

THE LEGION'S POST

Edition III | June 20, 2018 | VA Boys State



Left, Above: Citizens enjoy sporting events

Sports Kick Off at Boys State | By: Keagan DeLong

In the first round of the week-long basketball tournament, the team from Patton City scored a slim victory against their opponents. In a game filled with divisive plays and exciting action under the devilish Virginia summer sun, the top scoring team member spoke to me about how teamwork and perseverance led them to their narrow victory.

Picture this: a team of four young men partaking in a game of basketball, minimal experience with each other, but through the course of the game they manage to grow together as a team and achieve victory. This is the reason Boys State is such a successful program; it teaches us how to cooperate with strangers to achieve a common goal and how to become better citizens in our communities by helping others and therefore ourselves.

Even though the role of sports as a deciding factor in the decision for the Best City Award has been somewhat limited, it still plays an integral part in the program. The lessons and friendships formed by partaking in sports together as a team is a unique experience. This experience is acknowledged by the U.S. Military as evidenced by athletes being heavily recruited to the Academies. The adventures teammates undergo throughout the season produce young men with characteristics that appeal to the military, business, and political offices. In conclusion, sports are a key foundation for leadership for many young men.

The Race Is On! | By: Justin Carminucci

The first official city elections were held on Tuesday morning, with the offices of mayor, delegate, and senator being decided. On Monday night, party caucuses were held in each city to nominate citizens for their respective offices. Nominees before the members of their party, convincing them of their qualifications for the positions. Citizens headed to the polls Tuesday morning to make their final choices, with many struggling with the choice of voting along party lines or swaying from the crowd. The election results for all three positions were announced, followed by the swearing-in ceremonies where the winners recited the pledge and officially took office. In the coming days, senators and delegates will begin to work long hours drafting and debating legislature. Additionally, mayors will take charge of their cities, ensuring that everything moves smoothly and efficiently by addressing the issues that the citizens feel are important.

Tuesday night, cities will continue filling their local government positions including city council and the commissioner of the revenue. Meanwhile, the races for governor, lieutenant governor, and attorney general are beginning to heat up with several citizens declaring their candidacy. Posters are popping up around campus, attempting to catch the eyes of voters. Eager candidates can be seen making the rounds during meals and free time to spread the word and persuade citizens. Party nominees will be selected at the party conventions Tuesday and Wednesday evenings with the final vote taking place Thursday morning.

Trivia of the Day

What state did the first Boys State take place in?

Email the answer to va-boysstate2018@gmail.com along with your name and city. The first correct response will have their name printed in tomorrow's edition of The Legion's Post.

Nationalists Hold First Convention | By: Jacob Lewis

Almost 300 Nationalist Party members gathered Tuesday night in the Preston Bondurant auditorium for the first convention of the party's history at Boys State in 2018. The convention was held in order to elect officials of the party, debate topics, and attempt to ratify planks that will stand for the party's values. The Nationalist citizens of Boys State were tasked with dealing with all of these responsibilities with little instruction. This provided for a difficult start, but the Nationalists began to pull it together. Jack Cross, party chairman of the Nationalists in the city of Burke, explained in a brief interview after the convention: "Overall, it went well. However, we could have gone through the nominations [at a] quicker [rate]. There could have been more control, but I believe we will continue to work harder so that it will be better for tomorrow's convention."

The convention successfully elected a parliamentarian and a permanent party chairman for the Nationalists. The permanent party chairman ended up being Mr. Dragovich through a convention election process. Each city, after declaring their allotted number of delegates which ranged from 14 to 20, would decide how many votes to cast for a determined candidate. Eight esteemed party chairman, nominated by certain cities, made up the candidates. Speeches from each candidate were delivered within one minute, making decisions difficult for the voting cities. From there, the top three were selected until finally, only Mr. Dragovich remained.

The Nationalist party citizens finished the convention early after discussing a bill to extend sleeping time. This is just one example of a plank that the convention will have to discuss over the next two days. As the party chairman from Burke mentioned, there is a lot the Nationalists need to get together in order to function efficiently, but they got off to a great start last night. The Nationalist Party will continue to progress in the art of the convention in hopes that they can pull off a win in the upcoming elections.

Federalists Convene for 2018 | By: William Helms and Carter Bailey

On Tuesday the Federalist state convention was held with both success and unplanned delays. Delays can and will be expected, but during the convention many cities were unprepared for the voting process. When the voting population for each city was being prepared many cities did not correctly number the amount of residents. This resulted in a large delay of about 40 minutes: time which could've been used to vote on the party platforms. Events like this are the reasons why preparedness and proactiveness are such valued concepts at Boys State, and why the boys representing Virginia must hold themselves to higher standards.

After jumping through the hoops of moratorium in wait for the vote, it finally commenced. After a tense first vote among seven nominees only three individuals would move onto the next round: Samuel Heie in first, followed by George Kohn and Duncan Williamson. In round two of the energetic vote the standings remained stagnant; Duncan Williamson was next to be eliminated. The third and final heated vote sparked anxiety among Heie's Federalist allies as Duncan Williamson's voters were now free to choose his competitor, Kohn. The crowd grew tumultuous as the votes rolled in and the underdog Kohn scored a victory with 60 percent of the vote. The conference ended early with only one position filled, but is due to resume today. A week is not a long time to hold conferences and elect positions so the pressure is on for Federalists to do their best to elect the most qualified citizens.

Below: Federalist candidates for state party chairman speak at the convention



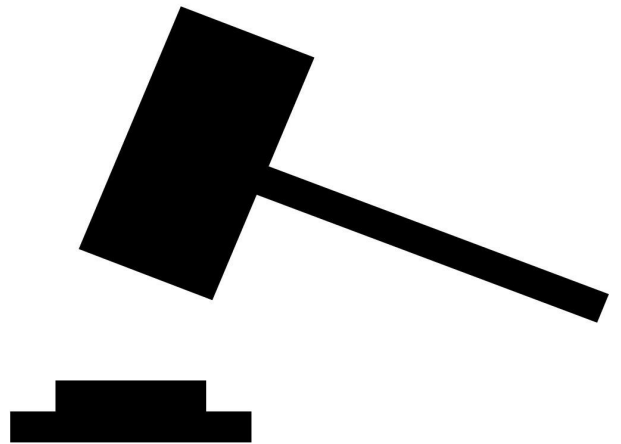
Grand Theft Auto on Radford Campus | By: Jacob Lewis

Overnight on Monday our cities' sheriffs, with the cooperation of the Virginia State Police, caught two men stealing a golf cart and taking it for a joyride around the Radford campus.

In an interview with Bradley City Sheriff who participated in the apprehension of the two suspects, more insight was gained. According to our source, only one of the two suspects was actually seen on the golf cart; the other was allegedly on a long skateboard. The suspect on the golf cart abandoned the vehicle during the high speed chase while Sheriffs continued to follow the suspects in hot pursuit, imitating police sirens. Eventually, the Bradley City Sheriff reportedly tackled the suspect to the ground while a State Trooper rushed towards the scene and detained the individual. Apparently, the suspect on the longboard escaped to the town of Radford where they were later tracked down and arrested.

It is important to note that neither of the thieves were part of the Boys State program, and they both have been arrested. It is very likely they will both be charged. Furthermore, high praise should be given to the Troopers who spend their nights gladly protecting us from threats from inside and outside the program as well as the Sheriffs who went above and beyond their expectations.

VOTE **Brant McKinney** **For Attorney General**



**“Vote Brant,
He Wears The Pants”**

Skype Interview Saves Day | By: Xavier Oliva and Ronan Donovan

Tuesday afternoon, the citizens of Boys State gathered once again in the Preston Bondurant Auditorium for another instructional session. The citizens anticipated a session led by Attorney General Mark Herring; however, upon congregating we were informed that he was unable to attend due to unknown circumstances. Fortunately, a video presentation was prepared in advance by the Attorney General himself. Herring began by expressing his love for community and how it translates to his job in politics. Prior to serving as Attorney General, Herring spent 8 years on the Senate and has served as an attorney for 20+ years. In the years he has served as Attorney General, he and his team of prosecutors have worked more than 85 cases dealing with the heroin epidemic. Herring has successfully secured more than 434 pounds of heroin from dealers and traffickers equal to approximately \$29.5 million. In addition to his pursuits regarding the drug crisis, he has worked tirelessly to provide support to military families. Over 100 million dollars have been recovered for families targeted by shady businesses. He has also strived to increase the level of transparency in the state government through the modernization of his office by increasing the use of technology. All in all, Mark Herring conveyed his desire to be "the people's lawyer" when they are in need of "the arm and shield of the law".

Fortunately, Boys State was not completely deprived of advice from the Attorney General's office and citizens were treated to a question and answer session via Skype. Deputy Attorney General Steven Cobb gave insight into various aspects of what makes a successful leader and representative. Cobb stressed the importance of finding a path through higher education with the goal of one day becoming a public service representative. He recommended searching for possible experiential opportunities and jobs, regardless of the salary. Moreover, Steven Cobb explained the relatively new database decision making that came about during the Obama administration. Essentially, the process revolves around the use of big data analytics to pinpoint the most popular issues that require attention. The goal is to find a balance between the city's needs and wants, such that the administration can be effective and efficient.



Above: Attorney General Mark Herring

Camaraderie in Water-bottle Game | By: Jacob Lewis

One of the unique abilities that teenage boys possess is the ability to find camaraderie through almost anything. This is especially true at Boys State; we're all wearing the same uniforms, bunking in the same types of rooms, playing the same sports, listening to the same speakers, and among other things we are learning together.

On Monday outside the Muse cafeteria, two cities who were hungry, hot, and tired were waiting outside while food was being prepared. With nothing to do, a citizen of Marshall City tosses an empty water bottle towards the hungry yet energized Bradley City. Before long, a game erupts between two random delegates proudly representing their great cities.

Without spoken words, the boys come about an agreement as to how this bottle throwing game works. In essence, each city's delegates toss the bottle between each other, only allowed to use one hand to throw and catch the bottle. First one to drop their bottle loses. Each city is shouting and cheering their delegates, a loud thunderous roar erupted in Radford for those few moments.

Two new delegates are chosen for another game; this time the sheriffs of each city face off in a duel. The intensity witnessed was honestly shocking, as the cities are somehow even more deafening than before. The challenge persists between these two boys—nay, great men. The stakes are high, and each sheriff takes turn catching and launching the bottle as high as possible, and each catch is closer to the ground than the last. Finally, the Bradley boys win with the Marshall City Sheriff dropping the now damaged Radford bottle. Counselors usher us into the cafeteria, and soon, the game is forgotten. But, for a short while, the two cities formed a bond over an empty water bottle, which honestly is something only us maturing teenage boys can do.

Why They Call Me "Scoop" | By: Jack Boswell

Boys State is at its core an entity created, established, and ran by boys (duh). So much focus and attention is driven into our group of nearly 700 that many have forgotten possibly the biggest factor in any of us being here: our parents. Our parents sit at home possibly upwards of 5 or 6 hours away and worry (or party—who knows?). Constantly wondering if we are eating enough, have enough blankets, if we are sunburnt... Boys State can represent the first point in some parents' lives where they have not been side by side to their son and that should be fully taken into account when the closing ceremony takes place on Saturday. On the flip side of the coin, parents should take into account what we have accomplished not only in our government, but also what we have done by being singular. Of course, we are independent but not alone. Our cities are composed of thirty-nine other guys or rather: brothers. The goal of our counselors isn't to necessarily enforce or police, but to mold our bond with one another so that we may share the same experiences they had when attending Boys State. They are here in times of need and are here to make us into a group of guys that can work as a government. To help guys mediate the awkwardness, my counselors have deemed adequate to assign every person, all forty, with a nickname. Mine: "Scoop", comes from me being a reporter and was one of the first assigned after "Zippy"—who grabs our mail. There is also: "Flat top, Oscar-Slider, Shaggy, Wipeout, Chappy, Lightning, Otter, Crayon, Flash, Goose, Woody, Richie, Hurricane, Dougie, Logi (pronounced LAH-JEE), and more. In conclusion, our parents should be able to walk away from us knowing that we are not alone and should not be worried over our health, but rather, how we got the nicknames we did whilst at The American Legion's Boys State of Virginia.

Faith at Boys State | By: Will Clemons and Gray Cashwell

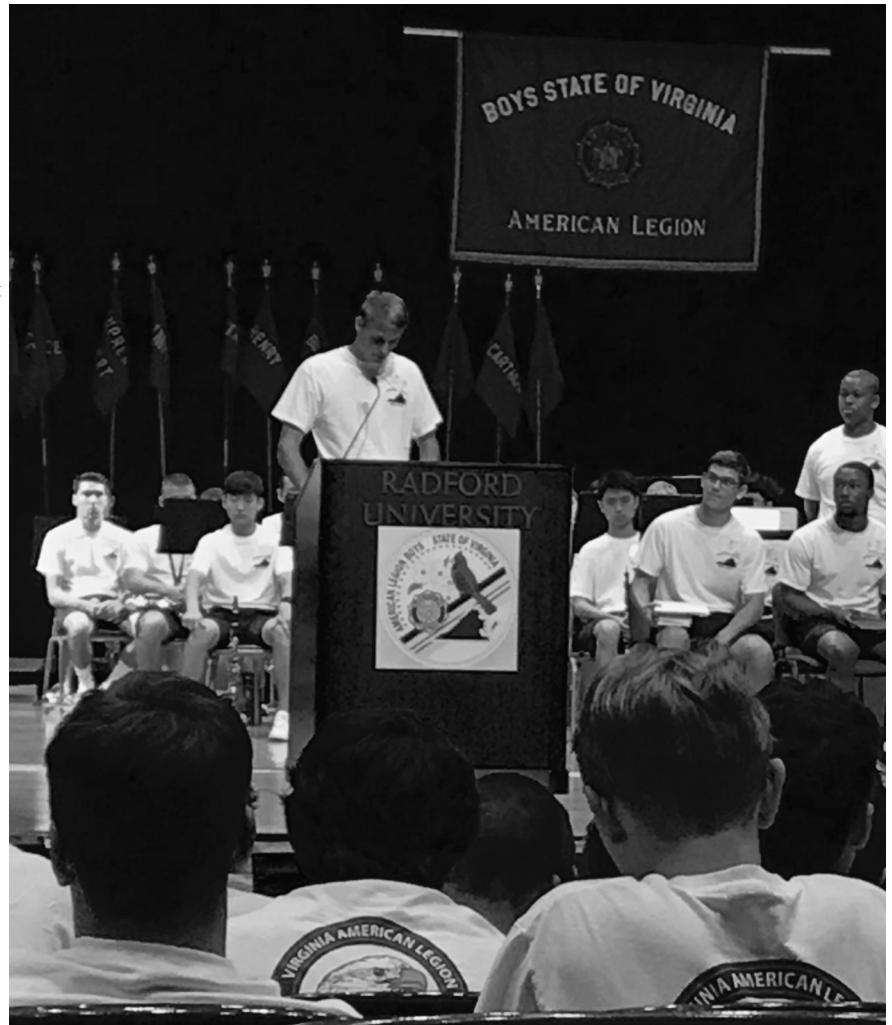
Though delayed until the second day of the Boys State program Monday's Religious Service was the first of many to take place at nine in the morning. During this event, the City Chaplains approached the stage to recite their interpretations of various biblical verses. These readings were introduced as non-denominational; however, some Boys State citizens have been critical, claiming that this statement was inaccurate.

The Old Testament story of David and Goliath played a focal point in Monday's session as the audience received both a verbatim reading and a more motivationally-focused version. The two readings were intended to draw comparison to the conflict between David and Goliath and the value of faith in providing courage, especially against seemingly insurmountable odds. This idea was implied as an allegory for the anxieties that many attendees of Boys State may be feeling in a new situation away from home; however, some did not agree with the value or pertinence of this message.

One citizen, Charles Jessup, expressed such concerns: "They say it is very open to all religions," however, simultaneously Jessup also admitted that the sermons are geared towards "traditional religions which America is based off of."

In contrast with Jessup's perspective, citizen Crow Renager expressed that he is "definitely for it," and that he believes it is a "good start to the morning with all the positivity," and that he feels "a good sense of community." He believes that the services have value "even if [citizens of Boys State] aren't religious, like me."

These contrasting perspectives are a display of the wide swath of opinions that many Boys State attendees hold about said services. In this way, the citizens of Boys State are in no way monolithic in their beliefs. Despite the interactions some participants may have had with these ceremonies, the ability for citizens to be able to experience some degree of spiritual lessons is, to many attendees, a boon.



Above: Chaplains speak at the religious services

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Jeremy Kraisser | Jarrett Burkett | Joshua Hartt | Jacob
Massey | Edward Perkins | Nathan Arapoff | Nicholas
Carter | Cameron Quinn | Tyrell Simmons | Thomas Bar-
teau | Connor Harper | Jonathan Paul | Dylan Small | Fin-
lay Lee | Neal Perrion | Nicholas Toone | Aaron Ward |
Andrew Lewis | Terion Rodgers | Andrew Serrao | Jay-
don Turner | Christopher Buonforte | Samuel Ramey |
Hunter Ward | Luc Wilson | Glenn Broderick | Chadwick
Gore | Nicholas Psimas | Nicholas Sansone | Blake
Brown | Ethan Crawford | Sam Payne | Jerry Turner |
George Ardura | Eric Gustafson | William Hutchenson |
Collin Miller | Gilbert Diaz | Krutik Nigam | David
Weekman | Abbey Yared | Joseph Adams | Justin Free |
Colonel Higgins | Evan Zajkowski | Kurtis Anderson |
Alexander Koenig | William Perdieu | Owen Williams |
Matthew Gallagher | Nicholas McCoughan | Ashton
Quinn | Joshua Savage | Patrick Ertel | Jacob Grabham |
Augustine Kim | Benjamin Young | Dylan Glorioso |
Bailey Hodges | Jinwoo Kim | Andrew Meehan

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row Turbyfill | Sai Aruru | Jeoungsoo Pang | Adam Ander-
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Thor Kurzenhauser | Sebastian Stanton | DeAndre
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