

THE STATE JOURNAL

JUNE 26, 2021

Love Letter to the Supply Staff

We would also like to include for the final issue a MASSIVE thank you for the supply staff. The supply staff team work in the wings and behind the scenes to fulfill numerous vital roles at Boys State. This year, they organized staff meetings, provided food and drinks for events, set up tables and technology, not to mention playing a vital role in the production, printing, and distribution of the *State Journal*. The 2021 Virginia Boys State could not have been pulled off without the supply staff. Thank you! (Please also stop for photos at the Boys' State banner.)



Landon Bonneville: Social Media Sensation

Landon Bonneville is a rising talent as a young baseball athlete stirring up with a sensational appearance in Team USA. The inspiring performance throughout his career with 90 percentile ranking has led MLB to notice his potential. A seventeen years old boy with ambitions of sportsmanship and soul of music is pushing towards early drafting. Landon is a dedicated professional striving towards a brighter future. However, he still manages to distinguish himself from others in his league. While others are too busy training and improving themselves, Landon also invests time in building a strong, compassionate community. It is due to his compelling nature for contribution that is bringing together a lot of people. You might say that he is doing the 'networking' right at such a young age. Teenage years are challenging and there is a lot on the plate for one to figure out their life, ambitions and most importantly, to give respect. The inspiring youth is managing to ensure he sets up the right example for his admirers. Apart from being a dedicated baseball player and a community builder, Landon always ensures that people recognize the contribution of his parents. He seems to have found a way to connect with everyone through his efforts. The athletic youth managed to gain recognition from several top-brands like Body Armour for a sponsorship. MLB-Superstars like David Wright, Michael Cuddyer, Brandon Lowe, and Nicky Delmonico also seem to be the friend of the young prodigy. In his baseball's lifestyle, he is building a strong foundation for a beautiful future. Meanwhile, he is also an avid music lover. Bastille's sound engineer has guided young Landon to hone his musical talents behind the mixing desk. The star youth is often seen hanging around backstage, and not only at Bastille's show, but many others like country superstar Jimmie Allen, showing us that he could very-well be leading dual life. Landon Bonneville has also connected with recording artists and record industry professionals, people such as upcoming country music star Andrew Jannakos, for guidance and networking for his future career in the music industry as a manager, promoter, or similar career. Even though he is a teenager, the gifted athlete has leveled his game to be on par with an average professional player in stats. With these compelling stats and dedication to growth, you can expect him to lead a bright life ahead. According to the rising talent himself, he plans on dedicating completely to baseball. However, for his retirement, he might become the sound engineer or do something in the music business. We might get a double treat from the USA's future baseball star. Landon Bonneville is certainly on the right path towards glory, but what sets Landon Bonneville apart on Social Media? Bonneville has experience in utilizing social media to promote himself as an athlete and to gain exposure and in recruiting for colleges and universities.

Written by Land Bonneville

Clayton Fannin: the Formatter and Editor

I was the only one who knew how to use Microsoft Publisher.

Thanks for enjoying the paper!

Thank you for your patronage!

Written by Clayton Fannin

Calvin Schilling: the Man, the Myth, the Legend

Hello, everyone, I hope you all enjoyed your time at Boys State! I know I did. As one of the editors of the newspaper, I have been honored to bring a quality paper to all the delegates every morning of this action-packed week. Everyone's compliments on our work certainly made the long hours' worth it for me. For the last issue we decided to let you get to know the people behind the *State Journal*. My name is Calvin Schilling and as soon as I heard I'd gotten into Boys State, I knew I wanted to on the Press Team. I think journalism is incredibly important and interesting, especially in a school setting. At my high school I do the yearbook and the video broadcast news program, and although a career in journalism is not my first choice right now, it is definitely up there. At school I do wrestling, cross country, and forensics, and outside I participate in Civil Air Patrol and Scouts BSA. My main interests include listening to music, politics and philosophy, and hanging out with my friends. And something interesting about me is that for the duration of Boys State, I've been trying vegetarianism. So far, the experience has been very revealing. I feel great and it's something I would recommend you do, just for a week or so. I had a great time at Boys State and I hope everyone has a good rest of their summer.

Written by Calvin Schilling

A Week to be Remembered for the Longest Time

As the wise Grateful Dead once said, "*What a long, strange trip it's been*". These past 15 months are some that will spend time in history books for years to come. The American Legion Boys State has only broken its annual convention two times in history: World War II, and in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States and across the globe. The 2021 Boys State session was no exception to these rapidly changing times. With roughly 30% capacity as compared to the past, the pre-event selection process was that much more selective. ~215 boys from across the Commonwealth of Virginia descended upon Radford University for a week full of change, but one that was still able to uphold some of the most sacred of American Legion traditions. Boys still sang the Boys State Song, but with a mask upon their faces. The Boys State election process is one of the most valued of these traditions. Young men participated in creating their own democracy, and by doing so, elected a Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Attorney General; officials to uphold and value the ideas of all parties involved with Virginia Boys State.

Written by: Jay Doran

Steele Does not Steal

In my time here at Boys State, I have learned many... interesting things, and experienced some of the greatest, and strangest events in my life. However, I can firmly say that Boys State has been one of the greatest opportunities in my life. I have enjoyed almost every minute with all of you, and it has been an honor to have you read my articles. The late nights and crazy stories are made worth it by seeing you all with the paper in the morning. This year, we all decided to write under pen-names, and it's about time that Silence No-Good was revealed. Silence No-good is Cohen Steele, the reporter from Marshall. I enjoy nachos, baseball, and playing football back home. You all saw that I was passionate about guitar too. Good luck to you boys, and I hope none of y'all got into too much trouble last night.

Written by Cohen Steele AKA Silence No-good

Bernard: News Reporter from Henry City

Jason Melendez, a senator from Henry City, has been writing under the name Bernard for The State Journal.

Melendez hails from Chesterfield County, VA.

The Senator prided himself on his astute legislative ability, and he enjoyed the largest mandate from Henry Federalists—a unanimous vote.

He has particularly enjoyed covering matters within the Senate and the General Assembly, and he also has been sure to bring his Henry City pride to The State Journal.

Melendez, reporting as Bernard, is privileged to have participated in the newspaper.

Written by Jason Melendez AKA Bernard

Who is Jedi Yoda?

The newspaper staff decided to choose aliases before we even started writing. I chose the name *Jedi Yoda* as “Jedi” looked similar to the words *Edward* and *Joo* put together. My name is Edward Joo, citizen of and senator for MacArthur City (whose mayor, Tariq Abdullah, is the undefeated arm-wrestling champion within the city—going against Senators, Delegates, Boys Nation Senators, and City Councilors alike), and temporary resident of Stuart Hall. I swim, run track, and am a part of my high school marching band, who will be playing at the 5A Boys Lacrosse State Championship on Saturday cheering on the Riverside Rams. I was drawn to Boys State because of the unique experience that it provided to those who attended it, and I am pleased to say that it exceeded by expectations exponentially. I would say that my favorite part about Boys State is leaving Hemp Hill Hall at night after working on the newspaper for (often) later that day.

Written by Edward Joo AKA Jedi Yoda

Who is Goldie?

At the beginning of this week the newspaper staff decided to go by alias’. We decided this move would have been smart to avoid any scrutiny. The newspaper has supplied the entire Boys State with plenty of unbiased information throughout the week, we believe the alias’ were key. My name is Connor Gilster of Eisenhower City, this week I have gone by the name Goldie. This alias was chosen on the spot at the beginning of this week, I feel it adequately represented myself. Goldie represents both my appearance and my demeanor. Light brown hair and blue eyes with a bubbly and welcoming attitude.

What makes me fit to be at Boys State? I do not pride myself on my knowledge of Virginia government or my public speaking ability. However, I believe I have the character traits that young men attending Boys State must have. The resiliency, positive attitude, and ability to lift others have all made my time at Boys State that much easier. I attribute these character traits mainly to one thing. Lifting weights. I encourage any young man to start on their fitness journey today. Improving physical fitness can improve mental acuity as well as physical health. Lifting weights has improved my life in so many ways. Boosted confidence, improved physique and health, as well as the relationships formed in the gym have all been transformative in my life. If you have one take away from this short article, it’s that I encourage everybody to make their physical and mental health a priority. When we part ways on this last day of the session I turn to Jim Carrey when he faithfully said “Good morning, and in case I don’t see ya, good afternoon, good evening, and good night!”.

Written by Connor Gilster AKA Goldie

Food Review: Finale

The last full day of the 78th Session of VA Boys State began, as it always does, with breakfast, which had earned the reputation of being the third best meal served by the Radford kitchen staff. Again, scrambled eggs, (turkey) bacon, and cooked vegetables were offered, but the one menu item that did stand out as both strange and surprisingly good were the sweet potato tater tots. At first, I was quite apprehensive about this idea to make perfectly good tater tots based around (CONT.)

Food Review: Finale (Continued)

sweet potatoes, but upon tasting it, it was revealed to me that this choice made the tater tots even better. The sweetness went well with the rest of the tot, and the taste of sweet potato prominently stood out. However, the eggs were bland and had a rubbery texture, and the turkey sausages were much too salty and had an even worse texture than the eggs. I could quite literally feel the taste of the sausages doing damage to my tongue and palate.

Rating: 51/88

Lunch was a pretty controversial affair as many of the chicken nuggets that were served seemed to be hollow on the inside. I can only guess that the reason behind this phenomenon was that the heat it took to cook the chicken made some of the nuggets rise, thus separating the top and bottom parts. The quality of the nuggets were wanting, but one does not eat chicken nuggets for the quality. The outer breading was crispy and the chicken inside didn't taste terribly, so I will not mark off the rating for lunch because of the quality of mass-produced chicken nuggets.

Rating: 49/53

A large amount of Boys State parents had arrived by the time that dinner rolled around, and their taste buds would end up benefitting from their presence. The mac and cheese had a little too much pepper on it, but it still tasted very good. There was a light crust layering the top of the mac and cheese, which made the dish even tastier. The pulled pork had a similar problem that the mac and cheese had, except the problem was with the quantity of salt and not pepper. The last dinner of Boys State was far and away the best of the week.

Rating:

9,999,999.999/10,000,000

Overall Rating: 509/516 Yoda's

16 X 16 Sudoku

1		2	3	4		12	6			7					
		8			7		3			9	10	6	11		
	12		10		1	13	11					14			
3		15	2		14			9					12		
13			8		10	12	2		1	15					
	11	7	6			16			15				5	13	
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16		5	9	12		1								8	
	2					13		12	5	8					3
	13		15	3			14	8		16					
5	8			1		2				13	9	15			
		12	4		6	16	13		7						5
	3			12			6		4	11					16
	7		16	5		14			1					2	
11	1	15	9			13		2				14			
	14				11	2			13	3	5				12

Samuel Banks: Critique Extraordinaire

Hello Boys State, I am Samuel Banks IV and I was the news reporter that represented the great city of Patton. When I started this role, I was forced by my city and did it because I knew we needed one. I didn't expect much out of this role but even on the first day, these guys made me feel like I was at home. Cohen Steele, Jason Melendez, Landon Bonneville, Calvin Schilling, Edward Joo, Clayton Fannin, Connor Gilster, and I stayed up until sometimes 1:00 writing papers like we were back typing final exams a couple weeks ago and I loved every minute of it. The moments we had with Mr. Hillman in Hemphill Hall in 3004 room will never be forgotten. These guys made this gruesome week way more fun than it needed to be. I want to thank everybody who helped me get here for this opportunity at Boys State, until next time!

Written by Samuel Banks AKA Shazam

Correction: Newly-Inaugurated Governor Holds First Cabinet Meeting

The State Journal noted in the Friday, June 25, 2021, edition that Governor Aryan Hamdard and his cabinet did not submit legislation by the Thursday deadline at 5:30pm. This mistaken assertion was inaccurate. The Governor submitted legislation close to the deadline but satisfied the deadline. The State Journal apologizes for any inconvenience caused by this.