

THE JERSEY STATESMAN



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County Athletics

1. Vandenburg
2. Halsey
3. MacArthur
4. Eisenhower
5. Nimitz
6. Ridgway
7. Bradley
8. Marshall

Vote For Senators!

Although voting is not required by law in the United States, it is a fundamental right of citizens, and should be exercised whenever possible. Voting is the embodiment of a representative government— by voting in elections, Americans take part in democracy and have a direct influence on who their leaders are, and ultimately what policies are enacted. At times, it may take just one vote to make the difference in a critical election. We urge all statesmen to do their part and exercise democracy through voting!

Thank You, American Legion!

Clark Demarest

The American Legion is the largest veteran-oriented service organization in the world. The Legion fans the flames of patriotism in the hearts of the myriad veterans, children, and communities they serve. New Jersey Boys State attendees are privileged to be supported educationally and financially by this exceptional example of Americanism.

Legionnaires have served in the military, primarily, for two reasons: to protect us, of course, but also to preserve our futures and freedoms. The ALJBS program is venerated due to its now seventy-seven-year history, throughout which leadership skills have been honed and, frankly, résumés have been bolstered tenfold. The vast majority of attendees have been sponsored by the Legion - their admission fees have been waived, and housing, food, and an unparalleled education have been granted to them free of charge.

Legionnaires and staff members - you have instilled formative memories, ethics, and civics in a new generation; the generation that soon will carry this world in the palms of their hands. Thanks be to all. Hoo-rah!

Family Day Reminder

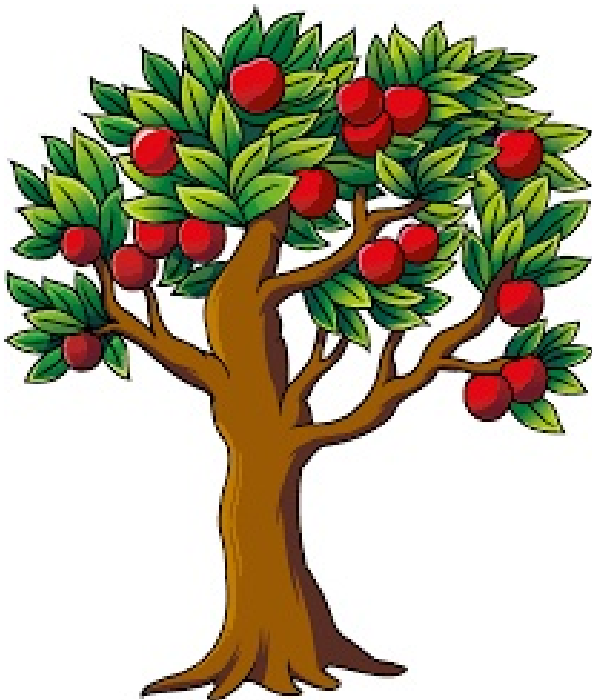
At 11:00 AM on June 23, 2023, family members of all statesmen at the ALJBS will be welcomed to Family Day on campus. This is a reminder to buy your tickets which can be purchased online or before Family Day begins. ALJBS will provide food and entertainment from the Boys State band, and all are welcome to watch the Jersey Boys State Championship Race. In case of unexpected weather conditions, make sure to check your Yapp app for any updates to the schedule.

Statesmen Scandals

Apples BANNED In Taylor City

Sam Zwiebel

On Wednesday afternoon, the Taylor City council passed a law banning apples in the city. The law came about due to Councilman Jake Hascup stockpiling apples from the cafeteria in his room. According to Mayor Yaniel, this could have restricted the potential amount of money gathered for the pizza party last night, as he believed anyone who had apples wouldn't provide funds for pizza. This resulted in immense backlash from the citizens of Taylor after Federalists and Nationalist proceeded to eat apples in the face of the Chief of Police. The councilman was hence summoned to court and was found guilty after he and his defense attorney, as well as a few other citizens, held up the stolen apples as evidence.



Day 5 Food Review

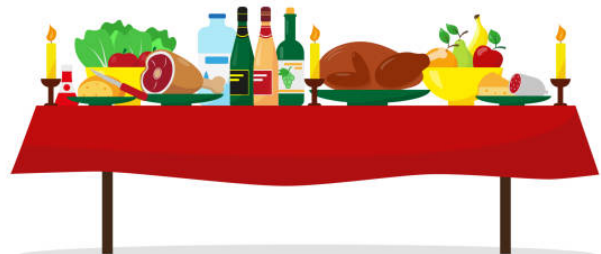
Conner Farley

Today is the last full day of Boys State, so I solemnly bring you the last food review of the week. Further, there is a disclaimer on this piece: I will not be able to rate Thursday's dinner, as the Boys State laptops need to be turned in before then. With that being said, I deliver you the week's last food review, only Thursday's breakfast and lunch.

Thursday's breakfast was once again, eggs, pancakes, potatoes, and breakfast meat. However, I must say today's spread was tastier than previous days. The bacon was crispier, the eggs cooked better, and the potatoes were nearly perfect. I am pleasantly surprised with Thursday's breakfast, 6/10.

Special edition for Thursday's lunch- I took a trip to the gluten free table for a change of pace. Some of the food there looked better, so I decided to give it a shot. It was definitely a shot worth taking, as the gluten free food was pretty good. Chicken, pasta, broccoli and a baked potato all made a great combo that melted in my mouth. Seemingly, people with a gluten allergy have got a good thing going on. The chicken was a little dry, so that takes the rating down a bit, but it still gets a solid 7/10.

Well, statesmen, that's it. I hope you enjoyed reading my food reviews; I certainly enjoyed writing them. Go home and eat some good food; I know you're all sick of chicken tenders. See you later.



Around Campus

A Reflection On Boys State

Jonathan Hong

As Boys State is drawing to a close, I am inclined to reminisce about my experience this week.

Now, I'll admit it: the true reason I came to Boys State wasn't to learn about our government. Rather, I had seen the overwhelming amount of elected and appointed positions available and was hoping to bolster my resume. However, I've learned far more this week than I'd ever expected. By being immersed in a realistic governmental experience, I've learned about the various positions, procedures, and complexities of our nation's lawmaking bodies. Boys State has also been an opportunity for me to develop soft skills with applications far beyond civil service. By sitting in on seminars, delivering speeches, campaigning for elections, and collaborating with other statesmen, I've been able to push the boundaries of my understanding of public speaking, leadership, and networking. Even if I do not enter into a life of civil service, these skills will still help me achieve success in whatever field I decide to pursue.

During the first few general assemblies, many of the former statesmen, who we had the privilege to hear from, discussed how the relationships they developed while at Boys State have lasted years after their sessions ended. Personally, I found these reflections to be rather cheesy and cliché; however, in just a few short days, I've learned a surprising amount about the experiences, personalities, and lives of the other boys in my city and feel as if I've known them for far longer than a mere

week.

Family Day is tomorrow, and while I am truly excited to see my family again and return home, I know that I will forever treasure the experiences and memories I've gained from Boys State. In fact, I will miss it.

Runners' Interview

John Wallace

Two runners reside in Olson hall. Their names are Austin Hudak and Kyle Bjornson, and they are both incredible athletes. Both can run a mile in under 5 minutes; both can run two laps around an 800 meter outdoor track in about 2 minutes, and both are from Monroe City. However, they compete on rival teams, and they are from opposing parties.

When the pair entered the Olson lounge, there was an air of friendliness about the two. When asked if there was a rivalry, Austin chuckled, "No, not at all." In fact, before this interview, they were good acquaintances, though they typically meet only at track events.

They tend to run similar events, often finishing only a handful of seconds apart. Both athletes love to run the 4 x 800 relay race, and Kyle stated that it is his favorite event. "I like the fact that there's a 4 x 800 relay...it makes it like a team event." Austin was quick to agree, though he prefers the 5K because he has more experience with that event. The two players greatly value the sense of community that running provides, and it seems that this sense of community transcends team lines.

Since runners endure long bouts of rigorous exercise, they form bonds with each other, as these two statesmen did with each other.

Opinion Editorial

Systems of Government

Ivan Gomez

The modern government of the United States has been weakened considerably. The constitution originally provided for a federal government in which could regulate interstate commerce, wage war, maintain and train a professional army, and uphold the freedoms of the citizens of the United States through the form of their basic rights(Amendments). The Federal government was at first content to leave much of the ruling up to the states, until the government was expanded and the powers of the executive branch increased. However, over time, the Judicial Branch, Executive Branch, and Legislative Branch have all given themselves powers at some point or another not provided for in the constitution.

The right to determine what is constitutional or not was a right the Supreme Court gave to themselves. The government expansion was promoted largely because of FDR's New Deal, and has stayed so since, even after coming out of an economic depression. Abraham Lincoln, Andrew Jackson, Teddy Roosevelt, and Franklin D. Roosevelt, four of the most famous presidents in the history of the United States, obtained the executive power to pass virtually what they wanted to.

The issue is this large government model is virtually impossible to maintain without large support from the populace and a stronger President. Government has instead been dominated by political party clashes, weakening the strength of the central government system shown in the turmoil of the last 8 years. The logical solution today would then be to delegate some powers

to the states,a time of considerable peace. At the end of the day, this idea is just one solution to a problem that is looming increasingly closer, whether the American people want to admit its existence or not.

Gubernatorial Debate

Vrishank Naithani

On the morning of June 22, 2023, Federalist and Nationalist State party leaders convened in Rider University's alumni gymnasium for the annual Gubernatorial debate. Representing the Nationalist Party was candidate Isaiah Cano and his Lt. Governor Matt Jones. Representing the Federalist Party was candidate Dillon Dukes & his Lt. Governor Matt Lameo.

Both gubernatorial prospects began with a strong speech reflecting on their journeys leading up to candidacy. Dukes' speech detailed being rejected from his Middle School's student council despite being qualified. Dukes then emphasized the importance of diverse representation and delivered a moving oration.

Cano began by informing the audience of his background, reflecting upon the unlikelihood of his current position as a candidate and emphasized his gratefulness for all he has accomplished. Cano then delivered a charismatic speech which restated his principles and goals as a Nationalist Gubernatorial candidate.

Through and through, all candidates for the 77th class of the American Legion Jersey Boys State all carried the unwavering confidence, strength and heart to represent the 77th class of NJ Boys State.

Around Campus

Real Estate Seminar

Zachary Pasternack

Throughout the day, statesmen are expected to attend one seminar that provides insight into potential career paths. Not only do these informative panels help add variety to the otherwise standardized schedule, but they also provide valuable information to all statesmen. The seminar that I decided to attend was titled 'Careers in Real Estate,' which featured three speakers, all in the field of real estate, who all held senior positions.

The first of three speakers was Andrew Robertson, a realtor working with Realty One Group. Robertson presented a unique perspective on the field of real estate, in which he included his family into his introduction. A resident of Denver, CO, he described the emphasis on a work-life balance, and how he has managed to have a positive relationship with his family and work. Included into his discussion was a personal story of a trip down the shore with his family to Ocean City, NJ.

The second speaker was David Ralic of the Society Group. David spoke about one of the most notable experiences in his career, which he stated as being his acquisition of a restaurant. Originally purchasing the business for his father, he soon was forced to take over once his father stepped down. His tenacity for business grew the restaurant, eventually hiring a Hell's Kitchen finalist. The success that he saw with this restaurant eventually led Ralic to open a second location. This ultimately led to complications in his work-life balance, however, as this new opening took up the majority of his time. Long hours away from his family led to an ultimatum: his business or his marriage. Ralic ended up stepping down from his business. He

eventually began the Society Group, where he now employs realtors to work under him for a 70/30 split, his employees netting the majority of their sales.

Finally, Dennis Wood stepped up as the final speaker of the seminar. Wood works as the Managing Director of Greystone, which he gave a brief description of to the audience. In essence, Wood prepares long-term plans for businesses looking to construct buildings and infrastructure. This includes, as he described, pricing every last piece of the builds and figuring out the long term strategy for how the clients should proceed. Wood also cited a current project that his company is working on, which was quoted as a staggering \$90,000,000.

The seminar concluded with a Q&A, where statesmen asked a variety of questions, ranging from how to build personal wealth to how to find possible clients. All three panelists answered the questions very thoughtfully, giving their experiences with each topic brought up and offering their assistance for prospective realtors.



Opinion Editorial

Monroe: The President of Unity

John Wallace

James Monroe is known today as the solemn, stoic 5th president of the United States. But that impression does not give the entire story of a fascinating man, who went from being a revolutionary to the President of the greatest nation in the world.

Monroe was born in 1758 to a successful family in Virginia, but both of his parents died when he was a teenager, so he had to take over the family farm. Soon after, he enrolled in college and met revolutionaries, and, morphed by their patriotic spirit, became an officer in the Continental Army. After a few promotions, ending in him becoming a major, Monroe left the Continental Army in 1779. He married his wife, Elizabeth Kortright, in 1784.

Three years later, Monroe began to serve in the Virginia state legislature. As a representative, he held out against ratifying the Constitution; this helped create pressure to include the Bill of Rights. George Washington, despite being a staunch political opponent, appointed Monroe the Foreign Minister to France in 1794, though Monroe took some provocative action, prompting Washington to recall him in 1797. After a failed presidential campaign against James Madison, Monroe, backed by the Democratic-Republicans, returned to win the presidency in 1817. A Boston newspaper described the overwhelming national support of Monroe as the signal of a new "Era of Good Feelings." This era soon came to an end with the financial Panic of 1819, but Monroe stayed out of the economy for the most part. In the same year, Monroe also had to weather

the storm of the Missouri Compromise, where Missouri joined the nation as a slave state, and slavery was prohibited above the 36/30' north latitude line. This created division and re-formed two political parties in America, signaling the end of the Era of Good Feelings.

Although Monroe was not a perfect president, he managed to accomplish great deeds both in and out of office. His election managed to unify most of America under one banner, and his opposition to ratification helped to secure the Bill of Rights. Without Monroe, the America that we live in today would be a much different country.

College Credit

Clark Demarest

On ALJBS' opportunity for college credit in conjunction with Rider University's curriculum, Dr. Gregory Wilson, Dean of Education at ALJBS, elaborated: "You [must] go to aljbs.org, scroll down and click on college credit. Now, we still have open requests for scholarships for economically challenged families...the [New Jersey Boys State] foundation will pay their tuition." Wilson explained that a score of at least a "B" on today's final exam is required to be eligible for this credit, one may make up for a lower score with a well-composed essay; however, the essay must be submitted before the test score is disclosed. Registrations for college credit close on June 29th. The essay must be completed by August 10th.

General Assembly

Courtroom Chronicles

Jersey Statesman Staff

On Wednesday night, dozens of defendants were tried for their crimes in municipal courts across the state. Our team here at the Jersey Statesman has compiled the most twisted, inspiring, and heart-wrenching cases for your reading pleasure. Enjoy.

To begin, a scandal erupted in Buchanan City. The prosecutor, Aarav Chuttani, made his case against Boys State counselor Ricky Mercado for the murder of fellow counselor Darren Milman. At first, Ricky appeared confident. He was roommates with Darren, who disappeared from ALJBS to attend his high school graduation. However, when Ricky claimed during the trial that Darren was alive and that he could simply FaceTime him, his call went to voicemail, quickly followed by a text message from Darren's phone which claimed to be "the ghost of Darren." Later, Ricky once again appeared confident after receiving a call from Darren. Unfortunately for Ricky, it was Darren's mother, confirming his death. Short shorts and sunglasses, the most stylish combo at Boys State, were later found in the woods behind Rider University by local authorities. Ricky Mercado was found guilty for the first-degree murder of Darren Milman.

In City 12, Statesman Eli Rosenblatt was sued by junior city counselor James Conway for exhibiting blatant and continuous disrespect. The prosecution began the trial by presenting GroupMe messages between the two parties in which Rosenblatt was seen employing a variety of insults against Conway. At this point, Rosenblatt's case seemed doomed, but his defense lawyer, Patrick Petrone, shocked the court by

introducing evidence which framed Conway as the true instigator. Rosenblatt's defense team stated that Eli had initially seen Conway as a friend, but Conway had pushed Rosenblatt away on account of finding him "just annoying." This bombshell discovery completely shifted the court's dynamic, and Rosenblatt was proven innocent.

In Van Buren City, Statesman Evan Kistler was put on trial after having been wrongfully charged with one count of being short. As mayor and guidon bearer, this was a major blow to Evan. At his defense was public defender Tyler Potucek, who gave an electrifying opening statement questioning how true size is measured; addressing the crowd, he asked "Do we measure the size of the man in the fight, or the size of the fight in the man?" In response, the inexperienced prosecutor, Michael Lyakerman, called Evan up to the stand. Under expert legal counsel from Tyler, Evan exercised his right to plead the fifth. Michael then called up Van Buren City counselor Chris Allen to give testimony as the tallest man in the room. Despite this, in a moment of questionable integrity, Chris Allen claimed that he did not consider himself tall and estimated Evan's height to be 6'6". After all had been said and done, the honorable Judge Isaiah Cano found the defendant not guilty on the grounds that as guidon bearer, Evan's flag was a part of him and therefore an extension of his natural height. After the session had ended, Evan proudly walked away as the bigger man.

Opinion Editorial

Forest Fires: The Climate Panic Is Far From Over

Jonathan Lanfir

As the normally blue sky turned to a hazy orange-brown over the northeastern US, many Americans thought that an apocalypse was imminent.

Earlier this June, smoke from the wildfires in Canada invaded the air of several northeastern states, including New Jersey, raising the air quality index to alarming levels of 300+ AQI. Such levels are extremely hazardous for all individuals. Chronic headaches and breathing difficulties are some health issues that can be caused by spending extended periods of time outdoors with such a high AQI.

After a long week of smoky conditions in the beginning of this month, New Jerseyans thought that the horrible air quality had finally ceased. Now, though, it seems that troubling forest fires like those that plagued Canada have appeared in our home state.

In Burlington County, firefighters are currently working to contain a wildfire which has spread over 200 acres of the

Brendan T. Byrne State Forest. Updates on June 19 have confirmed that the fire is about 50% contained, though it continues to billow smoke across the area that could not just affect visibility, but also raise the air quality levels to a troubling degree.

Although this story is still currently developing, in light of these recent concerning events, it is important to recognize how climate change and its effects— one of the many being forest fires— have considerable impacts on humankind. Hotter temperatures and periods of drought brought upon by human activity are examples of how the climate panic is indeed far from over.



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