



Cornhusker Boys' State *Bulletin*

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Don't you **EVER** Die!

Dr. JoAnne Owens-Nauslar speaks about life and leadership



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BOYS' STATE



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MASTER OF THE COURTS

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By: Alex VanAckeren

Monday marked the beginning of the numerous sessions of Boy's State 2012. To demonstrate the intricacies of the State and Federal Court Systems, Andrew Lauden spoke to a roomful of curious Staters. Lauden was once a Boys' Stater himself and was then a counselor for six years. He began his discussion from the ground up. Nebraska has 93 counties, each having two courts; a county court and district court. He then went on to show the responsibilities of each court. The county court deals with criminal matters (those with sentences less than five years), estates for the diseased, civil disputes less than \$50,000, as well as the juvenile court for people under the age of 19.

The district court is the higher of the two. It deals with felonies, divorces/child custody, and high-dollar civil disputes. Appeals from the county court also come here, where a judge will look over the case. If the plaintiff chooses to appeal the decision of the district court they can go to the Nebraska Court of Appeals, where a panel of three justices review the file and make a decision. If they are still not

satisfied with the verdict, they can place their case in front of a panel of seven justices in the Nebraska Supreme Court.

You may be wondering, what in the world is a civil dispute? First of all, a lawyer is not required. The plaintiff files suit and the defendant then has 30 days to respond. Next, the search for evidence begins. It is up to the plaintiff whether the trial will be a bench trial (just a judge) or a jury trial. Conflicts are usually resolved before they get this far, however. A popular settlement method today is arbitration/mediation. In a mediation, the two plaintiff and defendant are placed in separate rooms with an attorney, and the mediator shuffles back and forth until an agreement is reached. In this type, either party can walk away; this is the main difference between a mediation and an arbitration. In an arbitration, the decision of the arbiter is always final.

Attorney Lauden placed a huge emphasis on being a juror. He said that it is "one of the most important duties a citizen can have." At age 19, one can be called upon for jury duty. In

the state of Nebraska, judges are selected by the Missouri Plan, in which they are appointed by the governor. Anyone is allowed to apply, but the job usually goes to an attorney. Every six years, there is a retention vote held, and usually the judge is allowed to remain.

The final point Lauden made was the explanation of the Federal Court System. Here, he worked his way from top to bottom. At the top is the ladder is the Supreme Court, where there are nine justices who are appointed by the President and approved by the Senate. A step below the Supreme Court is the Federal Court of Appeals. Here, there are eight Circuits of three-judge panels. At the bottom rests the Federal District Court. In Nebraska, this court is located in Omaha and Lincoln. There is also one in Grand Island, but it is not used quite as often. Our court system is an intricate one, but it flows like a well-oiled machine to create the organized city, state, and country that we love.

THE MAYOR AND HIS TOWN

By: Cort Goffena

On the morning of the second day we went to "The City Government and How it Works". During this session we listened to the Mayor of Seward, Josh Ikemeyer. He explained a little bit about himself and how local government was so important because lo-

cal government affects us in our everyday lives and surroundings. For this young man, being a Mayor meant trying to change his town for the better, but yet not changing it too much. Being a Mayor also meant thinking about how things can help your town,

such as Seward's famous 4th of July, which brings in a lot of revenue for his town. After his speaking, the questions started. He explained that there really aren't any prerequisites for being in government, besides law school, though having a diverse

background can be helpful in politics, and that he was content with his job as Mayor. While some of the questions were answered straightforward, as any politician would, he weaved his way around some questions.

CROSSFIRE: RED VS. BLUE

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Micheal Petska, Bataan

The second of what are rumored to be many Boys' State exoduses from the confines of Harper Hall to the Kimball Recital Hall begin at roughly 9:30 am on Monday. The boys seem to be a bit more comfortable with their marching formations, and with life in general, than the day before, which was marked primarily by quiet observation and hushed speculation. After the boys have shuffled into their respective rows with their respective towns, one of Boys' State's many counselors introduces two speakers, Vic Covalt, a prominent Nebraska democrat, and Mark Fahleson, who is actually the Chairman of the Nebraska Republican Party. The two men have a storied history with Boys' State, and have been playing the roles of Political Gladiators for many years. Today, Vic opens the debates with a rambling introduction about Nebraska Origins (his democratic background becomes clear here - he heavily credits the government with assisting in the formation of what he says is the 'Best State in the Union'), Nebraskan unity, democracy in general, and implores everyone to get involved and participate in the political process in order to protect this democracy which he claims is a 'Delicate Flower'. Vic takes his seat to a fanfare of vehement plaudits, and Mark takes center stage. Marks opening remarks begin with his personal

background, and segue quickly into his own experiences with Boys' State (four years, in all), he gives special consideration to the young men of Gettysburg, who's colors he once shared. He talks about how Boys' State sparked his interest in politics, and got him involved in the system, and he even tossed in some promotions for the Republican party.

In the spirit of good sportsmanship, Vic and Mark alternate first take on questions. Since Vic opened, Mark accepts the first question, and it's a hot-button debate right from the start. The questions range from homosexuality and obesity, to religion and secularism, and from foreign affairs and corporate influence in government, to bipartisanship and the validity of the constitution in modern government. Throughout, the allegiance of both speakers is clear, as an occasional slight against a disliked president, or against the opposing speaker's party in general frequently slips into either speakers' responses, but a unified message is clear. Whether it's Vic the Democrat, or Mark the Republican, both are telling their audience basically the same thing; get interested, pick a side (of course, they'd both prefer you picked THEIR side), and get involved!

First Session of Legislature

By: Conrad Martinez

Monday June 3rd. This day will go down in history as the 72nd time that the Cornhusker Boys' State legislature has met. The beginning of the session was marked by short prayer made by a counselor who bravely volunteered to on fly come up with a non-denominational prayer.

The first thing on the legislature's agenda was elect boys to the 4 main senate offices those being: Chaplin, Sergeant at Arms, Clerk and Speaker of the House. First on this list was to elect a Chaplain.

The honor of being the Chaplain goes to Levi Gutz who is a representative of Valley Forge, his

job includes saying a short non-denominational prayer at the beginning of session to set the stage for Speaker of the House.

Following the selection of the Chaplain the senate went on to elect a Sergeant in Arms, the job of the Sergeant in Arms is to keep control in the senate and to peacefully (if possible) to resolve the conflict or to control the unruly person obstructing the senates duty to Boys State. The Honor of Sergeant in Arms goes to Colton Stear, a Representative of Yorktown.

The third office elected to during the first session was the of-

fice of Clerk. The Clerk has the very important job of keeping notes and summaries of the sessions so that they may be reviewed or called upon when requested or required. The Honor of Clerk goes to John Mark Townsend of Gettysburg.

The final and most important office chosen is the Speaker of the House. This individual's job is to select the bills brought before the legislation and to lead the convention. Many very qualified individuals attempted to secure this honor, but was finally given to Bob Leddy.

WORDS OF A SENATOR

Nicholas Flamme, Bataan

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At 8:30 yesterday morning the legislature had its first meeting; here Senator Tony Fulton was a guest speaker to all us newly elected senators. He intrigues us with not only how the unique Nebraskan unicameral system works, but he also talked to us about real world issues and what's going on in our state.

Senator Fulton began with how our states unicameral system works. I'm sure that all of you know that Nebraska is the only state to have a unicameral system. This makes it so that the parties don't divide up amongst each other they are all combined. Senator Fulton put it like this, "We don't duke it out as a party, but as one." In the unicameral system, since they do not have anyone to check them except us, the people, they are very committee oriented.

Senator Fulton is on the Appropriation Committee, or the budget committee. From here is where the conversation got real interesting, going from just talking about how our sys-

tem works to real issues within our state and our country. Senator Fulton explained to us that he pushes to grow our budget slower than the state's economy is growing. Nebraska's economy is one of the few that is actually growing (approximately 5% a year), and he believes that if you grow the budget at the same pace as the economy the taxes needed to fund the budget do not give the citizens a chance to make and save money. Essentially, if you increase the budget at an equal rate as the economy grows it drains the people dry. This is especially relevant to us in Nebraska because we pay quite a bit of taxes to the government. The government doesn't need to grow as much as the people do in his eyes and I tend to agree.

From there he went to talk about budget cuts. He said we all need to be aware of the pity parties those getting cut throw. Basically the money given to those areas is free money and they should be happy they get anything, and on average the

company still gets more money than it did the year before, it's just that they're budgets percent increase was decreased.

Even though he is a more conservative individual, Senator Fulton has places he believes the government should be involved in. Some of these areas include infrastructure, education, and for those that cannot provide for themselves. He believes it is the government's job to provide roads, railroads, and such. He also believes everyone should have the chance at a fair education, where as if education was privatized the more money you would be able to pay the better an education one would receive. He also believe the disabled and the mentally ill should have an opportunity to live a good life, which if the government were to cut them from the budget they would be left to fend for themselves.

OUR BELOVED GOVERNOR

By: Jon Jahnke

Our beloved Governor, Doug Larsen, is from the humble town of Stuart in northern Nebraska. He has since graduated from Stuart High School and was active in many different activities including Football, Basketball, Track, Mock Trial, Quiz Bowl, FFA, National Honor Society, and Speech. As a Boy's Stater last year, he applied for

and was elected to the position of Lieutenant Governor and was a citizen of the town of Gettysburg. While at Boy's State, Doug held a key role in playing on Gettysburg's Boy's State Championship Football team last year. In addition to playing sports, but he was elected to the Boy's State Legislature. Doug's future plans include

attending the University of Nebraska at Lincoln this fall and majoring in broadcasting. He intends to eventually transition into the sports broadcasting area.

FUTURE VOTERS GET INSIGHT 5

By: Nick Oivatt

Vic Covalt and Mark Fahleson walked onto the stage of the Kimball Recital Hall with hundreds of eyes following their every movement. At first glance, one might confuse the two. Covalt looked more like a Democrat. His modern style, young age, and his rather healthy looking-self seemed to reflect the Democratic stereotype. Fahleson, on the other hand, seemed as if he had been in charge of a large corporation. His bulky build, combined with his rather old age shouted conservatism. But, this assumption was clearly wrong. Covalt was the Republican and Fahleson the Democrat. Both served as the chairman of their respective parties and took Nebraska politics seriously. Although both agreed Nebraska was the greatest state in the union, the two were unable to agree on much else.

Mark Fahleson was the first to speak, taking a rather impressive opening statement. It was, at the very least, inspirational and evocative of change. Vic Covalt's opening speech was also quite impressive. However, at some point it took a wrong turn. He immediately was blaming and bashing every opposing group. He even went as far as to become so arrogant that the Greeks and Brits would have been up in arms. He had absolutely no respect for other nationalities. He even went on to say that America

was exceptional in every way. One might have taken such a statement as arrogant and narrow-minded. Every nation is unique and offers something different to the world.

Covalt's actions were forgivable, of course; he was just simply an angry politician. Mark Fahleson seemed to ignore any personal attack on his party and gladly moved on. Of course, he too took some missteps. It seemed as if at times that Fahleson's answers were either "blame Bush" or "Nebraska is the greatest state in the union." Once again, they were forgivable acts.

Both Covalt and Fahleson took cliché attacks on each other. Whether it was trying to evoke emotions or blame someone, they were clearly trying to gain more registered voters. It was a great chance for everyone to learn about the two political parties. For the most part, the two were respectable and acted maturely when faced with clearly controversial questions. And, there were questions. The first question asked had little competition, it was the only hand raised in sight. Yet, for whatever reason, the crowd took sharp attention afterwards. The next possible question had tens of hands, and it was clear that the choosing process was going to get competitive.

By the end of Vic Covalt and Mark Fahleson's debate and ques-

tionnaire, it had seemed that there were many unhappy All-Staters who were unable to ask their question. Yet, despite unanswered questions, one thing was obvious. Both Republican Covalt and Democratic Fahleson wanted, and perhaps even demanded at times, that people choose a political party rather than remaining independent. Both claimed that it increased the chance of any one person voting. True, it would encourage people to participate in primaries and vote in elections, but it also showed party politics. They were dead set on just one of two options: Democrat or Republican. They both seemed to forget the purpose of the independent stance. Independents do not like party politics, they are, in many ways, sick and tired of how Washington handles the issues. Even if Fahleson had a desire to change such complications, it was not clear if he was committed to carrying such change out. In terms of who won the popularity vote, the Republican Covalt had many supporters within Yorktown, much more than his Democratic adversary, Fahleson.

By: Zach Miller

Political Action Committee members met today and broke into groups according to the topic they were interested in. The topics ranged from the Keystone Pipeline to health care. Once split up, the members were split again into the pro and con

of their respective topics depending on personal views. Then the members were elected to one of three offices: Chairman, treasurer, and lobbyist. Then the Board of Directors where decided and the work began on what needed to happen for our

individual campaigns.

Campaigning will generally be for raising money. Some committees are putting dues on their committees. So if you sign up you will have to donate a flat fee that is decided by the Treasurer and the Chairman. There will be

a PAC fair on Wednesday at 8:30am in the HSS Food Service Lower Level. So read up on topics that interest you and then go see what they have to offer on Wednesday.

PAC UPDATE

NOBAMA CARE?

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By: Thomas Rezac

There are many hot topic issues being discussed this week at Boys' State. A few of these include the Keystone pipeline, the farm bill, and of course Obama Care. When I attended a pact meeting on Monday afternoon, I expressed my interest on the current Obama health care issue and stated that I would like to help represent the cons of this issue. I was then put into a pact with two other gentlemen that oppose Obama care. They are Jordan Schut, who is the chairman, and Regg Strotheide who serves as a lobbyist. Our pact was able to come with many supporting facts and details on why Obama care should not be passed.

One of the first points brought up was the issue with contraceptives, also known as birth control. The Obama administration wants all hospitals to provide contraceptives in all patients' insurance plans. This includes Catholic and Christian hospitals, even though their beliefs go against contraceptives. Our pact agreed that this is one example of how Obama care attacks Freedom of Religion. The contraceptive part of this issue

is also an example of how this health care plan is government forced. Even if individual patients don't want to pay for contraceptives, they would be forced to by the U.S. government if Obama care were to be passed. Another point brought up by our pact was the Obama care vs. national debt issue in this proposed health-care plan. If the U.S. government wants all hospitals to provide all residents of the United States with healthcare, this would mean more cost for U.S. citizens and an increase in the already oversized national debt. Another fact brought up was if Obama care is passed, all employers in hospitals would have to pay for the health care of their employees. Studies have shown that this would increase the current unemployment rate by 2.6%. Our pact also felt that this big health care plan is almost too general and doesn't emphasize particular sections very well. If this health care plan was worked on one section at a time, our pact feels that this plan could have at least some benefits for citizens. But, seeing as this health care plan is too generalized, our pact thinks that there would be almost no

positive effects if it were passed. Another big issue with Obama care is providing health care for immigrants. If Obama care is passed, then illegal immigrants living within the U.S. would get illegal aid from the government, considering illegal immigrants don't pay taxes. This would also contribute to the growing national debt.

Overall, these were the most important cons of Obama Care that my pact discussed on Monday afternoon. Our lobbyist Regg Strotheide pointed out that the United Kingdom had a very similar health care plan to this that passed and then eventually failed. So it's safe to say that our pact believes that it would be best if citizens of the United States get to pick what kind of healthcare plan they want. Also, hospitals should get the option of choosing whether they should or shouldn't provide contraceptives in their insurance plans. I am confident that our pact will be able to present our side of this issue very professionally and effectively

JOHNSON NOMINATED FOR LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

By: Joshua Johnson

On the morning of June 4th, the Belleau Wood Nationalist Party nominated Joshua Johnson as their candidate for the office of Lieutenant Governor. On June 3rd, Senator Johnson was elected as one of Belleau Wood's Senators to the legislature. On June

4th, Senator Johnson ran to be Speaker of the Boys State Legislature where he received much support from other Senators. Senator Johnson is a strong social conservative who has experience in public office having served as his class's president as well as

being an FBLA officer for 5 years. He has stated that if elected as Lieutenant Governor he would do his best to advise the Governor when needed and also claimed that he feels prepared to be Governor in the event that the Governor is unable to carry

out his duties. Senator Johnson has also publicly shown support for Belleau Wood's Nationalist Party nominee for Governor David Steinkruger.

NATIONALIST MEETING, MANILA BAY 7

By: Thomas Rezac

The Nationalist Party of Manila Bay consists of all the boys that have an odd number on their name tag. The first meeting for this party occurred on Monday evening when all members of Manila Bay came together for the town meeting on the 8th floor. When the Federalists and Nationalists split up into their groups, the overall discussion amongst these two parties began. Since my name tag number is 287, that automatically qualified me as a nationalist. Many members of the Nationalist party, myself included, learned some very interesting views that Nationalists had. For example, one member came forward and expressed his views on the recent farm bill and explained how he thinks it should not be passed, because it would severely slow down farm work in Nebraska. Another

came forth and explained why he opposes the Obama Care plan. One big reason why he opposed it was because of its attack on religious freedom. He went on to explain that if Obama Care is passed, then all hospitals including Christian hospitals would be forced to provide contraceptives in the insurance of all patients and employees. Contraceptives goes against not only the Catholic faith, but other Christian faiths as well. These were just a few examples of the many fascinating views expressed during Manila Bay's nationalist meeting. Even though the members of the Nationalist party were selected due to the fact they had an odd number on their name tag, the Nationalists of Manila Bay are an enthusiastic and exciting group to be around.

OBAMA CARE: A MISUNDERSTANDING

Nick Oivatt- Yorktown

The PAC "Universal Health Care" is officially up and running. It is our duty to inform Boys' State of the advantages of Obama's health care plan. First and foremost, universal health care and Obama Care are two different things. Obama Care is, quite simply, a horrible compromise between Democrats and Republicans. Yet, it is better than the current system. But, the PAC also understands that a lot of people have questions about Obama Care. So, let's begin with the most common misunderstandings.

1. What is Obama Care? Obama's Health Care Plan, or the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, requires individuals not covered by employer or government sponsored insurance plans to maintain minimal essential health insurance coverage or pay a penalty unless exempted for religious beliefs or financial hardship, a provision commonly referred to as the "individual mandate". This lowers rates for all by

making sure that the insured are not paying for the uninsured.

2. What if I don't want to buy private health insurance? Well, unfortunately that is not an option. If you are poor enough, you may qualify for Medicaid. On the other hand, if you are not a part of Medicaid, then the government will subsidize a health care plan for you. Various levels of the amount of subsidies are determined based on income and family size.

3. Is it unconstitutional? In many ways, Obama Care can be perceived as unconstitutional. However, the PAC Universal Health Care does not endorse the individual mandate on private insurers. The PAC instead believes that a government controlled option should be available to all. Therefore, it is without a doubt constitutional. Just like Social Security!

4. Isn't private health care better? In the United States, yes. But, we as a nation can overcome this by enroll-

ing more people onto the government's health care plan and getting more tax dollars to fund it. Currently, however, no such option is available. We strive to make Obama Care better and much more like universal health care. In places such as Italy, France, and the UK, the government run health care is "top notch" and has the latest technology.

5. What about the private sector? We support the private sector as well. In France, the best health care system in the world, the private and public sectors work together to provide the best care possible. The private branch discovers new cures and the public sector buys and uses information from the private sector. Together, they both offer the best care possible according to many experts.

CITIES ELECT TOWN MAYORS 8

ALAMO



Jared Sanfrod: Mayor of Alamo
By: Jake Weskamp (Alamo)

Sunday night, the citizens of Alamo elected Jared Sanfrod as the mayor of their Boy's State city. Sanfrod is a member of the Nationalist Party and he is looking to become this year's Boy's State Treasurer. He was elected on the basis of giving back and honoring "Tap Tap Seat Back". Back in his home town of Minden Jared is a member of the football team, speech team, weights team, and many others. One thing that has influenced Jared's football career is when he tore his ACL. However, after undergoing surgery Jared worked hard to come back and play again. Unfortunately, he was struck by the same injury again. As a result of these injuries Jared joined the speech team, his first year on the speech team he took his duet to state speech. The next year he went to state again and received third in informative. On his weights team he has been the captain for three years. He is the only person that he knows of that has ever done that. In the future he plans to attend college, however, he does not know where he wants to go at this point. He does know that he wants to be a high school teacher. For now Jared is our loyal mayor of Alamo.

VALLEY FORGE



Carrick Perlinger: Valley Forge Mayor
By: Zach Miller (Valley Forge)

Valley Forge met yesterday to decide who would hold offices in their town. After an intense campaigning session Carrick Perlinger came out on top. Along with his name there are many unique qualities about the Valley Forge Mayor. He said in his campaign that he would bring his energy and positive attitude to the coveted position. He stated that he was an extremely busy individual, staying busy at his school and in his community. The spiked hair, colorful personality, and general likability of Mayor Perlinger are what made him successful in his race for Mayor.

Carrick has already showed exceptional leadership qualities. On our walks to Kimball Hall for the session this morning Carrick led some of the Valley Forge Marching Chants, many of which he helped create. Carrick is very positive and competitive. This is an admirable combination.

Carrick sat in at our first City Council Session this afternoon. He ran the meeting along with our appointed members of Council and the City Clerk. He provided ideas for the Ordinances and Policies that our City Council passed. He leaned towards the fairness factor on most of our discussion on Ordinances. Mr. Perlinger is an exceptional individual and will lead Valley Forge to a victory at the end of the week.

CITIES ELECT TOWN MAYORS YORKTOWN BUNKER HILL 9



Abe Dush: Mayor of Yorktown

By: Carl Meyer

The Mayor of Yorktown came to Boys' State came here and gave meaning to the term "small world". The Mayor came here from a small town of Elba, Nebraska and he came and took Yorktown by storm. He is on his high school football and basketball team, as well as being a model citizen and student. He came and won the votes of the Nationalist party in Yorktown, and then took the whole Yorktown election in the same fashion. Yorktown made no mistake electing Abe Dush to be the mayor.



Jon Jahnke: Mayor of Bunker Hill

By: Jon Jahnke

The citizens of Bunker Hill have spoken, and they have elected Jon Jahnke as their mayor. Jahnke claims he wants to make Bunker Hill great again. He has a great drive to move Bunker Hill from the "middle of the pack". Jahnke debated on issues including the recent Black Bear infestation in Nebraska, but also touched on more serious issues including how he planned to unify Bunker Hill and how to unify the city. When asked about his willingness to compromise, Jahnke explained that if everybody is unwilling to give in, people will simply but heads and nothing will get accomplished.

BELLEAU WOOD



Charles Bogatz: Mayor of Belleau Wood

By: Joshua Johnson

Charles Bogatz (Nationalist) was elected Mayor of Belleau Wood. He faced off against several other candidates for the office but emerged victorious with much of the town's support behind him. Mayor Bogatz participated in a straw poll for Governor coming out with a strong lead. Today Mayor Bogatz declared his intention to run as the Belleau Wood Nationalist Party Nominee for Secretary of State. When it comes to the issues Mayor Bogatz has declared that he is pro-life. When asked where he stood on gay marriage, Mayor Bogatz explained that he is a Christian and that his faith plays an important role in his life, but would not allow his religious views to affect his political views.

MANILA BAY



Payton Fluckey: Mayor of Manila Bay

By: Cody McBride

The Manila Bay Mayor is Payton Fluckey. Payton hails from Papillion, Nebraska. He currently plays on the Manila Bay sand volleyball team. Mayor Fluckey is currently planning running for Governor of Cornhusker Boys' State. For his position as mayor he ran on the premise that he was a "master" debater and could argue his point clearly and effectively. Fluckey first ran as mayor in the primary for the Nationalist party nomination then going on to face the Federalist nomination for Manila Bay's mayor.

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BATAAN

By: Steven Towne

Many exciting things have been happening in the town of Bataan. On the first day, we played a game called “the island” to help introduce everyone to each other. This helped the town feel much more inviting. The game started with telling everyone your name, and where you were from. Then the name of the game started to make more sense. The scenario is that you are trapped on a deserted island and you have to pick one companion, one form of entertainment, and your food of choice. We all had our share of laughs with this one, but it helped bring us together as a town.

Later that day, we decided on who our city officials were going to be. Each person who wanted a position gave a spiel on why we should have that position. Then we opened the floor to a few questions to make sure that each person who was elected was the best person for the job. While we did have some good laughs during this, we were still taking things very seriously because we want the best possible people to be representing our town.

While we do like to goof off, we have been very serious about promoting our campaigns. The one political position we have been focusing most on is our Federalist governor candidate Brent Comstock. He has been visiting the other towns and speaking about his beliefs and values in order to persuade people to elect him as the governor. The main belief he is speaking about is equality. His favorite anecdote is about a man and a woman with the same job and experience, but the woman often receives considerably less. Another point he makes is that he has already been appointed as part of Governor Dave Heineman’s Youth Advisory Council. These are some of the things that made us want to elect Brent as our mayor and a candidate for governor.

The people in our town are very eager to find out what the rest of this week will bring us. We also look forward to making new friends and creating an experience that we will remember for the rest of our lives. With our fun loving attitude and determination, the town will be successful in creating a great memory.

VALLEY FORGE

By: Jake Weskamp, Valley Forge

What’s up Boy’s Staters?! Some awesome stuff is going on here, but you want to know where things are really happening? On level number four the town called Valley Forge has been a hive of activity and general awesomeness. Sunday we elected our mayor: the honorable Mayor Perlinger! And he’s been doing a great job so far. We also have a whole cast of characters running for county and state positions.

However, there’s more going on than that. Not only are we striving for political excellence, we are also succeeding at being the classiest town. We stunned the cafeteria by introducing miracle known as chocolate milk. We didn’t invent the “Brotank”, but we were definitely the first to make them at Boy’s State. Our mayor and counselors has worked tirelessly to assemble a whole collection of cheers for our marching. And finally, I think the Girl’s Staters would agree that we are the “classiest” gentlemen here. Alright, if you can’t keep up on our exploits; keep turning in for more tales of our awesomeness. Peace!

ALAMO

By: Trevor Sorrenson

Sunday night the Federalist and Nationalist parties of Alamo met for their local elections and to overview the county and state elections. Through straw polls taken at each party’s meetings, the groups decided who they would most likely support during their campaigns for the state and county offices. Each prospective candidate went through a rigorous screening process where they were asked about their political beliefs and views, and about how they would handle certain situations if they were elected.

Candidates from Alamo will not simply be focused upon supporting their town during the elections: all of them have a profound interest in working for the best interests of the state. The town of Alamo urges everyone to talk to a candidate from their town: they will be more than happy to answer your questions and respect your concerns.

TOWN REPORTS

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BUNKER HILL

By: Flint Mitchell

Welcome to day two of the 2012 Boys State. The town of Bunker Hill is off to a great start.

Yesterday the town held elections for all of the city positions available. The most prestigious position, mayor, went to Nationalist Jon Jahnke. The school board consists of

Tyler Stansberry, Austin Rice, and Derek Van Heek. The city council is made up of Zachary Newkirk, Lane Kizzire, James Dekay, James Reed, Austin Barnts, and Jared Knust. Bunker Hill's legislature officials are Reed Jones, Alex Way, Tyler Rediger, Connor Kozisek, David Safarik, and Trever Lamberty.

Today we held our first town meeting, where we established the CAIBB (Citizens against Invading Black Bears). The town introduced ordinances of a variety of topics.

GETTYSBURG

By: Jack Thompson

Gettysburg is doing very well, and we are definitely the coolest town. Why [are we the coolest]? we have the tallest counselor (Wyatt Schuettler), and a dude whose name is Kicks Pain.

However, we are horrible at walking in lines, and have even passed ordinances to prevent anyone from stepping out of line. The punishment for failing to comply: walking behind The Spangler, our ruthlessly strict counselor.

After the platforms and current political issues, Gettysburg walked by the Girls' Staters. Despite Spangler's efforts to keep the groups separate, we were very happy about the brief meeting.

Besides the ordinance on marching straight, we also passed an ordinance on maximum shower lengths. The maximum shower length is six minutes during the morning and after activities; not complying will result in loss of shower privileges for 24 hours. Although some might argue that six minutes is unreasonably short, we believe that these people should get a life and stop wasting it holding up the shower line.

Despite obstacles, we are adapting to our new environment on the sixth floor, and falling into the natural rhythm of Boy's State: Eating, sleeping, and talking Politics.

YORKTOWN

By: Carl Meyer

Yorktown is by far the best town in Boys' State, and I can prove it. What other town is full of danger, a superhero, and orange? The chances of all three of these things existing on the same floor are almost impossible, and yet these things, among others, come together to make Yorktown the best town in all of Boys' State.

How can parents send their kids to something dangerous? The answer is simple and contains two words... Hackey Sack!!! That's right. The danger that is involved with all these very serious games is greater than you will ever see in the Marines or the Democratic Party. There have been numerous near-death experiences and the week has only just begun.

Yorktown is more than just a group of boys, it is a lifestyle. With this lifestyle there come many nicknames. These people come from all over the world, including fantasy. I bet no town has a famous star living among them. In Yorktown lives the one and only MegaTron! Of course he doesn't admit it, but I truly believe that Nat Tran is indeed a very famous transformer. We also have many other nicknames living among us, but MegaTron is the one that sticks out.

We had our city council meeting and there were some very important agendas that were discussed and voted upon. The most important agenda involves a certain town never to be mentioned on the floor of Yorktown. I can't tell you which group this is, but it starts with an "A" and they wear red. If you see any of these people on the floor of Yorktown, do not associate yourself with them, for it's against the laws. Also among the ordinances that were passed, were a limit on shower time, and one very interesting law that passed. There are to be no speedos to be worn anywhere in Yorktown.

Yorktown may not be the strongest or smartest town, but they are the best. They are trained in the deadly art of Hackey, have great nicknames, and have the best rules on campus. They are the best team in all the land, and they will win the championship at the end of the week.