

Not knowing when to fold

MBS citizens already addicted to gambling

BY ELIZABETH NEWELL
DRAKE CITY

What's the priority of Missouri Boys State citizens this year? Apparently, it's going all in.

On the first day of ALA Missouri Girls State, citizens leapt in thinking of city design, elected offices, policy-making and more. But at MBS, citizens entered the week with something different in mind: Gambling.

From day one, citizens at MBS have been expressing their views as "pro-gambling" in municipal meetings and proposing tax incentives for people who gamble, according to Tony Dearth of Weyer City.

"We have a lot of gambling, but I mean, every other city I talk to is like, 'Oh yeah, we're going to be the gambling city,'" Dearth said.

He also said gambling was one of the first issues raised by his Nationalist Party, but it's not controversial because the Federalists are just as "pro-gambling."

And although most MBS citizens consider gambling nothing but fun, some have admitted they're approaching the level of "addiction" or "obsession."

"The gambling addiction is pretty strong," Corey Jones of Blair City said. "I would like to see a casino open. I would like to open one."

The gambling includes games like poker — "A classic for a reason," Dearth said — and blackjack, the personal favorite of interviewee Zion White of Ingle City. The amount is often, as Dearth estimated, "\$10 or \$15 BSB, throw it in the pot."

According to Dearth, the question of what constitutes "illegal" gambling has been raised in debates, though he's uncertain whether the General Assembly at MBS will create a formal definition and law.

But so far, not much has to take place "under the table."

"They haven't really said much of anything," Dearth said of MBS counselors.

But although counselors allow it, there could be serious financial consequences for this unregulated gambling industry.

"I'm gambling to stay afloat," admitted Hunter McMillen of Blair City. "That's how I pay my bills."

And Dearth sees something even more grim.

"In my opinion, if something actually opened, I bet tons of guys are going to go all in and lose everything," Dearth said. "I have no money left, I gambled it away... I think that's going to be a very frequent thing said."



Michael Steele walks through the crowd of Missouri Boys State and ALA Missouri Girls State citizens during Monday night's joint assembly at Hyland Arena. Steele, a former lieutenant governor of Maryland and a former chairman of the Republican National Committee, accepted the 35th annual George W. Lehr Memorial Speakers Chair.

Inspiring young leaders

Steele takes stage as Lehr Chair recipient

BY REESE COOK
COVINGTON CITY

On Monday night in Hyland Arena, citizens of ALA Missouri Girls State and Missouri Boys State heard from a former national political party leader who came to inspire young leaders to listen, engage and fight for what they want.

Immediately after Michael Steele — former chairman of the Republican National Committee, now a political analyst at MSNBC — entered the room, the citizens of ALA MGS and MBS were captivated as he walked down to the floor to join them. Steele greeted the room with warm and welcoming language, joking around right from the start, causing him to quickly gain respect from citizens and staff alike.

Steele was on hand to accept the 35th George W. Lehr Memorial Speakers Chair, created to honor Lehr, the late Missouri state auditor who participated in MBS in his youth and continued to support the program during his public life.

Steele had a common theme through-

out his speech, which was to "meet people where they are," getting down on their level and talking to them, not at them. He used this throughout his conversation to support what he says is his biggest piece of advice: "Shut up and listen."

Citizens became most engaged when Steele began to walk around and talk to individuals within different cities. As citizens proudly announced their home city, the community around them cheered and sat on the edge of their seats to soak in what was about to be said. It was evident from the energy in the room that Steele had everyone in the palm of his hand, simply living to hear what he had to say next and providing wisdom that his audience needed to hear.

Steele stood out from previous speakers at this year's session by relating to everyone in the room, making sure every voice, story, background and individual felt like they mattered. As he walked across the aisles and around the bleachers, he made sure citizens knew that, even without a government title, there was no such thing as "just" a citizen.

"Leadership requires two things — a leader must always be prepared to lead, but a leader must also be able to follow," Steele said.

He emphasized leadership roles mean-

nothing without the people behind them, quoting the famous line from the constitution: "We the People."

"The most important person in this country is not an elected official ... it's the grocer down on the corner, it's the pastor who's helping kids at church, it's the unsung heroes who write the story of our community," Steele said.

He used this to acknowledge how people outside of elected positions matter so much more than citizens are made to think, saying that citizens are the ones to give those people their power.

When asked about blazing a trail as a Black man in power, Steele emphasized the importance of "being in the room." He shared a story of a time where he was thought of as less, like he shouldn't have been in the position he was in. He made sure that the audience understood that it's important to be sure of oneself when entering the room.

"If you're in the room, it's because you're supposed to be in the room ... it's likely that it's your room," Steele said.

He also referenced a song from the popular musical Hamilton, "The Room Where It Happens," saying that it's important to get into the room, and even more important to do the job and understand why you're there.

Finding familiarity

Popular culture unites citizens at Lindenwood

BY CHLOE PLYLER
CROWDER CITY

Throughout the week, there has been no shortage of pop culture references at ALA Missouri Girls State.

From Chappell Roan to Smiling Friends, it is no doubt pop culture is an integral part of the ALA MGS culture. These references are found in a variety of speeches, ads and in the music played and discussed by citizens.

Citizens have a diverse range of thoughts on the weight and usefulness of popular media at ALA MGS.

Kennedy Lucas of Crowder City enjoys the mental release that familiar material allows for the citizens. Lucas believes it provides comfort and creates opportunities for citizens to bond with one another. Lucas referenced how at ALA MGS, there is an expectation of maturity and that hearing popular musicians such as Taylor Swift remind citizens that they can still have fun and shed the pressures of young-adulthood.

Kennedy said her love of Swift has also opened the door to new friendships during her stay.

However, Swift is not the only pop artist who has made a presence here at ALA MGS. Up-and-com-



ALA Missouri Girls State Gov. Claire Gwak (right) poses for a selfie with Lewis City's Sun Schmelzer during Monday night's joint assembly at Hyland Arena.

ing artist Chappell Roan, who's also from Missouri, has also been referenced. In ALA MGS Gov. Claire Gwak's opening speech for the 2024 session, she referenced one of the artist's most popular songs — "Good Luck, Babe!" — as a golden piece of advice to incoming citizens.

This is not the only example of Roan's influence at ALA MGS. During the first joint assembly for ALA MGS and MBS, an ad using Roan's song "HOT TO GO!" played, and as it did many ALA MGS citizens performed the accompanying dance to the song popularized on TikTok.

Most citizens have picked up on the importance of popular media here at ALA MGS, as well as the many forms these references take.

"It lifts people's spirits and helps them get out of their comfort zone," Cali Lemons of Anthony City said.

Lemons said when people recognize something they enjoy, they become more outgoing. This allows citizens to find others with interests in their niche.

PLEASE SEE CULTURE, P. 2

Founding father

Candidate cases campus dressed as Washington

BY ELISE SEBACHER
CARVER CITY
ABIGAIL KIRN
CARVER CITY
AND WHITNEY GMERK
BOONE CITY

Sara Brand of Broeg City is running for lieutenant governor at ALA Missouri Girls State this week, and her campaign strategy is simple: Dress like George Washington.

Brand has been making her way around the Lindenwood University campus dressed as the general since the session began Saturday and her fellow citizens have been loving it. She said she got the idea after hearing citizens were supposed to dress patriotically.

"I was like, 'Well, why not scale it up to the full degree and be the most patriotic man I know?'" Brand said.

Brand said her especially patri-

otic dress was intended to catch the eye of passersby, which has been an effective and fun campaign strategy. Brand seems to have become attached to the character.

"It's kind of like an alter ego almost, at this point," Brand said.

This costume does serve more than one purpose, Brand said. Much like many other citizens, she expressed a nervousness about connecting with others. She said the costume serves as "a shield to get to know people." The ability to say "I'm not Sara, I'm George Washington" helped her make friendly connections with those around her and was a conversation starter.

If Brand's campaign strategy proves to be a success, she may break out the powdered wig yet again.

"Maybe if we celebrate afterwards, the wig may make an appearance," Brand said. "My old friend George may come to my swearing-in, who knows?"

It is safe to say Brand is on track for a fun campaign trail, almost certainly with a militia of supporters behind her.



SARA BRAND

Portraits of the ALA MGS staff

Meet Calli Larson

BY ISABEL SAPP
LEWIS CITY

Calli Larson has worked at ALA Missouri Girls State for 10 years in four separate positions, and is an alumna from 2009.

At ALA MGS, Larson worked as both a journalist and in the House of Representatives.

"I didn't have a management position on the paper," Larson said, softly laughing, "because I ran for the House and I won."

Larson returned to the program as a city counselor. In her second year, Larson moved to the broadcast team, first as an assistant and then as a manager. Now, she works as an instructor for the Journalism and Media school of instruction, and has for the past two years. She believes that this position merges her two biggest interests: journalism and education.

"I knew I didn't necessarily want to go into a journalistic role at a paper," she said, "so I went into ELA."

Larson worked in the ELA department at the Cole Camp School District, a small district of no more than 700 students total. Working as a teacher there, Larson strived to meet students and assist them in all the ways she could.

"I have a passion for educational awareness and for making sure that not only are we meeting standards, but we are meeting students, not just checking a box," Larson said.

It's for this reason that Larson has her eyes set on eventually working for the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Educations (DESE). For now, she has switched schools to specifically work on this passion for personalized education and bolstering her career. Her new school is Smith Cotton Junior High in Sedalia, where she works as an eighth grade teacher. It is one of DESE's pilot schools for an interactive curriculum and an attempt at reforming — or ridding schools of — standardized tests. These tests, including NWEAs and the MAP test, are not always an accurate representation of the tester's ability and favor some talents over others, such as memorization over creativity. This new style, while Larson said she can't talk about it much, enhances all student's potential.

Still, moving to a new school district means more work, and although Larson believes that her decision to move is her "biggest achievement," it's nothing new for the ALA MGS instructor. Larson's main

source of work is renovating her home.

"The hardest is the kitchen," Larson said. "I will finish the kitchen in the summer, though, and my next project will be my bathroom and some yard work."

She described her design style as "industrial farmhouse," claiming to enjoy both galvanized piping and wood grain equally.

Despite the clash in styles, all members of her family love it. That includes Larson's rescue dog, Pixie, who's vet records claim she is a Staffordshire Bull Terrier but who Larson believes has some Catahoula blood in her.

Outside of renovating, teaching and volunteering at ALA MGS, Larson also runs a small T-shirt design and photography business. Although the business itself is only five years old, Larson has been a photographer since high school.

"I was the sports photographer for yearbook, and because my dad owned a nice camera, I was able to take senior photos for my classmates," Larson said. "That's what started it all."

Her love of design bleeds into ALA MGS, where she helps proofread and organize the newspaper, along with reviewing and designing advertisements.

"I prefer the designing portion of editing more so than proofreading," Larson admitted. "But I love to read articles and see what everyone comes up with."

The unique perspectives that Larson glimpses as an editor is one of the reasons that she returns faithfully to ALA MGS.

"You have your own thing that interests you and excites you," Larson said. "Seeing what you do outside of Girls State and how you take it everywhere is amazing."

She also lauds the connection ALA MGS creates. From bonding with girls from across Missouri, past and future, to one another during the week to the relationship it builds compared to similar programs — such as the Texas Bluebonnets and the Kansas Sunflowers — Larson believes it is crucial.

"It's the connection that you make automatically with someone else, even if you haven't met them," Larson said.

Larson plans to continue her work here at ALA MGS. If you see her, ask her to recite the alphabet backwards — apparently, this ability is her only unique attribute — and thank her for the decade of her life that she has dedicated to working here.

Calli Larson, like all staff members, exemplifies the values of ALA MGS: kindness, progressiveness and strength.

Culture: ALA MGS band has been playing Taylor Swift music

CONTINUED FROM P. 1

Citizens aren't the only ones recognizing the impact of pop culture. Junior Counselor Laney McCaleb has noticed a pattern from her citizen year as well as her time on staff. McCaleb said that in previous years, other pop culture icons, such as Barbie, have been the center of ALA MGS.

"The connection between the girls themselves is not the only relationship that comes from a bond to popular media," McCaleb said. "The staff and the citizens get much more comfortable with each other."

The ALA MGS band is another entity that detects the waves created by pop music. They've been playing Taylor Swift's music in

their early morning practices. Band member Kallista Nguyen of Crowder City agreed that popular media has its own place in the heart of ALA MGS staff and citizens.

However, Nguyen said that overall positive does become convoluted at a certain point.

"Largely it is positive, but there is a limit," Nguyen said. "Using these references as a crutch is normal and to be expected. When it becomes the whole message, it just confuses people as to what the speaker is actually trying to say."

While not everyone agrees on the extent to which pop culture is recognized, it is no secret that it has a huge part in the transforming culture at ALA MGS.

Benton, Compton at odds

BY ALICIA HARRISON
BENTON CITY

A city rivalry between Benton City and Compton City of Blanton Hall started very early in the week at ALA Missouri Girls State.

News broke through the resident hallways that Compton City would be implementing a \$250 GSB fee for any Benton City citizen seen on the Compton City floor. Some Benton citizens live on Compton's floor and would be charged the fee if they were caught walking through the Compton halls. Many Benton residents are outraged, as they did not choose to live on Compton's floor.

"I do not think it's fair because we do have residents (in their hall) and we didn't choose for our residents to live there," Benton City Mayor Avery Riley said. "We can't help that we're assigned to that hallway."

Compton City Mayor Keonnia Morgan has strong feelings about the newly implemented fee and is in full support of it.

"The fee is very fair," Morgan said. "I

mean, they use our facilities, walkways, elevator, etc. ...Hey Benton, when you guys finally give up, we'll let you do the walk of shame through our hall!"

Morgan said Benton citizens have disrupted their city meetings on some occasions while traveling to their dorms.

"All they had to do in the first place was take their own set of stairs and not disrupt our meetings," Morgan said.

Both mayors are actively communicating to come to a mutual agreement on the fee.

"I talked to (her) at my Local Government class today and she said she hasn't passed an ordinance yet and she wouldn't until I talk to my city members about a resolution we think could work," Riley said Monday.

One possible solution to this conflict is charging \$100 GSB per Benton dorm on Compton's floor instead of the original fee of \$250 GSB per Benton citizen spotted in Compton's halls. Riley has also considered building a wall in the Benton-Compton hallway to avoid conflict and supposed disruptive activity.

MBS citizens come together as one

BY MILES DECK
DUGGAN CITY
AND JACOB PETROWSKY
DUGGAN CITY

Missouri Boys State brings together a diverse group of young men to represent schools from every corner of the state.

From the moment they arrive at Lindenwood University, citizens are challenged to step out of their comfort zone and become true leaders in their communities.

Boden Lankford of Duggan City is one of the citizens at this year's session of MBS. A student at Lee's Summit High School, Lankford was approached by his school counselor and asked to apply for MBS during the summer.

When asked about attending, Lankford described his hesitation in wanting to submit an application for MBS. After some serious consideration, he decided to attend. Taking advantage of all the opportunities the program has to offer, Boden has decid-

ed to run for state auditor. He said he chose this position because he wanted to "improve (his) communication skills" and encourages all citizens to vote for him.

Victor Mercado of Duggan City learned about MBS when his school counselor invited him to her office and explained the purpose of the program. When asked about his ambitions for MBS, Victor stated he wants "to have the best and biggest business in the county, (and) hopefully state." He also has his eyes set on winning the Best Business Award.

Not all citizens have an idea of what they want to do when they arrive at MBS. Jonathan Rohrer of Duggan City discovered MBS through friends at Missouri Scholars Academy. Like many others, Rohrer was excited to participate, but wasn't sure how to get involved. After getting acclimated to his new environment, he was "very eager to get elected to a position." Still unsure what this role will be, Rohrer promised to put forth his best effort wherever he lands.

From dorm room to courtroom

BY SOPHIA JAMES
CRONIN CITY

Since arriving at ALA Missouri Girls State, multiple sources have provided information about their roommates' scandalous behavior.

Girls are suing each other left and right. Why, you may ask? Maybe it's because here at ALA MGS, as they've said, a girl can be anyone they want to be. In this environment, a girl has to step out of her comfort zone. Suing one another for showering too late or speaking too loud might not be acceptable in the real world, but here at ALA MGS we make the laws. If you're here to make memories, then definitely give it a try.

Molly Johnson, of Cronin City, had quite the complaint when asked why she wanted to sue her roommate, who happens to be Cronin City's mayor: she jaywalked.

Do citizens at ALA MGS even plan to

sue? Emily Lee of Truman County does. She has expressed her discontent with her dorm.

"It's causing emotional distress and I fear I may never recover," Lee said.

Speaking of emotional distress, a citizen from Barton County is also suing her roommate after her roommate told her she had an "egg-shaped head." Pretty brutal, right?

Before you jump on the lawsuit train, you all might like to know the steps you have to go through in order to sue. You'll have to find your nearest attorney and tell them of your predicament. Your attorney will then analyze the handbook and decide if they would like to represent you in court.

Keep in mind, though, attorneys can charge however large or small a fee they would like.

This week, I encourage everyone at ALA MGS to sue someone. Take the risk, have some fun and spend your money!




MBS & MGS

LEADER

Boys Editor in Chief
Isaiah Kutrip, Boone City

Boys Managing Editor
Tony Dearnitt, Weyer City

Boys Business Manager
Zion White, Ingle City

Girls Editor in Chief
Sophia James, Cronin City

Girls Managing Editors
Camille Cranshaw, Anthony City
Reese Cook, Covington City

Girls Business Managers
Abby Beyeler, Clark City
Katy Schaffer, Adreon City

City Word Search

J S D S C Y Z E V K N B A A U
 X D C O V I N G T O N J J R C
 X E D A S W S V W T V N C Z R
 B O C D U S D K N Z L O O C O
 E U N R H T C R O N I N M A W
 N G O E Q E B X Y V K C P R D
 T I E O D P N R W O J L T V E
 O B W N R H P S A M A A O E R
 N C R A A E B E F D N R N R I
 O W T O K N U R T L K B K A
 P Y L M E S Z I G S P E L I E
 C B K Q X G I W V J H H Y U E
 A N T H O N Y C Z D G I X T W
 J A Z V H O G N I L E H N K I
 W B T B I B O O N E R T T G S

Covington	Pershing	Stephens
Bradley	Compton	Anthony
Crowder	Cronin	Broeg
Adreon	Boone	Drake
Benton	Carver	Clark

Jokes!!

Q: What is the clumsiest thing in outer space?

A: A falling star!

Q: What do beavers eat for breakfast?

A: Oakmeal!

Q: What can you serve but never eat?

A: A tennis ball!

Q: Why do bulls always pay with their credit card?

A: Because they like to charge!

Controlling the custard company

Andy's franchise owned by Carnahan City

BY ELI FERGUSON
CARNAHAN CITY

Carnahan City will be the sole owners of an Andy's Frozen Custard franchise for Missouri Boys State citizens to enjoy.

James Wells, of Carnahan City, is the CEO of the MBS Andy's franchise and formed a Limited Liability Corporation to own it; Carnahan City is also an investor.

Wells and his compatriots all own 25 percent of the company, but Wells said the city as a whole has bought the franchise and the owners will represent them.

"We could completely monopolize it and charge as much as we want, right?" Wells said. "But as (much) as that would be good 'business,' we just want to focus on the cities. We're focused on citizens."

Wells said they formed a "cult" in their city based around Andy's

to raise funds for the franchise, and they plan to take as little profit as possible to pay for taxes, putting the majority of the money back into their community.

Marketing will begin for the Andy's purchasing opportunity Wednesday from 8:15-9:45 p.m., using Boys State Bucks, and there will also be merchandise purchasing opportunities.

"We're going to make sure that no matter who you are, if you want ice cream, you can get ice cream," Wells said.

Charles Flint, dean of the MBS Commerce School, commended this plan.

"It's a creative way for a city to think about how to increase their revenue base instead of increasing taxes," Flint said.

This is the second year that Andy's has invested in MBS and ALA Missouri Girls State. Flint said the company's investment in the programs has taught citizens about the importance of commerce in tandem with government.

"Being a corporate citizen is just as important as it is being a citizen," Flint said.



No trash problems at MBS meals

But food theft has become an issue

BY AYDEN MARSHALL
RICHARDSON CITY

When speaking with Jason McGraw, the campus executive chef at Lindenwood University, about the potential problem of

trash being left in dining rooms, there's actually a more pressing issue on his mind: stealing.

McGraw spoke with the Leader Monday, initially for a story about Missouri Boys State citizens leaving trash behind after meals. But according to McGraw, citizens aren't doing that but are taking more than one prepackaged snack when grabbing food at meal times.

The MBS program only buys enough food for every citizen to have a single serving, McGraw said, so if people steal a snack the poor guys behind them get left out.

But at the same time, McGraw also talked about how much recycling the citizens of MBS are doing.

For example, they've taken advantage of several refill stations to refill their plastic water bottles. Kitchen staff is trying to reduce the amount of trash in landfills, McGraw said, and the effort looks to be going well.

Despite having some problems, McGraw said the Lindenwood team has respect and admiration for how clean MBS citizens are leaving the dining room.

Taking notes in Schools of Instruction



School's not out for summer

BY HARPER COOK
GAMBREL CITY

Starting on Sunday, Missouri Boys State and ALA Missouri Girls State citizens chose and attended the first session of their school of instruction.

Schools of instruction are taught on specific areas that are relevant to the functioning of a modern democracy. There are nine different schools: Campaigning and Political Operations, Commerce, Education, International Affairs, Journalism and Media, Law, Law Enforcement and Public Safety, Legislative and Executive Policy, and Local Government and Policy.

At the beginning of the week, some citizens knew exactly what

school they wanted to attend.

"When entering the week I knew that I wanted to attend the Law Enforcement and Public Safety (school of instruction) because I knew that I was going to run for the Fire Chief position," Ethan Hanks of Whitfield City said.

Others were influenced by someone or something that encouraged them to go to the school they are attending.

"At first I wasn't sure, but then after listening to the dean of the Campaign and Political Operations School and thinking about the experience I already had I ultimately chose to attend that school," Isaiah Estep of Crowder City said.

Some citizens even started out the week not knowing what



school they were going to attend or what job they were going to do.

"I came into Boys State week not knowing anything," Wyatt Fry of Carver City said. "I didn't know what I was going to do as a job or what school I was going to attend. When I arrived and saw Journalism and Media as a school of instruction, I became interested because I had grown up watching the football overviews and things like that."

While some of these citizens had the freedom to choose any school, others were required to attend a specific school based on the job they were elected to perform. For example, anyone elected to the House of Representatives or the Senate has to attend the Legislative and Executive Policy School.

After choosing these schools, each citizen will attend a session of their school each day and will end the week taking a final exam.



MBS & MGS
LEADER

WITH ROTATIONS!



MBS ATHLETICS

Monday's Results

- Pershing City — 13
- Whitfield City — 6
- Blair City — 5
- Boone City — 5
- Carnahan City — 5
- Carver City — 5
- Clark City — 5
- Doniphan City — 5
- Gambrel City — 5
- Lewis City — 5
- Richardson City — 5
- Weyer City — 2
- Crowder City — 0
- Duggan City — 0
- Ingle City — 0
- Kohn City — 0



MGS citizens ponder tying the knot

BY REESE COOK
COVINGTON CITY

Within the first few days at ALA Missouri Girls State, citizens discovered the ability to get married. They were eager to learn more about what that would entail, rushing to propose to their new friends, roommates and fellow citizens.

But why was this so popular among the girls?

"Being able to get married helps to get us involved in a different way than elected positions and brings more community spirit," Breleigh Moore of Covington City said. "It's also just really fun."

Since there is such a limited number of positions in the government — and those roles may not be everyone's cup of tea — citizens are finding this is a way to still get involved and raise spirit.

However, the reaction for citizens at Missouri Boys State was significantly different.

Many of the boys didn't know if it was even something they could participate in, not hearing about it until a girl from their class mentioned it. When asked if they would want to, Jacob Petrowsky of Duggan City said that he "doesn't think any of (them) would care about it."

Whether or not that's the case, Petrowsky acknowledged the importance of it to the girls, mentioning how it seems like a fun way to build relationships with other citizens.

Seeing as the girls want this experience to be as close to the real world as possible, multiple citizens have been proposing during different public events, causing the community to be able to laugh and have fun together. During Monday's first lunch

shift, a proposal in the corner caused the cafeteria to break into applause, and smiles and laughs spread across the room. Simone Seals of Covington City got engaged at a Sunday night city meeting, saying "we're just gonna live, laugh, love together. Everyone here should get married. Why not?"


This discovery has also brought about many questions among citizens. Can citizens get divorced? If so, is there a prenup they can sign, or can they take their money? Does this pave the way to adopting other citizens? If these options aren't available now, will bills be passed to change this for future sessions?

As The Dixie Cups once said, they're "going to the chapel and (they're) gonna get married," so make sure to congratulate your newlywed citizen members, get down on one knee, and head on down to the courthouse.

MBS & MGS LEADER WEATHER UPDATE

It's gonna be hot

Every season is a winning season for you with me!

Vote  AUTUMN

BLANKENSHIP — for Governor —

Platform discussion evolves into Federalist marriage

BY JAIDEN MARCHETTI
PERSHING CITY

Right before the end of the Federalist Party meeting in Scott County, Gideon Duren of Pershing City and Evan Sapp of Carver City were proudly married.

After a long voting session with neighboring Pershing and Carver cities, everyone was tired and moved on to the last part of the meeting — the process of voting on what laws and policies would be put under the Federalist platform.

Beneath the discussion, voting, agreements and disagreements was a topic that threw everyone off: Whether abortion should be legal or not. The first question to follow in every Scott County citizen's mind was "marriage?"

Before they could decide on whether abortion should be legal or not, everyone turned their attention to the new question

that had spread around the room, the one about marriage. They jumped up, excited to get married. The county chairman, who typically kept the room cool and quiet for swift votes, even got distracted and began questioning the thought as well. The thought was pushed to the end of the meeting, as everyone had to finish their laws and policies. The end quickly came, and the lingering question persisted and would soon be answered.

Everyone wanted a marriage to happen and they wanted it to happen fast, with mere minutes remaining. Of the massive 131 citizens part of Scott County, Duren and Sapp threw their hands up and went to the front of the room. There were also two other people who wished to get married, but unfortunately time ran out before they were able to finish the pledge of a lifetime.

Duren and Sapp, on the other hand,

made it just in time — to have and to hold from Monday forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in brotherhood and politics, till Saturday do them part.

A name change was never asked for and never granted, but one thing is for sure — wedding gifts are required for lieutenant governor candidate Duren.

Out of everything to take of this story, there is one main thing that should be remembered: the love that happens at MBS is comparable to none other, as the bond and brotherhood is true and the love is compassionate.

MBS & MGS LEADER
Never wrong. Never.

ZSCHOICHE
It's easier to pronounce than you think - almost as easy as electing **LUCIA ZSCHOICHE** to be your 2024 Attorney General

EXTRA, EXTRA! ☆

NIKHIL GUDURI RUNS FOR GOVERNOR

☆ Platform ☆		☆ Experience ☆
• Legalization of gambling and sports betting	☆	• FBLA state VP of Membership
• Revised tax code, for transparency and financial stability for the middle class	☆	• NHS Chapter President
• Schedule change, later wake up time and lights out	☆	• Stock Market Club President
• Financial literacy education in school of commerce to boost the flow of BSB	☆	• Special Olympics Officer
	☆	• FBLA Chapter President
	☆	• Fundraising manager for TAS
	☆	• Youth Fundraising Manager for HSTL

Flooding flummoxes Flowers folks

BY MILES BRANNAM
CLARK CITY

Flooding was spotted in Flowers Hall late Sunday night, disrupting sleep for potentially dozens of Missouri Boys State citizens.

Residents of Ward 2 in Clark City began noticing the flooding around 10:28 p.m. It proceeded to spread to Lewis City and Carver City by dripping through the floor before eventually being stopped at 10:40 p.m. Flood water remained till late into the night, continuing to disrupt Flowers Hall.

Fifteen to 20 residents of Clark City were affected by flooding, with more in Lewis City and Carver City having their sleep disrupted. Citizens in Barton County are discussing law-

suits about the issue.

Carl Taraporevala, a resident of Clark City and Barton County Chairman for the Federalist Party, shared his thoughts on how this flooding affected his opinion of being a Clark City resident.

“The camaraderie between our brothers helped facilitate and further my bond with them over an unfortunate event that occurred,” Taraporevala said.

Taraporevala said the flooding personally affected his sleep, something that afflicted a number of Flowers Hall residents. That’s an especially impactful disruption, considering the importance of not feeling fatigued as county rallies and the first day of work for city governments took place the following morning.



East-west divide in Whitfield City

City counselor: Not a divide but an example of individuality

BY ANDREW HIGGERSON
WHITFIELD CITY

The two hallways of Whitfield City at Missouri Boys State were split almost immediately upon arrival on Saturday into a glamorous “East Side” and an understated “West Side.”

After arriving Saturday, the possibilities for MBS were endless. Very quickly, though, something strange happened. The western hallway of Whitfield City quickly established itself as the West Side, creating a black and white sign and placing it outside the hallway. A day later, the East Side responded with an elegant and sophisticated sign in golden marker.

When citizens loyal to either side were interviewed, they gave some very intriguing insight into the division.

West Side resident Brody English claimed when interviewed that, despite what appearances showed, the West Side was actually richer. He believed that the west started with more money, and the eastern sign was so fancy because the Parks and Rec manager lived on the east.

East Side resident Langston Tervort claimed that their sign went up because of the West Side putting up their sign. He claimed the West Side was the “poor side,” citing word of mouth. He also claimed that, despite two wards being on the East Side, there was no real difference.

“I think it’s a very positive thing,” Whitfield City Counselor Jack Kish said. “And I know that’s a little difference of an opinion here, but I think each of (them) individualizing themselves — even though they’re under the same name, they get to show who they are.”

When asked about a supposed wealth gap, Kish said that he personally did not know, but starting funds were all equal.

As for the signs, Kish said he believed the west represented hard-working citizens and the east represented artistic and creative citizens. He also commented on how both archetypes are key for making not only a better Whitfield City but a better MBS overall.

Defective dorms pose problems for MGS citizens

BY WHITNEY GMEREK
BOONE CITY
AND HANNAH CARLSON
ADREON CITY

It’s no secret the Missouri Boys State dorms are having technical issues, but what about the ALA Missouri Girls State dorms? Citizens at ALA MGS have much to say about it.

The majority of issues are located in the showers and the bathrooms, while others are in the rooms themselves.

“My hot and cold water settings were switched (in our show-

er),” an anonymous citizen of Clark City said.

This is not a standalone case, as many other citizens have claimed to have issues with their dorm bathrooms. Another anonymous citizen from Clark City reported their water pressure flows in one straight line instead of a normal shower stream. ALA MGS Rep. Bohan Pan, of Boone City, reported that when she showered, the drain seemed clogged, as the water drained quite slowly and the bathtub was not empty until nearly 10 minutes afterward.

“Our shower only has cold

water,” Katie Schaffer of Adreon City said.

There seem to be many shower issues going on — but that’s not all.

“The light above our toilet flickers and doesn’t turn on most of the time. ...We use our flashlights a lot,” Kamilah Martinez of Clark City said.

Some individuals have also been experiencing room temperature issues.

“My room was so cold, I had to put on my dress pants to keep warm,” an anonymous citizen of Boone City claimed during a recent meeting.

Citizens in Clark City have been experiencing the opposite problem, meanwhile.

“The AC from rooms 318-322 was broken,” Kierra Espinosa, a resident in one of these rooms, reported this afternoon.

Not only are these small annoyances, the issues have also caused obstacles in citizens’ daily lives. Citizens have been forced to share restrooms with other dorm groups, which already consist of four citizens. This slows the process of getting ready for ALA MGS citizens, preventing them from using their time to the fullest.

Suspects sought in Rauch Memorial Hall vandalism

BY ALYSSA CARVER
CLARK CITY

Late at night after lights out on Sunday, Clark City Hall was turned upside down.

The citizens and counselors woke up to find their chairs flipped, their white board erased and written on, and toilet paper laid out around City Hall. Citizens of Clark City are looking out for the individuals who could possibly be guilty of the acts that were committed.

Clark City investigated the scene hoping to find some

answers and found “DeWitt” written all over the white board. But though the citizens of Clark City found that suspicious, they also questioned whether a different city might have framed DeWitt County for these actions and are trying to avoid making direct accusations for the time being.

“What was fishy about DeWitt being written on the white board was the fact that people usually would not give themselves away like that after they did something that they knew was wrong,” Layla Pobst of Clark City said.

Clark City Mayor Chasey Mitchell was unpleasantly surprised to see the mess made in City Hall overnight. Mitchell said she is extremely eager to get to the bottom of it and sort out any issue there might be with another city. As the mayor of Clark City, Mitchell said she just wants what is best for her city and she wants to bring them together during times like this.

“We have our citizens looking out for any clues that might help us and we are a city made of steel that will stick together and get to the bottom of this,” Mitchell said.

Clark City worked very hard Sunday afternoon to decorate and beautify their city. The morning of the incident, the Parks and Rec directors picked up the mess and got City Hall looking good as new in no time. The Parks and Rec directors of Clark City felt disrespected by their fellow cities’ actions and want nothing but peace between the counties in Rauch Memorial Hall.

“Cities need to respect their neighboring cities and add to each other’s beauty, not take away from it,” Parks and Rec Director Elly Ramaeker said.

Doniphan City ready to level five-figure flag damage lawsuit

BY ASHTON OAKES
DUGGAN CITY
AND KELLEN MARTIN
DUGGAN CITY

After a competitive soccer match between Duggan City and Doniphan City on Sunday, word is beginning to spread of a possi-

ble \$50,000 BSB lawsuit.

After the 9-12 loss, Duggan City was accused of damaging Doniphan City’s flag. However, residents of Duggan City claimed they had nothing to do with damaging the flag.

These statements, however, were not enough to stop residents

of Doniphan City from going through with their lawsuit.

At first, Doniphan citizens approached the mayor of Duggan City saying they are going to sue for \$50,000 BSB. Later in the day, lawyers of Doniphan City approached officials of Duggan City with a proposition: they

could settle with a payment of \$3,000 BSB and an apology.

Representatives of Duggan City maintain that they have nothing to do with any damages to Doniphan City’s flag and are characterizing the accusations against them as false.

Possible statewide office party split still a toss-up

BY JADRIAN THURMON
GAMBREL CITY

Potential statewide elected officials are offering many compelling ideas regarding their campaigns in an attempt to rally their fellow citizens of the 84th session of Missouri Boys State.

As the week is truly beginning to fire up,

many have already stepped up and devised a plan to achieve an official state elected position. Federalists and Nationalists have both offered many compelling ideologies and have brought forth some very compelling candidates. Some of these many potential candidates have stepped forward to make their presence more known, offering policies that may be too good to pass up.

Following the results of the municipal

elections, 54 Federalists and 46 Nationalists took hold of positions, with 12 positions ending in a tie. Seeing these results, it goes without saying that the potential for the Nationalists or Federalists to take control of state-level positions in the near future couldn’t be more unclear. With countywide elections coming to a head, there’s still no guarantee that there’ll be any clarity as the near-even division is still so prominent.

While a variety of potential candidates from different cities have already swayed the votes of many, one can’t help but wonder what truly lies in their plans for MBS if elected, and what intentions do they have to successfully accomplish a favored campaign?

Only time will tell as the week — and the many campaigns now underway — begin to truly take shape and reveal their true identity.

ALA Missouri Girls State
Media Passes

Visit www.missourigirlsstate.org/online-store to purchase access to all photos and video from the 82nd session of ALA MGS!

Missouri Boys State and ALA Missouri Girls State in action ...



RECEIVE UP TO \$5,000 BSB!

Mayors of MBS apply for a city tourism development grant

Submissions due by noon on Wednesday



JEFFTHAN GLASTER FOR GOVERNOR

My name is Jeffthan Glaster, I am running for Governor. I am a former councilman of Crowder City.



My values are transparency and loyalty. I promise to make your Boys State "Great Everyday!"



#ShoutOutFrankCounty

