

# THE JERSEY STATESMAN



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ALJBS2023

## County Athletics

1. Vanderburg
2. Halsey
3. Eisenhower

Ridegway and Bradley are tied for last, and the rest of the counties (Nimitz, MacArthur, and Marshall) are fighting for the podium. A rivalry seems to be developing between Vanderburg and Halsey counties, with some strong booing at Monday night's assembly.

## Thank You Service Members!

The Editors of the ALJBS newspaper, on behalf of all the statesmen, would like to recognize the service members who are volunteering their time this week for our development, and thank them all for their past and continued service for our country.

## The Power of Speaking Up

**Zachary Pasternack**

What does it mean to speak up? To some, speaking up is sharing opinions in front of a crowd. To some, speaking up is making the uncomfortable more comfortable. Already at the American Legion Jersey Boys State, delegates have faced times when they need to speak up, either to fight for a position or to share their ideas to better their resolutions and the overall efficiency of the city's solution. Speaking up is a crucial skill that each delegate needs to possess. With this skill, delegates are bound to go far within their governments. For most, speaking up does not come easy. However, if history has shown society one thing, it's that voicing your opinions can make change - think of the greats, from King Jr. to Lincoln.

If you are looking to have an amazing time here at Boys State, it is crucial that you voice your opinion and stand up for your beliefs as it will only make your time here worthwhile. Trying new things and becoming a leader are qualities that will take you far. Remember, you will never know if you like something if you don't try it. Here at Boys State, delegates have many opportunities to speak up. However, it is what you do with those opportunities that truly matter. Delegates, this week is like no other - it is up to you to make it the best experience possible.



# Statesmen Scandals

## Voter Fraud in Taylor City

Samuel Zwiebel

Yesterday, during the Taylor City Municipal election in which the Mayor and City Council were elected, Nationalist candidate Yaniel Colón was elected mayor, and Jake Hascup, Gabriel Diaz, Carmine DeCrescenzo, Christopher Cerra, Wonhee Cho, and Devon Jiang, all Federalists, were elected as the city council. When the EBO's counted the number of votes, there were 2 more than there should have been. The City Council was overall unaffected due to each member winning the race by more than two votes. However the Mayoral election was swayed with the mayor winning by 2 votes. Due to the anonymity of the vote, the culprits remain unknown. The city's Federalist Party initially wished to challenge and have a recount for the Mayor only. After some deliberation, though, they ultimately decided to keep Yaniel as Taylor City's mayor.



## Couples Therapy

Jonah Gardberg

On Sunday night, Kay LiCausi and Matt McDermott came to speak to us. They are a married couple, who both had careers in politics. This pairing may be common, but what is not is the differences in their political ideologies. LiCausi is an unflinching Democrat, while McDermott is a staunch Republican.

The both of them joke that they're "always right," and even admitted that they're sometimes so frustrated with each other, they simply don't speak to each other. On a day to day, however, they admit that they don't fight often. McDermott explained that though their policies are different, their politics are largely the same. While they fight for the same problems, such as gun control and carbon emissions reductions, their vision of the path to success differs. McDermott explains that while he understands the ambition to "go electric," it simply isn't possible to 100% change from gas to electric vehicles given our power grid. He says anything is possible, but it takes time. The conflicting view, which he implied his wife takes to, is the more liberal approach, identifying a problem and immediately trying to attack it.

When questioned on the influence they had on each other, they both had near identical responses. While there can be frustration given conflicting views, they emphasized the positive influence that their commentary on each other can have. Constructive criticism fosters thought, and in part the development of problem solving ability. The disagreements we have can be the greatest impact on our future and how we develop solutions to daily problems.

# Around Campus

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## ALJBS Dinner Sparks Controversy!

**Connor Farley**

As the first day of ALJBS comes to close, delegates enjoy dinner in the Dining Hall. However, a few food items raised some eyebrows among delegates...

First and foremost, let's address the disappointment that was the mac and cheese, a typically beloved side dish. It looked so, so good; creamy cheesy mac and cheese would be the perfect conclusion to a long first day. However, it was nothing short of a let-down. "The mac and cheese tasted like nothing," one delegate fumed, "it's just watery sauce and pasta." Clearly the mac and cheese was a dinner disaster - 3/10.

What followed was not well received either. Suspicious, gray-ish looking mystery meat trailed the already disappointing mac and cheese. However, its stale appearance was contradicted by its sharp taste. Moreover, the meatloaf packed a punch, very odd considering its bland appearance. One delegate remarked, "it does not look like it should taste like that." Overall, weird, but not horrible - 5/10.

One beloved delicacy, to overcome the rest, were the brownies. Delegates from Lincoln City absolutely demolished them. Delicious - 9/10.

Overall, the food situation at ALJBS looks promising. You can check the Yapp App to see what's being served in the coming days. Let's hope it's good; we'll be here to rate it. Till next time!

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## City 6 Situation Recap

**Aiden Hester**

During the General Assembly yesterday regarding the individual cities of the state, City Six was handed a uniquely complex case. City Six legislators will have to contend with both a Native American burial site, which is intended to be turned into a museum and casino by the local tribe, and a lucrative government contract worth \$80,000,000. The contract, however, would introduce a nuclear repository into the town, at the very site of the burial site. Following the close of the first day of deliberations among party politicians, any outcome seems plausible to either side, meaning only time will tell for which option the local government sides with, and if they would be able to come to a compromise.

# Around Campus

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## Juneteenth At Boys State

Jonathan Hong

Juneteenth, a federal holiday celebrated yearly on June 19, commemorates the liberation of enslaved African-Americans as a result of the Emancipation Proclamation of 1862. Unfortunately, on Sunday morning, what was meant to be a joyous celebration of a milestone in American history quickly devolved into another example of gun violence's tragic consequences in our country.

CBS reported that at 12:30 a.m. yesterday in Willowbrook, IL, a suburb of Chicago, a party of over 200 attendees celebrating Juneteenth was abruptly interrupted by 20 to 30 gunshots fired into the crowd, leaving 1 dead and at least 22 wounded. Authorities have yet to determine possible suspects or motives.

Tragically, this is only the most recent occurrence in what has been a series of similar events over the past few years, emphasizing the urgency of action regarding gun control in our country. Gun violence is not an inevitable issue, and its resulting casualties in our country have been largely preventable. Gun reform is not and should not be a partisan issue, and our leaders must find a way to cross party lines and create a viable solution in order to prevent any needless losses in the future.

## Landmark Supreme Court Case

Jonathan Lanfir

The most recent decision made by the Supreme Court is incredibly significant, as it pertains to upholding a fundamental right of American citizens: the right to vote.

Argued in 2022, *Allen v. Milligan* concerned the representation of African American constituents in Alabama based on the number of black-majority congressional districts in the state. Due to recent gerrymandering in which the Alabama state legislature drew up new district borders, black constituents were left underrepresented. In order to proportionally represent the voters of Alabama based on population, the Court narrowly ruled 5-4 in favor of *Allen*, affirming that the previous districting map violated the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

In *Allen*, the Court not only reinforced a landmark piece of legislation, but also upheld the importance of voting rights for all Americans. The decision in this case, made on June 8, 2023, leads many legal scholars to believe that future challenges to unjust districting practices will be met with similar responses by the Court.

As statesmen who will learn more about the fundamentals of the judicial branch later this week, it is cases like *Allen v. Milligan* that remind us of the Supreme Court's key role of ensuring each American justice under the law.

# Opinion Editorial

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## A Statesman's Take on Clean Energy

**Nanda Guntupalli**

In a groundbreaking development set to reshape the energy landscape, nuclear fusion emerges as a transformative force in the global energy industry. This cutting-edge technology harnesses the boundless energy of the stars, offering a safe, sustainable, and virtually limitless source of clean power. As scientists and engineers make strides towards practical fusion reactors, the potential benefits of this revolutionary energy source become increasingly apparent, promising a brighter and greener future for generations to come.

Nuclear fusion involves the fusion of light atomic nuclei, releasing enormous amounts of energy. Unlike conventional nuclear fission, fusion does not produce hazardous waste or pose the risk of catastrophic meltdowns. The fuel required for fusion, such as hydrogen isotopes, is abundantly available, unlocking unparalleled possibilities for countries to attain energy independence and reduce reliance on fossil fuels. This can curtail greenhouse gas emissions, thus mitigating the adverse impacts of climate change.

One of the most remarkable advantages of nuclear fusion lies in its extraordinary energy density. A mere kilogram of fusion fuel can unleash energy equivalent to millions of kilograms of traditional fossil fuels like coal or oil. Such colossal energy production holds immense potential for meeting the escalating global demand for electricity. Fusion reactors have the capacity to power entire cities, industries, and transportation systems, while minimizing environmental harm, offering a sustainable solution to future energy challenges.

The growth of specialized industries, such as materials science, superconductivity, robotics, and artificial intelligence, is anticipated. Moreover, fusion power plants would be immune to the price volatility of fossil fuels, offering stable and affordable electricity rates for consumers and businesses alike.

Collaborative initiatives like ITER (International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor) push scientific boundaries and expand engineering capabilities, inching closer to achieving sustainable fusion energy. As groundbreaking breakthroughs continue to emerge, the potential of nuclear fusion becomes increasingly evident, signaling the dawn of a cleaner, brighter, and more sustainable era.

Nuclear fusion and its unparalleled potential for clean and virtually limitless power promises to address the mounting energy demands while mitigating climate change impacts. The multifaceted advantages of fusion, from its abundant fuel supply and safety features to its socioeconomic implications, position it as an extraordinary catalyst for progress. As researchers and visionaries unravel the mysteries of fusion, the energy revolution looms on the horizon, ushering in a future marked by clean, abundant, and sustainable power generation.

# Assembly

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## A Hard Day's Night

Clark Demarest

Guest speaker Congressman Leonard Lance emphasized Sunday morning the importance of "...mak[ing] a decision knowing you can't make everyone happy." Lance, perhaps inadvertently, summarized the question delegates of ALJBS sessions past and present had to ask themselves before walking onto campus this morning: despite all concerns, should one capitalize on such a revered program, even if it means stepping outside of their comfort zone and, possibly, not making themselves immediately "happy"?

ALJBS' slogan, "a week to shape the future", is undeniable - the leadership skills, independence, and democratic principles conferred upon attendees is unlike any other one-week program for teens. However, spending a week amongst complete strangers and a completely new environment is a formidable challenge to say the least. Delegates must accept this challenge with open arms to be successful, as it's been said time and time again by staff that this experience is a process, and "Boys State is what you make of it."

Peter, member of Jefferson City, stated, "I feel exhausted; it was really interesting learning about the intricacies of student government here at boys state, but, y'know, it's a very tiring experience...you get fatigued at the end." Juggling seminars, elections, and social networks, statesmen have their work cut out for them this week. However, as Lance said in his speech, "You have the obligation to pursue the American Dream".

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