boys Nation Senator to inform their SCC of their intent to run

DONATE BLOOD

## TOMORROW:

JERSEY BOYS STATE  
RED CROSS  
BLOOD DRIVE  
12:00pm-6:00pm  
BLC, Room 245 (Fireside Lounge)

SAVE A LIFE

# Boys' State News

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## Nimitz County Football Takes Center Stage

Matt Costantini

Football at Boys State is played under flag football rules, where a player is ruled “down” when a flag is pulled off of a belt that is worn around the waist. These games are played under a time limit, where if the score is tied at the end of regulation, an overtime is played. During this overtime period, both teams are given one offensive drive to advance the ball and the winner is decided by how far each team advances on that drive. Today, Nimitz County football played in what can already be considered the game of the week. In their game against Marshall County, an exciting game ended in a tie during regulation time, so it went into overtime. Both teams had great chances all throughout the game, including Marshall coming inches away from scoring at the end of the game which would have given them the win. Nimitz County quarterback Luke Gentile was all over the field making plays for his team not only on offense, but also on the defensive side of the ball. After he led his team to victory in overtime he said “The team is playing well, we're having a lot of fun, and we just hope that we can keep on winning.” His teammates even went as far as to liken his play-making style at quarterback to that of new Cleveland Browns QB Johnny Manziel. One of the counselors and referees, Malik Wright, said that this years games “are definitely more competitive than they have been in past years. Nimitz County is currently undefeated at 3-0.

## America in the 2014 World Cup

Nick Troise

The 2014 World Cup has thrilled millions of people worldwide. Even those who typically don't follow soccer have found great enjoyment in this universal tournament. There has been a special kind of excitement here in America, and rightfully so. Although the U.S. was placed in, arguably, one of the toughest groups, the team still has a strong chance to advance into the knockout stage for the second time in a row. After a close victory over Ghana and an unfortunate last minute goal resulting in a tie with Portugal, the United States sits at the top of the group with Germany tied at four points. Going into the last game this Thursday at 12:00 PM against Germany, there are many positive outcomes for the U.S. If the United States wins the game, they will finish first place in the group and will face off against the second place team of Group H (most likely either Russia or Algeria). If America and Germany tie, Germany will finish first in the group, and the U.S. Will finish second. Therefore, America would play the first place team of Group H, which is currently Belgium. Even if the U.S. loses to Germany they can still advance because of their goal differential, which is greater than both Portugal's and Ghana's. The only way America will be eliminated from the World Cup is if they lose, and the winner of the Portugal/Ghana game increases their goal differential to be greater than the United States'. Presently, Portugal's goal differential is -4, Ghana's is -1, and America's is +1. In other words, things are looking good for America.

## Adams and Washington Sisterhood: More Than Expected

Keshav Amaro

Two cities. One county. One goal.

When we walked into the first council meeting with our sister city, we were expecting the same hectic chaos over small decisions present in our own city. One statesman would be fighting with another, our Chief of Police would be constantly yelling to shut our mouths, ultimately leading to a jumbled up mess. We felt as if the struggle to overcome our Federalists and Nationalist beliefs would never be possible and that we were so tied to our city as statesman that it would be difficult to hear everyone's separate thoughts. Compromise seemed inevitable. Fortunately, this was not the case in Halsey County.

In less than five minutes, our sly smiles and artificial behaviors had dissipated, and were instead replaced by actions of productivity. Both Mayor Connor Briggs and Mayor Moustafa Abdelaziz handled the situation well. While Briggs employed a method of quick and straight to the point thinking, Abdelaziz (a.k.a. Mayor Mufasa) went for a method of humor and straight up presentation. Due to how harmoniously we worked together, we no longer thought of ourselves as two separate cities, but as one county, striving for excellence.

# Boys' State News

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## Federalists, Unite!

Daniel Wang

As we start to get into the rhythm of things at Boys State, many young and aspiring Federalists have banded together to advocate for change and to solve the problems that plague their respective cities. As everybody is finalizing their solutions to the individual problems present within their city, we begin to see a clearer picture of how the Federalist Party will look and what our united platform will be when it comes to fruition. Here's a small look at what's happening in just some of the Federalist Parties here at Boys State:

**City 4 Madison-** The city of Madison has entered into a feud with its sister city, Monroe, over Monroe allowing medical waste to flow onto the shores of Madison. To add to this problem, Madison's beaches were destroyed by Hurricane Sandy and the city is desperately working to get its beaches back up to full operation. The city of Madison is also deciding whether it wishes to allow nude beaches.

Federalist Oluseun Dairo, although reluctant to divulge the full details of the party's plans, stated that the Madison's Federalist Party is going to do everything possible to fix its beaches. With regard to the feud with Monroe, the Federalist Party is planning to seek litigation against its sister city and force them to take responsibility for the damage that is happening, and they are confident they will win the lawsuit.

**City 15 Lincoln-** According to Federalist Nate Silberman, "Lincoln is dying." Apparently, the casino located in Lincoln is attracting all types of problems to the city. A crime family has become entrenched within the city, and is importing drugs, guns, and a whole mess of other problems. Along with its crime crisis, Lincoln is also having an employment crisis. Two tech companies, Microsoft and Epiware, have gotten into a legal dispute and taken the town, and its citizens, hostage. Microsoft has fired thousands of workers in Lincoln because of how dissatisfied it is with the city's neutrality up to this point. The problem with appeasing Microsoft and forcing Epiware out of the city is a simple economic principle: Epiware keeps Microsoft from having a total monopoly in the city. Lincoln is also suffering from a corrupt city government, making the city unable to effectively deal with the other major issues at hand.

The Federalist Party of Lincoln has vowed to work with its new mayor to stamp out corruption, and work with its sister city, Johnson, to stamp out the crime family that has nested into Lincoln and raise city security so that this wouldn't happen again.

## Boys State: Preparing Statesmen for Our Future

Michael Tang

ALJBS is a week in which some of the best young minds in New Jersey are taught to shape the future and become leaders in their future careers. However, on June 24th, Boys State prepared students for an event that hits a bit closer to the present: the dreaded college application process.

The Second Annual College Fair at Boys State gave students an opportunity to interact directly with admission officers from various schools across the nation. Occurring side-by-side with the county and state elections, the fair welcomed schools such as Rutgers, Princeton, Duke, Citadel, and even our host university of Rider, as well as the Naval and Marine Academies. Admission officers were present to answer any questions statesmen asked, and gave prospective students the opportunity to join a mailing list for additional information from the colleges.

Along with the College Fair, Boys State also offered a seminar on college admissions. Entitled College Admissions: Paving Your Way, the seminar brought in speakers from Princeton, Rider, and The College of New Jersey to offer insight into what made a college applicant successful. There is no secret to getting into any of these prestigious colleges, but the admissions counselors spoke about what they looked for in applicants. Colleges would prefer to see a consistent upward trend in your high school career: an increase in grades and course rigor. A mediocre ACT or SAT is tolerable; four years of underachievement will be greatly frowned upon. The college counselors also advised to get a head start on applications and essays, as the colleges must read through everything submitted to them, and make sure your passion and dedication come through. One pitfall they mentioned was to get an early start; too many seniors wait until the last minute the night before to write and submit, resulting in poor essays. If you give yourself enough time and ensure that everything is meticulous, your application will be that much stronger.

# Boys' State News

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## Entering Politics: From the Experts

Brian Milara

While selecting seminars of choice on the second day of business as usual at Jersey Boys State, it came as no surprise that Careers in Politics generated a large amount of interest. Those with potential to become the state's—and even the nation's—future leaders congregated in the Bart Luedeke Center's Cavalla Room and listened to the experiences and advice of panelists such as Springfield Mayor Ziad Shehady, Bayshore Democratic Club member Vincent Solomeno, Ari Fleisher Communications client manager James Lynch, lobbyist Ryan Peene, and West Milford Republican Organization Dan Poeschl.

The panelists, all Boys State alumni, discussed the time they had spent here and how this week impacted their lives. Many of the speeches began the same way: the story of a boy apathetic toward politics who was inspired by the opportunity to represent his community and its interests, carrying on with this love for politics in college and choosing to make his name known in the political world by volunteering and interning for local politicians.

From there, however, the paths of these men diverged greatly. Peene wished to represent the interests of those concerned with legislation and, as a result, took up a career as a lobbyist. Lynch, while attending college in Washington, DC, chose to work as an intern for Senator McCain and has risen to work in communications, ensuring that the images of politicians are protected, often from their own words and actions. Solomeno and Shehady told of their accomplishments in Union Beach and Springfield, respectively. Solomeno, determined to campaign for the election of the first Democratic officeholder in a Republican stronghold in over a decade, succeeded in his goal, just as Shehady made the opposite come true in Springfield. These experiences indicated to the statesmen in attendance that one's role in politics is not structured; every turn one makes will lead him down a different path and into a different field, whether it be lobbying, communications, or legislating.

When asked about the lessons they have taken from their years in politics, the panelists provided key pieces of advice for the statesmen. Mayor Shehady described the way politics has changed in recent years, including the new accessibility of the political process and the accountability of officeholders to the electorate by means of Facebook, Twitter, and televised meetings. With this greater access that the electorate has to their politicians, the panelists had this to say to the statesmen about those who feel that they cannot be challenged: “They think their titles are who they are. Then it all crumbles down and there will be no one there to pick them up.” To those who felt that failure in politics had discouraged them from continuing in the field, Solomeno shared what a senior party leader had told him: “The ass you kick today is the ass you kiss tomorrow.”

The panelists demonstrated their ability to persist, to do what is necessary to succeed, and to remain faithful to their beliefs regardless of challenges. For those in attendance, it was a pleasure and an honor to learn about the art of politics from some of the most experienced.

***Thank you to all the veterans who made our experience at ALJBS possible.***

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