

Opening Day at Boys State

Cole Grumbach

It has been a tiring, yet rewarding first day at ALJBS. The day started early, with many statesmen leaving their homes before 5:00 AM in order to arrive at the program for registration. Families said their goodbyes, and the delegates were sent on their way. The day began with a welcoming ceremony, with a wide range of speakers sharing their congratulations and hopes for the delegates. Statesmen were then able to meet the rest of their cities' members for the first time, and it didn't take long for many to make close friends. The feeling of camaraderie among the delegates was truly palpable. As the day continued and the separate cities began to work out preliminary elections, excitement grew. Boys State was finally underway. The afternoon general assembly presented a real treat for the statesmen: Freeholder Kenny Armwood told his story of success as an elected official, and encouraged the statesmen to not be afraid to challenge the process. During the night session of the general assembly, congressman Leonard Lance shared some words with the delegates. "Continue to do well in school," Lance urged, "and always play hard and play fair." Lance also had the chance to reflect on his time at Boys State. "It was my first experience meeting kids from all around the state," Lance said. "It was a wonderful experience." ALJBS Governor Jordan DeGroot ended the day by recalling his experiences in the program, advising the statesmen to "never be afraid to share your opinions". The day was long, but the lessons were valuable. Statesmen are excited for another day of Boys State!

Today's Weather

Low of 63
High of 85
Precipitation: 41%

**Period of clouds
and sun with a
shower or
thunderstorm in
spots.**

American Legion
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Post the Colors!

Logan Suarez Parmer

Early Sunday, even before any elections took place the citizens of Adams City were asked if they knew how to perform a flag ceremony, and sizable number of them raised their hands in affirmation. Little did they know, however, that the "flag ceremony" would be a military style opening flag ceremony where the four would have to march in sync, "post the colors," and kick off the session officially. In order to be able to perform this ceremony, which they had no prior experience performing, they practiced for over two hours under the tutelage of a United States Army sergeant. When the time came to carry out the ceremony, they walked in line-and-file with chests out and backs straight. With this great opening ceremony, came a great start to the 71st Session of New Jersey Boys State.

Boys' State News

Cory Booker Speaks to Delegates

Cole Grumbach & Akash Anand

Boys State presented the delegates with a real treat Monday morning as 968 statesmen listened intently to Senator Cory Booker (ALJBS '86). Booker, a junior Senator from our very own Garden State, implored us to "not be intimidated by large tasks," but more importantly, to never ignore the small ones. We asked Senator Booker what advice he could offer current delegates and quickly he replied, "Serve your state. The more you give, the more you are going to get."

Statesmen had their first opportunity to serve

after municipal and county elections. Some of us won. Some of us lost. Regardless of the results, it's important to keep pushing forward. Senator Booker reminisced that "Boys State was one of the key building blocks of my political career." Careers aren't made by the results of one city or county election. They aren't a product of effort with your city and county manual. They aren't created through dedication to keeping a positive attitude. Still, it is all of these things make us better individuals. His last piece of advice, keep focusing on your career here at Boys State, but remember to continue to foster individual connections.



Retreat

David Murphy

She throws sun-rays off her fabric surface, and turns them to soft shades of red, white and clearest blue. The canaries sing sweetly in the tree while the setting sun, dipping behind a red-bricked building, tall and proud, throws a golden light about the grass.

The man keeps a set face with eyes staring straight ahead, stone cold, as a drop of sweat trickles slowly down his cheek. He stands perfectly at attention. All around him stand the quiet masses of a thousand statesmen. They stand shoulder to shoulder, row upon row, forming straight lines; and while the field bristles with human faces, which inevitably blink and breathe, the field is eerily, and calmly, silent as the wind.

And suddenly, a bark rips through the summer air--"Attention!"--and in complete and utter unison, all move in like formation, and their faces are controlled individually yet collectively, and the noise is like rain that stops as suddenly as it has started.

What a respectable union! What a commendable retreat!

The flag descends in motherly grace, in colored glory, and quickly, almost sadly, finds the waiting hands which welcome it, and is delicately and honorably folded.

Opinion

Amidst the commencement festivities of the 71st annual American Legion Jersey Boys State, there was a palpable enthusiasm in the air during the evening's General Assembly meeting. The energy was perhaps greatest as US Senator Leonard Lance took the podium, reflecting on his history at Jersey Boys' State back in 1969 and delivering remarks on his current political agenda. Mr. Lance's recollection of the United States' defeat of communism was greeted by cheers from the 986-strong army of Boys' State delegates while his promise to support Donald Trump (or as he indirectly put it; to avoid mentioning Mr. Trump by name: "the Republican nominee") was received by jeers.

However, Mr. Lance made one declaration in particular that brought the house to its feet: America is the greatest nation on earth.

Mr. Lance, the United States is globally ranked 7th in literacy, 31st in health care, 49th in life expectancy, 178th in infant mortality, and 3rd in median household income. The United States leads the world in three lone categories: the number of people we imprison, the number of our own citizens killed by gun violence, and defense spending – in which we spend more than the next 26 countries combined, 24 of whom we can consider our allies. What evidence is there to suggest that we're the greatest country in the world?

Could it be our sacredly guarded liberty and freedom that make us unsurpassed in greatness? No—out of the two hundred some sovereign states in the world, nearly 180 of them have freedom.

We used to be great. We used to stand up for our moral principles. We used to wage war on poverty, not on poor people. We made enormous sacrifices, both for ourselves and for others. We pursued intelligence, making unimaginable technologies a reality, pushing the boundaries of our universe, cultivating the world's greatest cultural icons, and building the greatest economy the world has ever seen. But we were able to accomplish all this because we were informed.

Delegates, an informed citizenry is crucial to any functioning democracy, and the first step to solving any problem is recognizing that one exists. American Jersey Boys State prides itself in bringing the democratic experiment to our state's future leaders. It's crucial we recognize that the United States is no longer the greatest nation on earth.

And by recognizing this inconvenient truth, we empower ourselves to catalyze change. Perhaps one day, we can transform America and restore it once more as the greatest nation on Earth.

Quote of the Day
"What is the face of a coward? The back of his head as he runs from the battle." - Frank Underwood

Sports

Darshan Singh will lead Taylor City to Victory

Asher Maitin

Darshan Singh may struggle to separate himself academically from the rest of the Boys State statesmen, but he certainly isn't hard to find on the volleyball and basketball courts. The six-foot-five, size-fifteen-shoe wearing member of Taylor City will bring his seasoned balling skills to ALJBS this week. "I've been playing volleyball for eight years and it's taught me undeniable qualities of leadership, friendship and hard work," said Singh. "My basketball game isn't as strong, but hey, with my height, I'm basically unstoppable." Singh said he plans to pursue a career in sports. "Sports are important to me. Just look at my height. I'm a tank and I have big plans for the future." Singh also never saw his height as a detriment to his ability, only seeing the positive side of his birth-given advantage. He doesn't mind seeing over everybody, a quality he considered critical as he ran and won the position of guide-on bearer for Taylor City on the first day. "Becoming a guide-on bearer just made sense for me," said Singh. "I want to protect the guide-on with every muscle in my body. My height, and my turban, of course, just made the decision easy for the other statesmen." Singh also looks forward to how the leadership qualities he will acquire over the week will help him in and out of sports in the future. "Boys State is the opportunity for me to expand on my current skills and improve them to channel them into my sports, academics and personal life." Singh joins a multitude of the other Boys State delegates and statesmen from Taylor City as they look to round out the competitive crop at this year's session.



Game 7

Cavs: 93 Warriors: 89

- James had 27 points, 11 rebounds, & 11 assists
- Curry had 17 points and failed to receive MVP
- Both teams make history this season, Warriors with the most wins in regular season history and the Cavaliers with their first NBA Championship ever
- Warriors hit 10 three-pointers in a row in the first half, as the Cavaliers went 1 for 14 from deep
- Cavaliers led by Irving, came back and took the lead making it 76-75
- Reporters and analysts countrywide blame Steph Curry because he, "never found a rhythm."
- He had 17 points in Game 7 and 30 points in Game 6, but he was a mess on the defensive end
- Had multiple mental lapses that led

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