



## Talent Show Rocks Boys State!



**By: Grey Cashwell and Brooks Pollard**

After a few days of tough decision-making, well-fought political campaigns, and extended political conventions, the Boys State citizens were in need of a time to relax and focus on more heartwarming content. This desire was easily filled with the many talents of our peers at the 76th annual Boys State Talent Show where citizens were able to watch and give unwavering support for the collective brotherhood of the Virginia Boys State. The talent show, which featured many diverse acts and a very special guest, upheld its reputation of showcasing amazing performances from Boys State citizens.

The opening act was Austin Briggs from Puller City, who sang and performed the song "When I Was Your Man" by Bruno Mars on piano. Several other pianists took over the stage throughout the course of the night, including a rendition of the Pirates of the Caribbean theme music, the Charlie Brown theme music, and the song "Hallelujah" by Leonard Cohen. One musician demonstrated how to use the C, F, G, and Am chords to perform several pop songs, such as "Trumpets" and "Hey, Soul Sister."

Guitar was also a popular talent avenue for many of the performers. These acts started with David Wu's "Country Roads," a song originally written by John Denver, which the crowd of proud country boys couldn't help but sing along to. Some original songs also came from particularly talented citizens, such as the hilarious rap "Pasta La Vista" and "Free," a beautiful love song written and performed by Garrett Estep. Pink Floyd's "Wish You Were Here" also made a welcomed appearance via the talents of Beasely and Hass, as well as Jimi Hendrix's "Hey Joe." The brass and clarinet players also gave their all in performances of "Can't Help Falling in Love With You", dedicated to the women of Girls State, the Pink Panther theme music, and the Mii creator music.

One performance that was particularly memorable was by Dr. Bloom, a World War II veteran, the last of his kind in the Virginia American Legion. Dr. Bloom has continuously been a part of the Boys State program ever since he attended back in the 1940's, performing at the talent show each year ever since. After all of this time, Dr. Bloom made the decision to retire, making last night's performance his last for the Boys State. He sung a heartwarming song from his time with the assistance of the band, which got a standing ovation from the audience. Dr. Bloom will forever be honored for his service and missed greatly by the American Legion Boys State. The talent show finished up with a touching performance that included all of the past performers, who joined the stage to complete the song, "Hallelujah." The boys cheered with charisma and sang the Boys State Song to conclude the night.

### A Thank You to Radford University | By: Michael Bunting

Despite the bitter debate over elections and political matters, one thing that has united all of the citizens are the grounds they stand on. The Radford staff and campus have been the most welcoming to all of the participants. From first entering the campus nervous for what was to come to finishing the last bite of food and putting away a plate in Muse Hall, citizens feel welcomed by all of the friendly staff who help make Boys State such an incredible week.

Without the assistance of Radford University, Boys State would not be able to grow future leaders and allow them to have an enjoyable time. They have provided beautiful facilities, quality food, and fun athletics to make the program more than just a camp, but rather the opportunity for each city to become a community. The ability to live in a campus setting allows the citizens to have a genuine college experience prior to their senior year of high school.

RU is a modern college with excellent dorms and facilities as several of the boys were able to share a bathroom with their roommates. The school is a great size for the program with all of the buildings being a short walking distance from each other.

Also, the ability to break off into smaller groups scattered around the RU campus truly allowed each city to have its own space for ideas and leadership growth. Thanks to Radford, young Americans were given the opportunity to grow and develop and some may even want to continue learning at this high level institution.

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## The Votes Are In! | By: Michael Bunting

The new governor of Boys State will work his first full day today. The election was heated and several sects were present. The election process began with the party chairmen outlining their platforms. The first to speak was the Federalist chairman who discussed how the Federalists pledged to protect the Second Amendment while directing attention to the source of recent school shootings being the

ous schedule of the introduction of ist candidates, the the stage. They their candidates on port against the of the Boys State

The gov- each gave a speech tion. Jovon Elliot folk, Virginia throughout his ing to humanize the Boys State tionalist candidate spoke in a presi- and planned work even pledging to into his cabinet.

proposed an idea to provide aid for American Legion Posts who were unable to fund delegates to represent all of Virginia. He noted that nearly one hundred fewer delegates were able to attend Boys State this year compared to last year and hoped to reverse this trend next year.

Following the speeches, the voters were sent off to their State Election Boards who assisted in organizing the voting process. Each citizen cast their vote and were called back into the Preston Bondurant nearly an hour later. When the votes were counted, the Election Board announced the results: Xavier Williams (N) won the position of governor, Jake Kiggans (N) became the new lieutenant governor, and Charles Jessup (F) won the election for attorney general.

## Bradley Triumphs in Football Championship | By: Keagan DeLong

It all came down to this, two teams battling for the title of Boys State Champions. A rivalry of two undefeated teams duking it out on the field for superiority. The cities of Bradley and Stuart fought throughout this past week for the supreme title of champion. Their records were impeccable; each team had put every other city to shame. But there can only be one reigning champion.

It was a decisive game, fought hard on both offense and defense; ultimately, strategy would best skill. Bradley's method of keeping control of the cross routes led them to victory; the Stuart defense was not able to effectively cover enough to win. Through the trials and tribulations of the field, a victor emerged...eventually. The game was a close one; the final score 22-14 Bradley.

At dinner our reporter got a chance to speak to Team Stuart. The team was not discouraged of their loss, as they knew that they played true to their heart. Jokes were exchanged, and an overall sense of accomplishment and bonding filled the atmosphere of the Stuart's team table. A game built on respect for one another, it was clear that Bradley's victory was well earned after a tough wave of resistance from Stuart.

The atmosphere that surrounded the football field, before and after the games, was awe-inspiring. Young men coming together to participate in sports that enhance the experience of the community. The lessons taught to us by the American Legion are resonant with the experiences all these athletes had on the fields, courts, alleys, billiards, and ping-pong tables.



stress and oner- school. Following the three federal- Nationalists took decided to run a platform in sup- sun: "the enemy citizens." ernor candidates before the elec- representing Nor- seemed humble campaign, speak- himself among voters. The Na- Xavier Williams dential manner across the aisle, place Federalists Williams also



## Supreme Court Judges Rule! | By: Brooks Pollard

After extensive work during meetings, activity times, and late nights from all members of the Moot Court, seven Supreme Court judges were elected yesterday. Each of the sixteen cities in the Boys State was allotted four positions for the Moot Court, which began meeting on Monday. The representatives of the cities battled it out in the courts over a case regarding marijuana usage in hopes of securing the seven coveted Supreme Court spots.

The selections were made during the Moot Court sessions and the elected justices had the honor of being sworn in to uphold the values of the Constitution in the court of law during the inauguration ceremony. They swore to reflect the words etched upon the top of the Supreme Court building: "Equal Justice Under Law." These Justices interpret the Constitution in court cases and will make judgements based upon the Constitution itself.

Today, the Supreme Court will rule on the marijuana case being tried in Moot Court. Throughout history, United States Supreme Court rulings have created precedents to be used in all other similar cases surrounding the same issue. The Supreme Court Justices of the Virginia Boys State will begin to work hard in the courts today and plan to rule according to the principles of the Constitution.

## Governor Northam Squeezes In Visit | By: Will Clemons and Carter Bailey

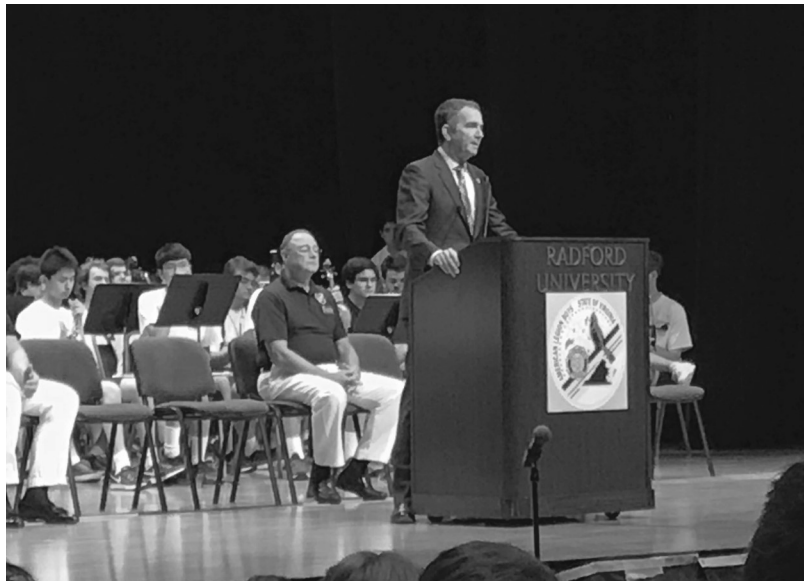
The final informational session in the elected federal positions trio occurred on Thursday afternoon, with Governor Ralph Northam sharing some of his insights and lessons he's learned on his journey to becoming governor of Virginia. While Governor Northam was scheduled to begin his speech at 12 noon, however due to flight arrival times, a tight schedule, and potentiality of inclement weather, the governor arrived later than expected. However, the band and chorus were able to fill in the empty space with some prepared songs. Even with the wait, many citizens of Boys State agree that Governor Northam's session was well worth it, containing many lessons about maturity and success.

Similar to other speakers thus far at the 76th Boys State of Virginia, Governor Ralph Northam had quite a few pieces of advice to give to the citizens. One of the ideas Governor Northam presented was that of aiming high. Governor Northam consistently conveyed the idea that ambition is an important part of success, and that

spending too much time worrying about failure can prevent personal progress and progress for others as well. He also advised that the citizens of Boys State, as well as many other young people turning 18 soon, should take advantage of their right to vote.

While these other lessons are of great importance, Governor Northam mentioned one topic that is relevant to many today as well as carrying many lessons within about civil responsibility and taking action. Specifically, Governor Northam talked about the students in Parkland, Florida who have been taking a stand to find a way to solve the issue of mass gun violence in many different ways. He praised their courage and their willingness to become involved in such an issue in order to affect positive change around the country they live in. Through this section of the governor's speech, he was able to convey a powerful message about taking the responsibility of attempting to create a better place to live through political organizing, action, and voting in local and state elections.

During the short question and answer session Governor Northam was asked if he could be remembered for one thing what would it be. He said he would like to be remembered for the work he's done to expand medicare. The governor recently signed a bill expanding medicaid to 400,000 low-income adults in Virginia. Another question asked was how he could utilize his experience in the medical field to make decisions in the gubernatorial position. He said that working in the medical field gave him a drive to expand medicaid for Virginians and to raise awareness of concussions in high school athletes.



## Pop Culture Shines in Roll Call | By: Jack Boswell

Here at Boys State, we love our "roll call". For parents, this is our ceremony preceding the process of either raising or lowering the flag where each city yells a chant or phrase for all others to hear. Today, Patton City, my own, paid homage to our sheriff Woody by reciting a scene from *Toy Story*. In *Toy Story*, all the characters cannot let Andy know that they are "alive" and thus whenever he comes, they drop to the floor in whatever position they were in. Thus, roll-call came and our group yelled "ANDY'S COMING!" before immediately dropping to the ground in place. Humorous? I would think so... Other groups consistently cite memes and pop culture referring to *Spongebob*, *Fortnite*, and *The Incredibles*. Furthermore, cities have sung songs such as *Take Me Home Country Roads* and *Paradise City*. Many teams have changed their songs and chants to make a reference to their city or have picked ideas specifically for the great "a-ha moment" able to be derived (i.e. Jackson City: used their song for the line "Jackson City"). The intricacies and creativity profoundly portray the creativity of the Boys State population and provide something to look forward to when lining up at 7:30 in the morning.

### Want to see your article in The Legion's Post?

Write something you feel strongly about here at Boys State.

Only appropriate articles will be published.

Email all articles to [vaboysstate2018@gmail.com](mailto:vaboysstate2018@gmail.com) and please include your city.

### Correction

The Legion's Post failed to report Michael Carey as a senator. Mr. Carey was elected senator from Eisenhower.

### Trivia of the Day

What years was Boys State not in session due to the war?

Email the answer to [vaboysstate2018@gmail.com](mailto:vaboysstate2018@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.

There was no winner yesterday.

## Rivalries Heat Up as Sports Come to a Close | By: Justin Carminucci

Athletic events at Boys States wrapped up on Thursday, with champions being decided in all sports. Players managed to beat the weather and get their final games in, battling it out to determine the best of the best. Over at the bowling alleys, it was a tight race between several cities, with Eisenhower, Patton, and Jackson duking it out for the final points of the tournament. Highlights included Eisenhower's Logan Robinson pulling through with a turkey and Nathan Arapoff scoring three spares in a row. Jackson's Lane Zuchowski also excelled with three spares in a row. Ultimately, it was Eisenhower who prevailed, edging out Patton. That was not the only win that the city managed to get, as they also came out on top in Frisbee Golf, with Jackson coming in second.

While Eisenhower did have a strong showing, it was the city of Marshall who dominated, managing to win an unprecedented three events. In basketball, they crushed their competitors from Pershing with a final score of 36-22. They also beat out James City in the soccer final as well as Burke in billiards. Flag football concluded with a close game between Bradley and Stuart, with Bradley winning 22-14. Finally, Patton pulled off a 2-0 victory against MacArthur in the final volleyball match. Overall, athletic activities proved to be a much needed and extremely enjoyable outlet for the citizens of Boys State, who used the time to get to know their teammates and bond over common ground. In the process, it managed to fuel a few rivalries that continued both on and off the field, injecting some more excitement into the week.



## Public Speaking Winner Visits | By: Adam Notley and Ronan Donovan

Ian Waite, a former Boys State and Boys Nation alumnus, introduced the opportunity for public speakers at Boys State to compete for scholarships; the first place scholarship is \$18,000. Waite won a \$3,000 scholarship for success in the oratory competition last year.

In addition to giving his exemplary speech, Waite also encouraged students to find fascination and interest with public speaking. The focal point of his speech revolved around the Constitution of the United States. Ultimately, those interested in a future career in politics should consider the oratorical competition as an excellent starting place.

## Chants of the Week | By: Jacob Lewis

- "GOOOD MORNING VIETNAM!"
- "Take me down to MacArthur City where the grass is green and there are no girls."
- "The FitnessGram Pacer Test is a multistage aerobic capacity test that progressively gets more difficult as it continues."
- "Beer bongs and Bradley's"
- "You guys look like some snacks."
- "You are NOT the father!"



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