



June 24, 2026

Issue #2

Volume LXXX

Vote!

The Gubernatorial Primary Election will be held from 12:20-2:00 PM this afternoon. Vote Vote Vote!

Manuals

REMINDER TO ALL STATESMEN:

City AND County Manuals are due TOMORROW at 7:15 PM. All items should be included in one PDF document.

World Cup

YESTERDAYS SCORES:

Portugal beats Uzbekistan: 5-0
England tied Ghana: 0-0
Croatia beats Panama: 1-0
Colombia beats DR Congo: 1-0

TODAY'S GAMES:

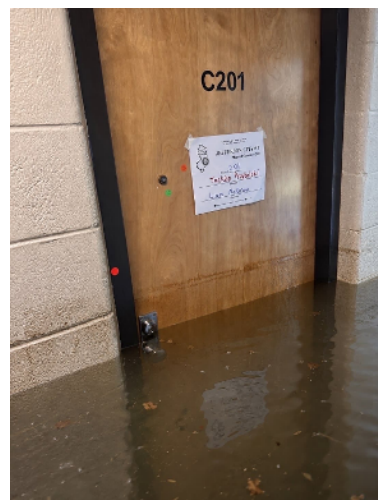
Switzerland vs Canada
B and H vs Qatar
Morocco vs Haiti
Scotland vs Brazil
South Africa vs South Korea
Czechia vs Mexico

Cities 7, 8, and 9 FLUSHED out of Dorms!

Xavier Dazilme

During Monday evening, City 7, 8, and 9 were met with a blaring sound during a thunderstorm. With the alarm going off they had to go somewhere else, however the thunderstorm kept them sheltered in place. Delegates then had to gather in the laundry room with the sound still blaring. With many delegates not knowing what the alarm was for or why it triggered, a few rumors started to spread around. The truth that was on the 3rd floor, specifically City 9's section, water had started to breach through the ceiling which then triggered the alarm.

When the shelter in place was lifted, all the cities gathered in the assembly still not sure what had happened. During the assembly, city 7,8, and 9 were escorted out of the assembly and informed of what had happened. Delegates were worried about all their belongings and if anything got ruined or if they had to go home. The SSOs calmly gathered the delegates from the affected cities to go gather essentials and bring them to a new dorm. No one's belongings were ruined and everyone was able to safely pack up what they needed and left the building. After a decently long walk with delegates holding their belongings, they made it to their new dorms. Some cities got escorted to nicer dorms with a washing machine, dryer, a shower, and more spacious dorms. However, other cities were escorted to other dorms that were the exact same as the old ones, drawing controversy on why some cities were able to receive upgrades while others did not. Overall, this event showed perseverance, dedication, and community throughout all of the delegates of the affected cities, with everyone helping each other out in order to get out of this situation together.



Local

CHAOS at the Polls!

John Kennedy

Hardly an election goes by without some kind of unexpected event. In the eyes of many, however, election problems are reduced to just the personal controversies and shady activity, excluding a number of potential situations. In reality, a lot of the mundane hiccups that occur can interrupt the voting process in just as significant a manner, such as what has recently occurred in Haley County (County #100). Having an understanding of why and how these things happen can help voters more responsibly discuss the voting process, and understand how to work more effectively to make the changes they want to see.

The events in Halsey took place during the Senate elections. The contenders for the Nationalist position, Yaseen and Caden, were in a tight neck-and-neck race. As William Jenkins (F-WA), who was present for the events, recounts: "It was tense. You could tell it was a back-and-forth." The candidates were doing everything they could to win the spot, and "[i]t was a struggle." Things came to a breaking point when a number of key voters were absent. According to a number of accounts, several people had simultaneously left to go to the bathroom.

Following common practice, the EBOs made an effort to not make a decision without such a large percentage of the voter base present. They waited for these people to return, but to no avail. The race was stuck in a deadlock, and not every voter's voice had been heard. At that point, "the EBOs were forced to make a hard decision," Jenkins recounts. Exact details regarding the following events are unclear. Some witnesses simply claim the EBOs were forced to tie-break themselves

after things had come to a metaphorical "coin flip," but many, such as Dmitri Sobolev (F-WA) argue the real events were even more surprising. "The coin flip was literal," Sobolev recalls. Regardless of how the decision was made, however, Caden eventually managed to win, much to the chagrin of certain voters, who felt the chaotic process unfairly swayed the end results.

If something goes wrong in an election, more is at risk than people's time and effort; people's voices can go unheard. Even if all officials act properly, if the people don't cooperate to create a proper environment for democracy, it can harm the entire process. Therefore, understanding and properly working through the democratic process helps more than just yourself, it can help your entire community.

Trapped Inside, Jefferson City Assistant Counselor Starts Freestyling

Ishaan Reddy

With rain crashing down, the sound of thunder filling the sky, and flashes of lightning appearing at regular intervals, the inhabitants of Jefferson City were stuck inside their dorms. Retreat had been cancelled, dinner had been postponed, and the bored boys were forced to stay inside due to the weather.

Enter, Assistant City Counselor (ACC) Fred.

Fred, after much encouragement from Jeffersonians, decided to entertain the gathered boys with some freestyle rap. And so, after the

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Local

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boys started playing a beat from a speaker provided by Postmaster Alex Hoyt, the ACC began channeling his inner Jay-Z and started an improvised rap about why Boy States members should sign up for college credit (offered through a program in partnership with Rider University). The rap was met with thunderous cheers upon its conclusion, and a few minutes later, Fred, this time writing down his lyrics, rapped some announcements for those gathered.

Many Jeffersonians have expressed a desire to see Fred rap again, but with the Assistant City Counselor expressing little interest in doing so, it remains to be seen if his freestyling career will continue.



Bold Moves Made for Our Future Generations

Tommy Linehan

City #9, more commonly known as Tyler City, is making big plans for the future. Leaders of the Nationalist group are proposing to build a new college that would bring in new residents and create more jobs for people in the area. Supporters say the college could help grow the local economy and give young people a place to learn close to home. Then these young people would hopefully

use these degrees to get hired or start their own companies to help with unemployment as well.

On the other side of the agenda, some members of the city are debating whether wealthy people and big businesses should pay higher taxes to fund the crippling economy of City 9. The counter argument argues that raising taxes could drive away the business owners the city needs most. The conversation is still ongoing, with the Mayoral election on the brink of the horizon, we are still yet to see what conclusions can be made about these potentially devastating problems.

One thing Tyler city has figured out and coordinated well was the process into which we came to these conclusions. While sitting in on both of these debates among the council, I noticed a very fluent democracy forming. We had people taking charge and making sure the masses were not getting too rowdy. There was another statesman appointed to build a beginning agenda, then sparking conversation and later controversy. Overall, there were some very elegant democratic tactics forming, promising a bright future for the city.

The Delegate D-Day Experience

Dwarakanath Vemuri

Last night, hundreds of delegates poured into Yvonne Theater with their respective party to watch the D-Day presentation. A documentary about the heroic and horrific events on June 6th, 1944, the presentation included nearly an hour of real footage from the actual event, showcasing the horrifying reality of the event. The documentary started with the beginning of Saving Private Ryan as soldiers stormed the beach, showing the brutal nature of war and both the tragedies & atrocities that happened in France. Delegates found the

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Seminars

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scenes both horrifying and traumatizing: "I'm gonna have nightmares tonight," uttered a wide-eyed Anay "Zacharia" Lodhavia as he exited the room, clearly disturbed at the gore and violence depicted. On screen, the soldiers were brutally injured and killed, with many delegates wincing at the harsh conditions that many Americans had to face over 80 years ago.

Other delegates believed that the presentation, although violent, was extremely relevant and forced delegates to reflect and understand the ultimate sacrifice that soldiers made. Tyler "Teddy Bear" Carroll argued, "sure, it was gory, but it's an important part of history. We need to understand the consequences of such an event so it doesn't happen again." The documentary, which included direct interviews with veterans, gave crucial first-person perspectives, which allowed delegates to immerse themselves in the event. Rishi "Robert" Santhanam argued that the presentation was especially important this year: "It's America's 250th anniversary this year," he stated. "There isn't a better time and place to learn about this." After the documentary, many current soldiers, veterans, and American Legion members came out and introduced themselves to the eager delegates, leading to chants of "USA! USA!" as they proudly walked out, demonstrating how even today, the veterans' achievements and accomplishments are still proudly displayed and recognized.

Putting Yourself Out There

Xavier Dazilme

During the seminars in the last few days, there has been a recurring theme: put yourself out there. While listening to the seminars, this advice always occurred in a speech during a seminar. Now, what does putting yourself out there mean?

It means that no matter what you are pursuing, always open yourself to potential opportunities.

During the Wall Street seminar on Monday, one of the presenters discussed how they weren't sure what they wanted to do in life, so they tried a little of everything. By doing a little of everything and talking to people they never expected to have talked to, they built a broad background that eventually led them to their career. Having a little bit of experience in anything can go a long way for your future.

Yesterday in the Military Careers seminar, a speaker was discussing getting accepted into Military Academies. During the seminar, the speaker expressed how important it was to get to know people who can help you get accepted. Getting to know service members can help you understand the application process, advise you on what to complete, and what admissions officers are looking for as well as preparing you for the academy.

By talking to people these people have never met before and saying a simple "Hey, I'm applying to West Point Military Academy. Do you have any tips?" can help you out tremendously in the long run. Trying activities you thought you would never try and getting experience from them will boost you up so much. One of the most important things Boys State delegates should learn through this whole week is to put yourself out there, don't be nervous or afraid, and be excited to see what it could lead to.

The Cybersecurity Seminar

Dwarakanath Vemuri

Yesterday morning, the cybersecurity seminar drew attention from across the state. Led by Damien Dimino, the seminar focused heavily on

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Seminars

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AI and its use in the cybersecurity world. When asked, around 80% of the delegates admitted to using AI at least once a week, further prompting a discussion on the ethics and negatives of AI. "AI is incredible at attacking," Dimino admitted. He later revealed that the time to exploit a security system has gone from months to days, and is projected to reduce to less than an hour, demonstrating the rapid acceleration of AI. This further emphasized Dimino's argument that cybersecurity has an important (and growing) role in systems. Overall, AI has definitely changed the role and span of cybersecurity, demonstrating the growing field & need for future roles in the field.

The further use of AI demonstrates the ever-needed role of human interaction in the field. Dimino explained that for large transactions, suspicious activity, and new customers, he insists on in-person interaction. "I have to see for myself," Dimino asserted. In this age of digital interaction, human deepfakes, and scams all over the internet, prioritizing real, unfiltered communication is the emerging role of cybersecurity. Cybersecurity clearly has a key part in the future of both ALJBS—with many delegates considering the field—and the world.

Life in the Law

Cole Hanna

When the average person thinks of a lawyer, they think of a suit; they think of someone whose job it is to rinse people and corporations of their money and make a living off it. But Todd Wachtel, a Jersey Boys State alumnus and partner at Levinson Axelrod, would beg to differ. He told an audience of Jersey Boys State delegates interested in the law at a Monday seminar that the thing that excites him the most about the law is waking up in the morning and helping people.

Retired New Jersey Supreme Court Justice Lee Solomon took an unconventional path to his lofty

position. Justice Solomon, discussing the route he took from Natural Science major, to English-Natural Science double major, and eventually to the state government and a seat on the Bench, consistently referred to the idea that, "Life takes you in a direction." Justice Solomon said that what drew him to the law was that he "liked getting up and speaking." He continued that he "liked getting across thoughts and images to people." But Justice Solomon's greatest love is for American history. Fittingly for the occasion of the 250th anniversary of the United States of America, Justice Solomon said that he "was fascinated by the idea that a landed gentry with everything were willing to sacrifice it all and fight for freedom."

We delegates are well-acquainted with what Justice Solomon acknowledged as one of the biggest roadblocks in his career: being rejected for public office, in our case by dozens or hundreds, and in his case, "by hundreds of thousands of people." Nevertheless, we delegates would do well to heed Justice Solomon's advice. He reminded delegates at the seminar that, "Life is not a straight line," and that, "You will end up where you're supposed to be."

Justice Solomon and Todd Wachtel, alongside ALJBS alumnus Kyle Gulsby—acknowledged that the law is a difficult and taxing field. One even went so far as to remark that there was a reason why lawyers have a higher rate of divorce than alcoholics. But Justice Solomon, a former Camden County prosecutor, said something that reminds us not just of our history—of the sacrifices that our forebears made for our freedom; and of the duties that we have to carry on their legacy for our democracy—but of our future: "Your job is not to ride a white horse and put people in prison. Your job is to do justice."



Statesmen Spotlight

Three Bite Wonder

Luciano Guidetti

Eisenhower County witnessed a moment of unexpected history this week.

Kai Yang, a self-described food enthusiast, was challenged by fellow statesmen to consume an entire unpeeled orange as quickly as possible. Unfortunately for his challengers, they picked the wrong man. Armed with a dining hall orange and his signature confidence, Kai stepped forward before a crowd gathered from both Buchanan and Pierce Cities. What followed can only be described as legendary: in just 10 seconds, the orange disappeared in three decisive bites.

“I had no doubt he could do it,” said Nolan, a resident of Pierce. “He practically unhinged his jaw, put it in his mouth, and it was gone in three bites. It was legendary.” Since the feat, word of Kai’s accomplishment has spread quickly throughout Boys State, turning a simple challenge into a piece of Eisenhower County folklore.

“I just love to eat,” Kai said. “I’ve always had a passion for it. I want to share that energy with people and bring the county together. As guys, we all have something in common; we all eat.”

He added, “You don’t know until you try. My starting record for a sweet potato was about four and a half bites... I got it down in under two!” Kai plans to continue pushing his own limits with a variety of foods in the future, such as ginger, assorted vegetables, and raw meat. He aims to grow his presence online and share his journey with a wider audience.

If he gets enough support, Kai’s ultimate goal is ambitious: to take on a Costco chicken bake in under three bites! Whether seen as a feat of appetite or sheer determination, one thing is certain: Eisenhower County won’t be forgetting the “Three-Bite Wonder” anytime soon.



Kai Yang, "The Three Bite Wonder"

Fillmore Rallies Under New Guidon Bearer

William DeMio

On Monday, Fillmore City was temporarily left in pandemonium. The city’s elected and beloved Guidon Bearer, Shea, would not return to Boys State after a family emergency that needed to be attended to. Out of great care and respect of their fellow delegate, all 50 remaining Fillmore City Delegates held a powerful moment of silence to commemorate the friendship they made with Shea and how unfortunate it was for him to have to leave ALJBS in such a short time.

Despite deep concern and worry for Shea, Elected Board Officers Samovan Modi and Judah Krauss understood their roles and responsibilities: an emergency election must be held to replace Shea in his role. When the two EBOs called up people as candidates for the new Guidon Bearer, a person from the crowd shouted, “Joseph should be the new Guidon Bearer!”

This movement gained traction almost instantly, as delegates repeated this claim and widely supported Joseph Verdugo as he stood up and walked toward the center of the room. As Joseph addressed the crowd from the center of the room,

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Politics

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people erupted in applause and cheers before a word left his mouth; people knew how much this role meant to him.

Joseph Verdugo is a post-sponsored delegate from American Legion Post 5. In the original election for Guidon Bearer, Joseph came up a couple votes short of winning the election, but many agreed he was an extremely suitable delegate for the position. During the session, he has made several friendships with his fellow delegates through his kindness, respect, and charisma. He considers his greatest skills as being outspoken, motivational, creative, and an active listener. His goal is to make everyone's day and to ensure everyone is motivated during a tiresome day filled with work. Joseph especially desired to have the position to lead Fillmore City to greatness and boost morale so everyone could shine daily. Outside of ALJBS, he attends Frank J. Cicarell Academy and is an active student by holding many leadership positions in extracurricular activities.

The crowd was settled on Joseph becoming the new Guidon Bearer in absolute agreement. As the crowd chanted his name, it was a sign of massive growth in Fillmore City and the unification that every city desires. A city that was left in panic fifteen minutes before the meeting and worried about their previous Guidon Bearer was now celebrating their new Guidon Bearer. The unification showed that although tensions could rise between the parties during elections and debates on municipal policies, both Federalists and Nationalists shared the same city and it was their job to ensure it operated under the best plan possible, including with widespread civility, respect, and camaraderie.



Clap Out!

Jacob Williamson

A guest speaker walked out of Monday's second general assembly. This was very shocking for all delegates, since many believed at the time that they were simply indulging in lighthearted fun. While it was certainly surprising, the main question on everyone's minds following the event was... was it fair? Was the delegates' behavior terrible enough to warrant a walk-out? And, in the future, how can we delegates better budget our attention and respect so that we can still have our fun but in a more respectful and mature way?

I've noticed a division starting to blossom with the attitudes of some Boys State attendees. On one end, some kids are here entirely for their own fun and don't care whatsoever about the more substantial aspects of this week. This is a major issue, undoubtedly, but there is another, similarly harmful side of the spectrum: Those who **ONLY** care about the politics, who have zero desire to connect with their fellow delegates, and who get angry when anyone has any leisure. This can massively harm the week, worsening the experience for both these delegates and the people around them to no real benefit. The fact these two ends of the spectrum radically oppose one another is what can lead to such events as Monday night. If we indulge entirely in fun to an immature degree and refuse to pay attention, it can (and has) led to guests feeling disrespected and everybody missing out on major opportunities. However, if the people who care about the program act too seriously and don't leave room for any jokes and connection-building, Boys State will be filled with passionless, miserable delegates, and will lack the blooming relationships that makes it so special. Passion and connection are the qualities that serve as the oil in the machine of genuine learning. If we lost them entirely to prioritize learning, we would, inversely, make our learning experience worse.

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So what's the answer? Funnily enough, I think the answer lies within a lot of the guest speakers' speeches: I believe that the answer is balance. If we can find a way to have fun and still be respectful, I think we all can effectively and enjoyably get the best experience we can out of Boys State. Furthermore, simple situational awareness would solve a number of these issues. Once the joke is redundant, it has gotten out of hand. If we can learn when to end the joke and start actually paying attention we can balance having fun and still doing what we came here for - learning. For general assemblies specifically, we could also wait until the speakers are done with their speeches for our jokes. A good example of that would be our enthusiasm over the socks given to each speaker at the end of their speeches. It's tasteful, it's playful, and it's fun while still being inclusive and respectful, as it doesn't interrupt the substantial things they came here to teach. In the end, there should be a proper balance between our priority of having fun and having respect for whoever comes and takes time out of their day to speak to us.



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FEDs:

Justin Lambert, Ishaan Reddy,
Peter Brown, Pranav Marrey

NATS:

Tommy Linehan, Dwarakanath
Vemuri, William DeMio, Ethan
Neagle

The Jersey Statesmen

Publisher:

Thomas Marsden

Assistant Publisher:

Kevin Cameron

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Seminar Editor: Xavier Dazilme

Opinions Editor: Alexander Wordel