

## American Legion Auxiliary Missouri Girls State's Got Talent



Pershing City's Grace Edney sings "When I Was Your Man" from the stage during Wednesday night's American Legion Auxiliary Missouri Girls State talent show at Scheidegger Theatre. A total of 18 ALA MGS citizens participated in the talent show, which included singing, dancing, instrumental performances and recitations. For more photos from Wednesday night's talent show, see Page 7.

## Lewis City selected as MBS Capital City

BY URIAH KOESTER  
LEWIS CITY

Cheers erupted in the dining hall at lunch Wednesday as Lewis City was announced as Missouri Boys State's Capital City.

Following the win, Lewis City Mayor Brady O'Hara spoke with *The Leader* about the challenges and rewards of this new position and about how the city qualified to be the capital.

"We had the basics like a clean city, a place for the senators and representatives, and a nice city park. But we also had a bunch of business ventures," O'Hara said. "With our (counterpart city), Clark, making up Barton County, there is no reason they wouldn't want the Capital City here."

O'Hara said the responsibilities of being the Capital City include being the leader in city cleanliness, having a great park and being a city everyone should model themselves after.

And O'Hara doesn't want to stop with just the Capital City title — he's got ambitions to secure even more accolades for Lewis City.

"We would love to have the Supreme Court, the mayors and all the other state positions here, and I am so proud of our city for making Capital City," O'Hara said.

## Gubernatorial debate ignites competition

*Gwak, Lewis face off for top spot at ALA MGS*

BY MADELEINE HENDERSON  
CLARK CITY  
AND IRIS ALVAREZ  
CROWDER CITY

The schedule was jam-packed Wednesday for American Legion Auxiliary Missouri Girls State citizens and candidates.

The day started with last-minute primary elections followed by the third assembly, which included the Girls Nation extemporaneous question, primary election results and party presentations. In the early afternoon, Sarah Kellogg, a political journalist for St. Louis Public Radio, spoke with ALA MGS citizens, to be shortly followed by the eagerly awaited gubernatorial debate.

The gubernatorial debate featured Nationalist Party candidate Claire Gwak and Federalist Party candidate Elise Lewis. The debate was led by featured students from the School of Journalism.

To begin the debate, each candidate gave her opening remarks and re-established their campaign platforms.

Lewis' message is one of cooperation. "Work together" was a phrase often used to bridge the gap between groups that would usually disagree. She also advocates for ALA MGS delegates that would like a health policy class, military representation and efficient meal shifts.

"Be the initiative; make the changes," Lewis said.

Gwak campaigns heavily with her slogan "Walk With Gwak," indicating that she, as a woman of color, member of the LGBTQ+ community and daughter in a working-class family, can walk alongside the members of ALA MGS. She highlighted her ability to relate to others' struggles and push for their representation in government.

"What I stand for is diversity, unity, connection and new perspectives," Gwak said.

Gwak and Lewis faced some difficult question topics from

PLEASE SEE **DEBATE**, P. 6



From left, Missouri Boys State gubernatorial candidates Jakweli Gist (Nationalist from Richardson City) and John Holt (Federalist from Weyer City) speak to citizens during Wednesday night's joint party rally for state-wide candidates at Hyland Arena.



## It's the final countdown

*Candidates get one last pitch at joint party rally*

BY XAVIER WILSON  
RICHARDSON CITY

The Federalist and Nationalist parties held a joint party rally Wednesday night at Hyland Arena for Missouri Boys State's candidates for governor, lieutenant governor, state auditor, secretary of state, treasurer and attorney general.

Attorney general hopefuls Aiden O'Donnell and Donovan Frost — representing the Federalist and Nationalist parties, respectively — each delivered their message to voters. O'Donnell's address outlined his plans to rid corruption among city council members, while Frost delivered a poetic message on his principles of truth, impartiality and justice.

Next up were the candidates for state auditor in the form of Federalist Will Feng and Nationalist William "Silly Willy" Shoki. Feng advocated for transparency in governmental activities and a system that would allow citizens comfort "that their money is being utilized properly." After Feng's remarks, Shoki stressed the need for action and the

importance of governmental accountability, assuring "no official is above the law."

Prospective state treasurers were introduced, with Federalist Landon Ely speaking first. Ely promised to be a candidate who would "work for you," later elaborating that "when the little guy's in the corner, you're going to want me to get him out." Nationalist Jayden Hicks then took stage, confessing that as a civil servant, "I only make \$5 a day," and "taxes are \$75 BSB." He linked the incessant fines and astronomical price of commodities to basement-level tax rates and lack of government subsidies. He later promised a stimulus package to revive the economy.

Runners for secretary of state stepped up next — Federalist Martin Olmedo and Nationalist Riley Rupp. Olmedo issued an address on a state unity blind to the party line, trading his blue tie for a purple one and saying, "I believe in a united Boys State!" Afterward, Rupp explained how his farm upbringing made him the man he is today.

Candidating for lieutenant governor then spoke, with Federalist Ajay Eisenberg and Tarek Al Hussein delivering their remarks. Eisenberg described a "shining city on a hill," surveying the room and gathering that it was full of young men "unwilling to become victim to circumstance and statistics."

PLEASE SEE **RALLY**, P. 6

## Pushing against a 'man's world'

*Kellogg talks journalism at MGS*

BY KENNEDY HEIL  
CARVER CITY

Sarah Kellogg, of St. Louis Public Radio, spoke to American Legion Auxiliary Missouri Girls State citizens about all things journalism Wednesday in Scheidegger Theatre.

Kellogg shared about many different aspects of her job, and answered several questions from MGS citizens.

In an interview with *The Leader* after her remarks, Kellogg spoke about issues of representation for this program. For Kellogg, that's an issue she's familiar with as

a woman reporting on politics.

"I was the only female reporter that was consistently there every day," Kellogg said.

Kellogg said this led her to believe that even though that was the case, her career is proving to be less of a "man's world" every day, even since her time in graduate school.

Kellogg's passion for her career left a remarkable impact on women of all ages during Wednesday's visit.

"Luckily for me, I am interested in all parts of my job; therefore, I find that even in tough reporting situations, I am still able to find an angle of reporting that suits me best," Kellogg said.

Kellogg taught MGS citizens about leadership and passion when it comes to finding a career that you enjoy.





# State Fair is tonight

*Joint MBS-MGS event at Hunter Stadium*

**BY SAMUEL MACKEY**  
BOONE CITY

Missouri Boys State and American Legion Auxiliary Missouri Girls State citizens need to get ready, because the State Fair is coming up. The fair starts at 8:30 p.m. today at Hunter Stadium. It will mark the second time the MBS and MGS programs have hosted the big event on Lindenwood University's campus. Ahead of the event, *The Leader* spoke with three MBS staff members about their memories of last year's State Fair.

For MBS Gov. Cooper Barron, it's a culmination of all that has happened during the session, and a signifier of the end. Barron said it's also a celebration of every citizen's accomplishments. School of Journalism counselor Matt Zilz attended MBS as a citizen last year — which means he attended the first-ever State Fair. "Meeting new citizens from MBS and delegates from MGS while enjoying carnival games, balloon animals and fireworks together was a highlight of the week," Zilz said. Matt Brown, also a School of Journalism counselor, wasn't able to attend the State Fair last year, but he said he enjoyed the sight of the fireworks from the newspaper production room.

# Booths at State Fair expected to have plenty of fun to offer

*Taylor Swift, painting, nerf guns and more*

**BY DIONNA LYNCH**  
DRAKE CITY  
**AND JADYN MCCARTY**  
PERSHING CITY

There has been a lot of buzz about the State Fair — a collaboration between Missouri Boys State and American Legion Auxiliary Missouri Girls State — and booths that will be available during the event. Cities and counties across the Lindenwood University campus have been planning all week, and MBS and MGS citizens are excited for an amazing time at the fair.

Madison Riney and Ysabella Olsen from Cronin City say they are going to be hosting a booth dedicated to Taylor Swift. They said they don't want to give away too much information, but did say they'll have lots of fun props. Mya Seek from Pershing City said they are going to have a booth where they will paint the faces of both citizens and staff members, who can choose the designs they want painted. They will also have a raffle. Conner Hill from Whitfield City said their booth will be about gambling, and the plans are already in the works. Logan Kennedy from Gambrel City said their booth is going to be a Nerf gun competition with targets to shoot at, and the winner will get an undisclosed grand prize.

# Editorials and commentary

## A debate of student-led vs. counselor-led meetings

*Development of cities, counties differ between MBS, MGS programs*

**BY KARA BOLLIN**  
STEPHENS CITY

Although delegates and citizens in the neighboring areas of Missouri Boys State and American Legion Auxiliary Missouri Girls State are conducted similarly, there are a few key differences in city and county meeting development. Both groups have been progressing their governments and electing officials, but the roles of those officials seem to be drifting in opposite directions. When asked who participates the most in leading city meetings, MBS citizen Trevor Peterson of Kohn City said they "are graced with student-led vigor," whereas MGS citizens experience meetings that are often led by counselors. There are several benefits of both options. For example, MGS citizen Riley Friga of Pershing City feels when her counselors lead their meetings, everything is "more organized, focused and productive." On the other hand, MBS takes a different perspective. Peterson said he believes

"the essence of student leadership transcends mere efficiency" and "the collective pursuit of knowledge and self-discovery" is more valuable than organization. As the third party involved in the development and leadership of city and county meetings, MBS assistant city counselor Noah Mosher of Whitfield City found one of the main benefits of stepping back and letting citizens take the reins is "everyone loves to see everyone else in their city succeed." When elected officials have fewer responsibilities during meetings, the entire group might lose the opportunity to build a strong sense of community among themselves. However, MGS cities do not feel like they are missing out on anything at all. Anna Hermann of Compton City believes girls "have a higher sense of respect" for their counselors and enjoy having "an authority figure to look up to." While certain perspectives place student leadership higher on the ladder than counselor leadership, both routes guide all citizens toward trying new things, building relationships, and representing the American Legion Auxiliary to the best of their ability.

# Majority of polled MBS citizens enjoy joint sessions with MGS

**BY MAC PROSSER**  
CROWDER CITY  
**AND SANDEEP MAHARJAN**  
CROWDER CITY

It has become a common theme for Missouri Boys State to share sessions with the citizens of the American Legion Auxiliary Missouri Girls State. These joint sessions are similar, yet very different. These differences bring to question whether MBS citizens prefer to have joint sessions with the girls, or if they prefer sessions with just the boys. On Wednesday, *The Leader* asked the citizens of MBS if they enjoyed combining forces with the girls, or if they liked the less crowded, tamer environment presented in the solo sessions. Roughly 30 citizens were interviewed, of which 71 percent agreed that the joint sessions were more enjoyable. Most of those who were interviewed noted they enjoyed the chanting back and forth that took place. Cameron Settle from Pershing City said it was fun to see the boys unify in order to compete during the chants that took place between the boys and the girls. He also commented it was fun to meet some new people when presented with the opportunity. Raef Kurbin from Carver City noted it presented the boys and girls with the same opportunity to see the same speech. He also liked how it was easier to set up

in order to allow both sessions to see the same speaker. Deveron Davis from Clark City enjoyed the huge dance that occurred Tuesday night, where the boys and the girls got to interact by singing and dancing together. Ayden Jones from Crowder City mentioned he was a little biased on the topic due to the fact his girlfriend was among the crowd of MGS citizens, so he enjoyed the joint sessions more. The common response for those who enjoyed the joint sessions was due to the energy presented. Very few disliked the joint sessions, but there were still some who felt there were reasons for liking the separate sessions more. Among these reasons is the fact there is less room during joint sessions. Personal space is important to many, and it appears this had an affect on a few of the boys at MBS and influenced how they responded. An anonymous source noted "girls are scary" and he did not want to appear disloyal to his girlfriend. Therefore, he was among the few who preferred sessions without the girls. Another common reason for not liking the joint session was some of the boys felt that when the girls were present, inappropriate behavior was more likely to occur. The anonymous source was worried some girls may be undermined due to the joking nature of his fellow MBS citizens.

## MBS & MGS Leader

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## MBS athletics heading into homestretch



## Citizens should try yoga, an oft-overlooked pastime

BY JAYENN WARFIELD  
KOHN CITY

There are a great deal of athletic activities here at Missouri Boys State and American Legion Auxiliary Missouri Girls State to help bring about a healthy improvement in overall function.

Often, people look at yoga and disregard the benefits by which it can provide your body with becoming more active within many environments, especially within the range of sports which many young men and women love. Yoga is really beneficial for both mental and physical health and could very well be implemented further into many people's lives as they move forward as individuals.

Conner Hill of Whitfield City is one MBS citizen who's participated in yoga this week. Hill said yoga has helped him grow during his time here.

"It helped me gain confidence in the sense that yoga is looked upon as a girlish activity and you see men doing yoga and activity participating," Hill said.

And Hill added that he believes yoga could help not just him but others in the MBS community.

"I think this because it's an activity (in a) calming environment and with everyone running around all day, I have found that I have begun to look forward to yoga every day."

Other citizens besides Hill have said they'd be willing to give yoga a try sometime in the future. Many who participate in other sports could benefit from the activity, as it helps release tension in almost every area of the body and creates an easier balance when actively moving.



### TUESDAY'S RESULTS

#### Soccer

- Ingle City def. Pershing City
- Lewis City def. Weyer City

#### Softball

- Gambrel City def. Crowder City
- Kohn City def. Duggan City

#### Basketball

- Whitfield City def. Carnahan City
- Richardson City def. Blair City

#### Pickleball

- Carver City 20, Doniphan City 0
- Boone City 10, Clark City 10

### WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

#### Soccer

- Gambrel City def. Richardson City
- Kohn City def. Whitfield City

#### Softball

- Clark City def. Ingle City
- Lewis City def. Doniphan City

#### Basketball

- Boone City def. Pershing City
- Carver City def. Weyer City

#### Pickleball

- Blair City 15, Crowder City 5
- Carnahan City 10, Duggan City 10

### CUMULATIVE SCORES FOR THE WEEK

25 points

- Blair City, Carver City

15 points

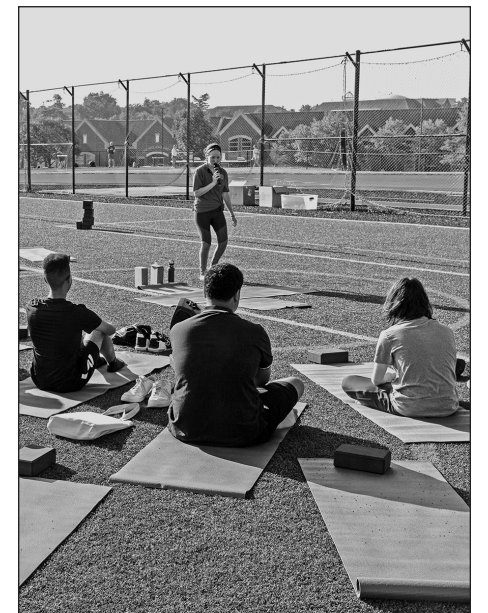
- Boone City, Carnahan City, Clark City, Kohn City, Weyer City

10 points

- Crowder City, Duggan City, Gambrel City, Ingle City, Lewis City, Pershing City, Richardson City, Whitfield City

5 points

- Doniphan City



## Canadian wildfire smoke overtakes Lindenwood

BY CONNER HILL  
WHITFIELD CITY

As Missouri Boys State citizens filed out of Scheidegger Theatre after a speech from Bob Costas Tuesday night, they noticed that a fog had rolled in.

Many assumed that fireworks have been going off nearby and were just not loud enough to hear inside the building. But then, the air started to smell bad, and

people started covering their noses and hurrying to try to get out of the fog.

The fog was actually smoke from the wildfires of Canada, which came knocking on Lindenwood University's doorstep without an invitation. The consequences of the smoke were already pronounced Wednesday, ranging from constant coughing while participating in sports to temperature raises from yesterday's highs in the low 90s to temperatures in the 100s.

## First marriage between MBS, MGS citizens occurs

BY ERNIE BATSELL  
GAMBREL CITY

In what could be a first, a Missouri Boys State citizen and an American Legion Auxiliary Missouri Girls State citizen have reportedly gotten engaged.

The couple — hailing from Gambrel City, MBS and Anthony City, MGS — are remaining anonymous for the time being, since they aren't sure of the legalities of

their union. Marriages have already been taking place this week between fellow MBS and MGS citizens, but not crossing between the two programs.

The pair agreed that the experience has been fun, unique and a benefit for their cities. The boy said being the first pair to do this, he wants to set an example that shows MBS and MGS citizens that they can still have fun while working together professionally to help promote democracy.

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# ALA Missouri Girls State: Taylor's Version

BY KATELIN TIPTON  
CARVER CITY

Many times this week at American Legion Auxiliary Missouri Girls State, Taylor Swift has been mentioned in speeches, conversations and songs played at assemblies.

The delegates have a wide range of opinions about Taylor Swift and her influence on those at MGS.

Supporters — or “Swifties” — agree very strongly that she is a great role model and leader, as well as a talented musician. Ava Richardson of Carver City admires Swift for her relatability. Richardson recently broke up with her boyfriend and has been able to look up to Taylor as someone who made it out stronger in

similar situations.

Ava also recently saw one of the shows on Swift's tour and pointed out Swift's dedication by explaining how instead of canceling her concert due to weather, she waited out the storm and played until 2 a.m. in the rain.

Another fan of Swift appreciates qualities like bravery and leadership. Riley Friga from Pershing City thinks of Swift as a role model because of her support of women as leaders and her strong advocacy and beliefs.

“I think she's very inspirational because she has had music taken away from her, fought back and, you know, just got her music back and just fought for everything she has,” Friga said. “She isn't scared to be brave and she's just always so outgoing and courageous.”

Friga said she really likes Swift's song “The Man” because it has such strong representation for women in its message.

Not just citizens respect Swift. Mrs. Whitney, a counselor for Davidson County, thinks Swift is very good at speaking and advocating for what she believes in. Although she doesn't look up to Swift herself, Mrs. Whitney said she does think Swift is a great role model for the younger generation.

But despite what some say in support of Swift, others at MGS find her less admirable. Katelynn Ferguson and Grace Madue, both from Boone City, agree that Swift isn't very inspirational because they say most of her songs are about guys and breakups, which cause the songs to be very depressing and “overdone.” They do not see her as a leader but a pop star and aren't aware of

her advocating for anything. The citizens do however think some of her older hits, like “Love Story,” are still good.

Some people think it's the fans that ruin it for Swift. Amaris Vickers from Clark City explains how she doesn't support Swift because of the way the fans act.

“You can have an idol and you can be dedicated to somebody, but when you like judge other people or you're like seriously hateful or rude to others I don't think that's okay,” Vickers said.

Vickers wishes Swift would address this more than she previously has and call out her fans for their behavior since she has such a strong voice.

Swift isn't for everyone but whether you love her or hate her, Swift has become a topic of conversation at MGS and very important in its culture.

## Mindsets shifting at MBS

BY CALEB WRIGHT  
RICHARDSON CITY

AND PHILLIP KACKLEY  
WEYER CITY

As the week winds down, there is a change occurring at Missouri Boys State.

Not only have there been many elections, news and speakers, but also a change in mindset.

“Whenever I got here, I didn't have any idea what I wanted to do,” Camden Hilbrenner of Pershing City said. “I was not super ambitious about running for any statewide office. ... As soon as I learned

about Model City and all of that, I was exited to get active with that.”

At the beginning of MBS, citizens were guided through the first couple days before gaining independence and graduating to working their own jobs. With the shift, there was a change of attitude.

“I was a little deterred, I was kind of overwhelmed at first because there's so much going on,” Clayton Bonsack of Weyer City said.

But that's meant multiple positions have opened up for Bonsack and things have started to come together. He said he's beginning to have some “real fun.”

## Group of four MBS cities join forces seeking university grant

BY JOHN COOKE

CROWDER CITY

Four Missouri Boys State cities have joined forces in an effort to secure a massive university grant.

Clark, Richardson, Carver and Lewis cities were originally in the running against one another for a \$5,000 BSB grant for one city trying to start a university. But instead of four separate schools, the four

solo ventures have joined under Carver City's after deciding it would be easier to work together and split the money.

According to Carver City's university representative, as of Tuesday night Clark and Richardson cities were on board and Carver and Lewis' decisions were pending.

The University's new class, military education, will be an extracurricular like Richardson City's card game class. A representative also said that the \$5,000 BSB is set to be split evenly across each city.

## City ordinances take shape; are they fun, useful or upsetting?

ABIGAIL WODKE

ADREON CITY

Cities all throughout American Legion Auxiliary Missouri Girls State have begun to create and rectify city ordinances.

Some of them range from inherently helpful — like litter pick-up as punishment for not wearing pink on Wednesday — to potentially humiliating, such as being forced to moo when entering a building.

One MGS delegate, who prefers to remain anonymous, said that the experience was “kind of mean and I just like wasn't in the mood...no pun intended.”

Some cities, like Adreon City of Johnson County, craft some ordinances so they have consequences that put the offender in the position of those affected. For example, if someone does not set their trash outside of their dorm five minutes after wakeup call and then promptly put it back in the room once replaced, they must

serve as sanitation director for the day.

Drake City takes their ordinances in a different direction. Most have fun, or potentially humiliating, punishments for their offenders depending on the mindset of the offender. When someone interrupts a Drake City meeting and walks through, for example, they will be forced to, once out of the way, flap their arms and roar like a dragon for 10 seconds. Additionally, in order to boost morale, it was ordered that every person must share a photo of their pet in their city group chat; the only punishment is to quack like a duck.

Other cities, such as Cronin City, have created a balance between the fun and the useful. They have passed both serious, and fun, unique ordinances. Their ordinances include walking into city hall like a crab and a no noise policy from lights out to 6 a.m.

There have been some complaints about the potential for “unfair” and “overly harsh” punishments, such as a fine for all citizens of a city for a single offender.

## MBS is running on fumes

BY JAXSEN GAMM

WEYER CITY

Citizens at Missouri Boys State are running on fumes.

A recent poll found 90 percent of respondents are getting less than seven hours of sleep per night. While the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and several other health organizations advise that teens age 13-18 get eight to 10

hours of sleep per night, that is a far cry from what has been observed this week.

This poses serious questions for some regarding the health and performance of citizens of MBS. Austin Felton, a candidate running for attorney general, adds that the sleep deficit only grows for those citizens who are involved in important roles. Without enough adequate sleep, our citizens are not able to maximize their full potential.

## Citizens purchase frozen treats

BY KAMERON DANKENBRING

ANTHONY CITY

Wednesday night consisted of a talent show for American Legion Auxiliary Missouri Girls State citizens to show off their skills. But the talent show wasn't the only fun part of the night — the Andy's franchise also sold frozen custard to MGS citizens.

“We wanted to provide a light and fun snack for all of the Girls State citizens,” Karisa, from the Andy's team, said.

The Andy's franchise team put in a ton of time and effort into providing

such a treat to MGS. They did not, however, just sell custard the day of their stand opening in Spellmann Hall. The team also made a pre-sale system to improve their merchandise flow at a more efficient pace.

Under that system, the cities who purchased custard through the pre-sale got a 50 percent discount. Also, the city that had the highest percentage of girls purchasing their custard through the pre-sale will earn Model City points.

The Andy's team did not just stop there, either — they even created a higher income for themselves by selling raffle tickets, T-shirts and hats.

## Time to ‘lawyer up’ at MBS

BY XAVIER RICE

RICHARDSON CITY

As the week continues, it seems that more and more Missouri Boys State citizens are trying to sue one other — now more than ever might be the best time to lawyer up.

Citizens who may feel threatened by someone's negligent behavior or feel an injustice has occurred can file a complaint

with their local police or law firm. For some citizens, they believe suing makes the MBS economy go around, and that by seeking legal justice for themselves or their cities they are contributing to the economy.

Heading into the back half of the week, MBS citizens should also be on the lookout for the MBS Highway Patrol, whose officers are looking to issue tickets to all jaywalkers.

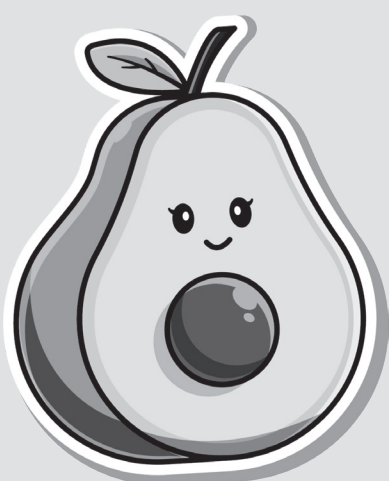
## Get to Know MGS Staff 2023

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**2019** — Antoinette Bates, Grace Vandall, Angela Lopez, Marissa Gertz  
**2018** — Gwyneth Worobec, Makenzie Tyson  
**2014** — Sydney Jedding  
**2010** — Maddie Obomo, Mallory Obomo, Cate Priar

**2009** — Lynnea Wooten  
**2008** — Macae Mickens, Erika Smith, Calli Larson  
**2007** — Ginna Rivera  
**2005** — Kate Lawson, Marissa Nowling  
**2001** — Kelsey Whitt, Whitney Nolan  
**1995** — Sarah Dubbert  
**1994** — Shanna Jelinek  
**1993** — Natalie Riley  
**1981** — Becky Mueller  
**1974** — Patty Pink  
**1963** — Jackie Dunn, Linda Schaap

# WALK WITH GWAK!

## Claire Gwak for Governor



# Fight for Diversity

“DON'T SAY NO, VOTE FOR SNOW”

VOTE KALEA SNOW  
FOR STATE TREASURER



*In the news at MBS*

# MBS citizens want flag theft, schedule changes addressed

*Hopeful next governor will implement desires*

**BY BENJAMIN TUCKER**  
RICHARDSON CITY

A day after Missouri Boys State's party caucuses, there were still some lesser-known issues MBS citizens would like to see addressed.

"I think like, flag stealing, I know it was a big thing at the beginning of the week," said Nationalist Dominic Gramolino of

Weyer City. "I think it would be good to see the governor unite all the cities together so that we're not stealing flags."

Schedule changes seem to be a popular topic across both parties as well. Three citizens — two Nationalists and one Federalist — mentioned not having enough time to sleep or socialize.

"They didn't ever tell us to bring soap for the bathrooms, so I can't wash my hands," said Federalist Levi Douglas of Ingle City. "That kind of sucks."

MBS citizens hope some of these issues will be addressed by the winning gubernatorial candidates following the upcoming statewide election.

# Lewis City drops lawsuit, but now faces legal action itself

**BY URIAH KOESTER**  
LEWIS CITY

On Wednesday, Lewis City dropped a lawsuit filed the previous day.

Missouri Boys State Dean of Commerce Charles Flint claimed he "misplaced" stock of one of the Retail Business Opportunity stores awarded to Lewis City this week. Lewis City's business director decided he will drop the lawsuit outside of court after Flint returns the misplaced goods.

But Lewis City is now facing legal action from citizens of Gambrel City

after signing a contract with "obscure" wording, according to Lewis City's business director. That contract was for the second RBO store Lewis City wanted to purchase. The wording was confusing in the sense that cities were either agreeing to buy the store itself or buying the rights to purchase the store from the state.

If Lewis City loses this lawsuit, it may cause heavy debt to both the city and the state. The city's director of business opportunities said the city is preparing its best legal defense team and doesn't intend to lose the case.

# Commerce leaders urge against promises nixing property tax

**BY URIAH KOESTER**  
LEWIS CITY

The Missouri Boys State Chamber of Commerce and its leaders have asked ballot runners to stop making promises about citizens' property taxes.

On Wednesday, Aiden Struempf, Vice President of Legislative Affairs in the Chamber of Commerce, said those candidates who advocate to remove the property tax paid at the beginning

of the week are being advised to revoke that promise.

Another representative of the commerce school said the government is currently running on the lowest taxes it can and, as a result, is only barely staying out of debt.

Government officials claim there are already really low taxes at the state level, so the General Assembly will not be able to pass a law to remove the property tax.

# Beautification process begins, budgets to be balanced soon

**BY KEITH RORABAUGH**  
CROWDER CITY

On Tuesday, cities all across Missouri Boys State began their beautification process.

A great deal of money was spent to achieve all the various decorations and themes in every city, and it's taken up plenty of space on each city's budget.

Frank County Treasurer Elias Tucker, of Crowder City, said his city's budget is used mainly to pay officials and for beautification.

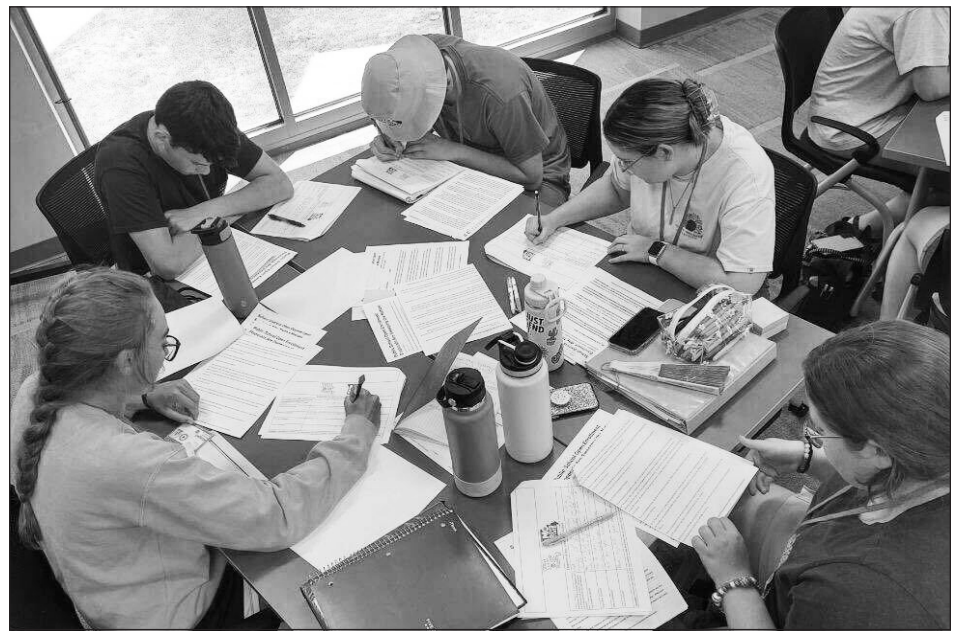
Isaac Dierker, Boone City's Treasurer, said his own city's budget has a similar split.


"(Beautification) is very important," Dierker said. "We are spending between one-third to one-half of the budget just on our parks department."

Kohn City Treasurer Gabe Stark said 60 percent of leftover funds after salaries in Kohn City were set aside for beautification.

With all this money flowing, MBS citizens can expect some spectacular decorations from cities across Lindenwood University's campus. For example, Crowder City is planning to turn its hall into a lovely beachside, complete with palm trees, and Richardson City has created a river with a desert on one side and a forest on the other.

# MBS schools of instruction



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# Winning candidates highlighted in Missouri Boys State's statewide primary



The following candidates were called up to the stage Wednesday afternoon after winning in the Missouri Boys State statewide primary election: (from left) Jayden Hicks of Richardson City (State Treasurer, Nationalist); Donovan Frost of Clark City (Attorney General, Nationalist); William Shoki of Weyer City (State Auditor, Nationalist); Riley Rupp of Ingle City (Secretary of State, Nationalist); Derek Bolinger\* of Gambrel City (Lieutenant Governor, Nationalist); Tarek Al Hussein\* of Pershing City (Lieutenant Governor, Nationalist); Jakweli Gist of Richardson City (Governor, Nationalist); John Holt of Weyer City (Governor, Federalist); Ajay Eisenberg of Boone City (Lieutenant Governor, Federalist); Martin Olmedo of Lewis City (Secretary of State, Federalist); Will Feng of Clark City (State Auditor, Federalist); Aiden O'Donnell of Kohn City (Attorney General, Federalist); and Landon Ely of Carnahan City (State Treasurer, Federalist).

\*--Derek Bolinger and Tarek Al Hussein finished in a tie during Wednesday morning's primary election for Lieutenant Governor. Al Hussein defeated Bolinger in Wednesday night's run-off election and will be on this morning's general election ballot.



Missouri Lt. Gov. Mike Kehoe speaks to Missouri Boys State citizens Wednesday afternoon at Hyland Arena prior to the announcement of the MBS statewide primary election results.

## Rally: Governor Debate: Topics

CONTINUED FROM P. 1

Al Hussein, the winner of a historic MBS runoff election that broke a tie for the party nomination, then spoke. Al Hussein tied together his love for the culinary arts and the resilience he needed to exhibit after losing an election early in the week.

To cap the night, gubernatorial hopefuls were given another chance to sell their campaign to MBS citizens. Federalist John Holt stepped to the podium first, telling a story of his father and the lasting wisdom he imparted. Nationalist Jakweli Gist then stood up, giving background to the leather bicyclist vest he was wearing and detailing the life of his own father, who had fallen in combat.

CONTINUED FROM P. 1

ALA MGS citizens, ranging from free speech to the infrastructure and systems of America. When asked what impact they would like to have, both on ALA MGS and the world, each candidate had a unique answer.

Gwak responded first, stating that her biggest takeaway from ALA MGS was the inner change and confidence she has developed.

Lewis described how ALA MGS has given her the power to use her voice, particularly as a woman in politics, and the program has inspired her to make change in her own community.

Voting for the ALA MGS statewide election will be held in Spellmann Center from 7-9 a.m. today.

## Gist, Holt face off in gubernatorial debate

BY CONNOR WICKER  
KOHNS CITY

Missouri Boys State watched Wednesday afternoon in Hyland Arena as Nationalist Jakweli Gist and Federalist John Holt made their cases for the top leadership position at MBS in the gubernatorial debate.

Both brought their "A" game and answered the questions presented by MBS media managers and the public with well-rounded answers.

Gist said he will use his experience in leadership and his drive to keep the legacy of his grandmother — civil rights activist Linda Brown — alive to help him implement a transparent look into where taxes are going and unite the National and Federalist parties into one. He said he does not want to take away from businesses that are flourishing because he claims they have earned that money and built their business from the ground up, while the opposing party are anti-monopoly.

In his opening statement, Gist said he wants to implement a 30-minute buffer time, which would allow extra time for MBS citizens to visit businesses and other cities. This will also allow the growth of businesses and give time for citizens and government employees to do their jobs, he said. Gist added that he would like to be

remembered for being "the coach" that led the leaders of MBS to success. If he is not elected, he said he will do all that he can in his position to boost morale and spirit.

Holt, meanwhile, said he will use the inspiration of his father to help lead not just the Federalists and Nationalists but the citizens of MBS as a whole to success. He said he would like to increase inter-city commerce and add time to schedules to encourage growth within the cities. For Holt, health care is not his main priority; he said that it is not a large issue here at MBS.

As a Federalist, Holt said he would make sure MBS Highway Patrol and law enforcement would take care of monopolies since they are pro-small business.

In order to lower taxes, Holt said that he would need to do one of three actions: eliminate unneeded government positions, implement a bill for donations or cut salary for government positions. If he does not get elected, he said he will continue to serve as an MBS senator and work to pass legislation and introduce reforms.

The polls for the general election are open this morning from 6:30-8 a.m., and the results of who will lead MBS through the remainder of the 83rd session will be announced at 1:15 p.m. in Scheidegger Theatre.

## Outgoing MBS governor not worried about economy rumors

BY KC CULBERTSON  
CLARK CITY

Businesses are in bloom and cash is flowing at the 83rd session of Missouri Boys State, but should citizens still be worried?

This week, rumors have spread around the latest session of MBS that last year's economy crashed, and some are wondering if those rumors are true. Cooper Barron, who was elected governor during the 82nd session, acknowledged the rumors Wednesday and said he has heard them coming from a few cities this year. But Barron said they're overblown.

"Whatever scale you put it on would be outstanding," he said.

Barron said he was happy with not only the economy but also all the businesses that operated during the 82nd session. He added he is "extremely" hopeful about the prospects of this year's economy.

### MBS & MGS LEADER

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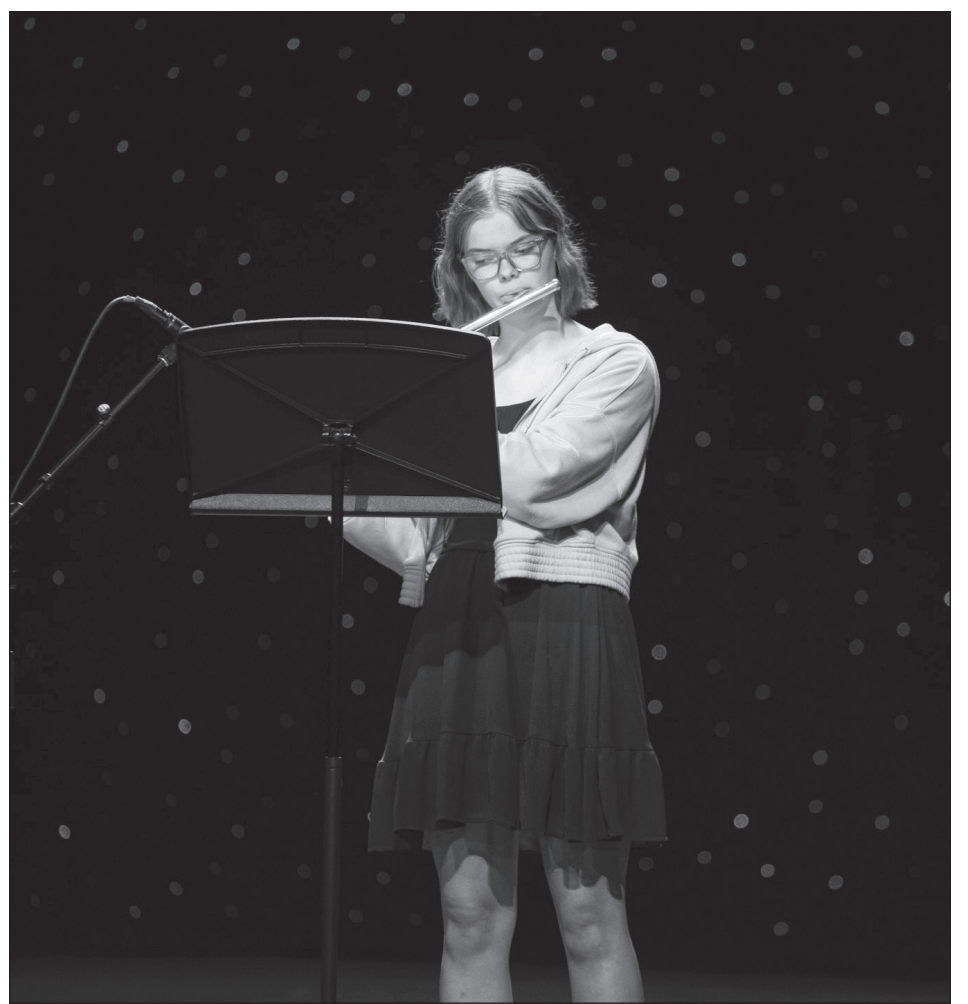
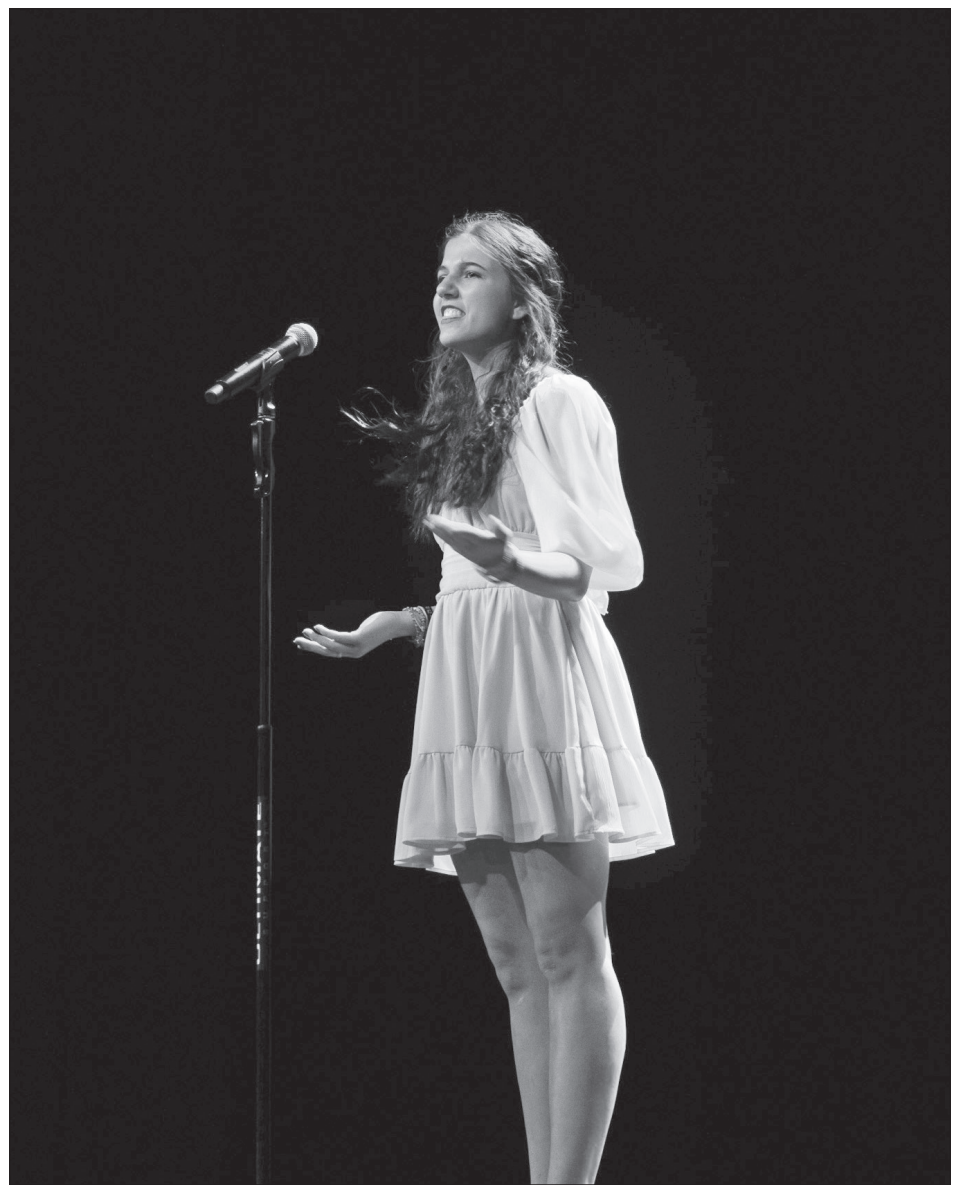
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Hi!  
I'm the girl in pink!

Just a reminder to...

**\*CHOOSE\*  
KINDNESS\***

It goes a long way!

Love you, Sunshines!

Hennessy Brown





# A half century of service



William R. "Rusty" Jones (center) was honored for 50 years of service to Missouri Boys State prior to the start of Wednesday night's Joint Party Rally at Hyland Arena. Jones, an MBS citizen in 1964, has served on staff as an assistant city counselor and a city counselor, as well as being the program's very first dean of education. Later in his time on staff, Jones served as a leadership mentor, as well as a member on the MBS Board of Directors and as a trustee and the chairman of the MBS Memorial Trust. Jones was a colonel in the U.S. Marine Corps, where he served his country for 29 years and flew 135 combat sorties in Vietnam and Desert Storm, before retiring as a Marine aviator. Pictured with Jones are current MBS Director Brad Lear (left) and former MBS Director and Dean of Counselors Mike Plunkett (right).



## MBS PARTY PLATFORMS

### Federalist Party

- Pro-Business**
  - We are big supporters of small business and anti-big business. We want to see everybody succeed.
- Pro-Education**
  - We want to expand the educating process to include more time for you to learn and more options on which school you go to.
- Pro-Fun**
  - As many of the counselors before you have said, it's your Boys State. We want to see you succeed and have fun in your own way, and this means more free time. Vote Federalist for more free time.

### Nationalist Party

- The enjoyment of all peoples of Boys State.
- Citizens' rights centered.
- City legislation over state-controlled power.
- Encouragement of small business.
- Building a legacy of OUR Boys State.

# Federalist Party convention vs. Nationalist Party convention

BY EMILY BOYD  
LEWIS CITY

On Tuesday, the Federalists of American Legion Auxiliary Missouri Girls State met in Hyland Arena to hold their state party convention.

So many candidates ran, describing their unique qualifications and referencing powerful women, from Barbie to Elle Woods, to remind MGS citizens what they are capable of. In the Federalist convention, reports

over rules, resolutions and party ideals were announced, and citizens thought the ladies running for election delivered powerful speeches.

"I thought all the candidates were amazing!" one delegate from Lewis City said.

The results have come in since then. The Federalist candidates are Elise Lewis for governor, Madison Chenault for lieutenant governor, Eleanor White for secretary of state, McKelvey McDaniel for auditor, Grace Edney for treasurer and Verily Whyte for attorney general.

BY KENNEDY HEIL  
CARVER

The American Legion Auxiliary Missouri Girls State Nationalist Party Convention has officially come and gone.

However, it seems that competition is on the rise between many MGS citizens. Speeches mentioning Taylor Swift, a play on last names, and most importantly, leadership standards were all in action during

Tuesday's convention.

MGS citizen Brooklyn Eiserer said she was impressed with the candidates.

"I loved the representation of diversity and equality among the candidates' speeches," Eiserer said.

Eiserer is not the only one heard mentioning a thing or two about inclusivity and representation after Tuesday's event. Eiserer currently serves on the MGS Senate and is looking forward to casting her vote as soon as possible.

