



MBS & MGS LEADER



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National political correspondent Mara Liasson speaks to citizens of ALA Missouri Girls State and Missouri Boys State during Tuesday night's joint assembly at Hyland Arena. Liasson expressed how the media's impact can be both positive and negative in politics.

Importance of media

Liasson discusses evolution of journalism, preservation of local news

BY ISAAH KUTRIP
BOONE CITY
AND ELIZABETH NEWELL
DRAKE CITY

Political correspondent Mara Liasson delivered the keynote speech at the final Missouri Boys State and ALA Missouri Girls State joint assembly Tuesday night at Hyland Arena.

Liasson spoke about political polarization, extreme partisanship in this year's political campaigns and current concerns about the state of democracy. She also gave all of the citizens a direct insight into the importance of media in political affairs, characterizing it as the fourth branch of government.

"Local news is the first line of defense for the fourth estate of democracy," Liasson said.

A former leading figure at National Public Radio, Liasson expressed how the media's impact can be both positive and negative in politics.

"(Voters) have to be informed," she said in an interview after her keynote

speech. "They have to read a lot. ... They have to seek information for information, not affirmation."

Liasson also explained how media affects people differently today than it did before. She told citizens people have become "hard to reach due to fractured media," referring to the widespread use of social media among Americans. However, there is great hope for the next generation of journalists.

"The bar for entry has never been lower," Liasson said. "You can start a podcast if you just have a chair and a microphone."

She also emphasized the importance of reporters being informed on politics. In an exclusive interview, Liasson said, "You don't have to go to journalism school. Learn something like history, politics, science, business. ... The journalism school is just craft, you can pick that up. I'm not saying that it's bad to go to journalism school, I'm just saying that it's so much better to get some body of knowledge."

Liasson also said local news sources are crucial to democracy but come under

the threat of financial issues. She called local news a great method for helping young people find political information, and recognized groups that have been working on preserving local news for this reason.

"There have been a lot of different models tried," Liasson said. "One of them is to try to take a local public radio station and combine it with the newspaper, because a lot of times the local public radio station is licensed to a university, a non-profit, so they have a funding stream. That's one way to keep local news alive."

She also mentioned the National Trust for Public News, which, in her words, "buys up small papers that are about to fold and helps them keep going."

In her interview, Liasson also encouraged young journalists to look into Report for America, an organization that will pay journalists an incentive salary to write for small papers.

Liasson's speech helped all citizens to understand, among other political concepts, the importance of the media in democracy, saying, "I feel like I've had a front row to history."

Booming businesses

Main Street attracts number of customers

BY HANNAH CARLSON
ADREON CITY

Enterprising ALA Missouri Girls State citizens are opening businesses along Main Street on the second floor of Spellmann Center. Main Street has become a hot spot for Girls State's aspiring entrepreneurs, who offer countless services.

Newspaper Business Manager Abby Beyeler of Clark City is the manager of MGS Braidss, a hair-braiding business that opened its doors just a few days ago. She and her employee, Brooke Anderson of Clark City, are excited to see their brand already growing in popularity. The two attribute their success to the diversity of the services they provide.

"I feel like the more we do, the more customers we bring in," Anderson said.

Though they provide a list of sample styles, MGS Braidss also allows citizens to customize their experience to suit their specific tastes.

"We can do just about anything!" Beyeler said.

Lilly Kate Benfield of Adreon City has also opened a business of her own. Lilly Petal Threads is a crochet shop that boasts a wide selection of merchandise, ranging from coin purses and bags to keychains and decorative flowers. She's currently adapting her brand to cater specifically to ALA MGS citizens, creating a line of crocheted poppy flowers in honor of the American Legion.

"I just want to spread something that I'm passionate about doing," Benfield said.

Main Street attracts more than just creative entrepreneurs. Apurva Ganti of Adreon City is the owner of Ganti and Silva Law Firm, which aims to help any ALA MGS citizens in need of legal protection. She is about to file her first lawsuit, and is excited to provide her client with premier legal representation.

"I'm doing this so I can represent people who need legal help and help them find justice," Ganti said.

MGS entrepreneurs build state spirit

BY KENDALL RAMSEY
CARVER CITY

ALA Missouri Girls State citizens are already off to a hot start with their businesses. In nearly every city, young women can be found working hard to become entrepreneurs. Whether it's hand making accessories, painting nails or braiding hair, ALA MGS has it all.

Lilly Kate Benfield of Adreon City and Isabella Hernandez of Benton City have joined together to start a crochet business. They crocheted bags, keychains, and flowers to sell to citizens. Benfield even spent her entire four hour bus ride to campus finishing the flowers.

"The beauty of crochet is you can make anything you can dream of out of something as simple as yarn," she said.

Broeg City's Josie Portell has been making custom fabric headbands. She personalizes them, adding city names to help boost pride. And, there are numerous different red, white and blue fabric options for customers to choose from.

"I've always been interested in entrepreneurship and thought headbands would be a good way to promote city unity and spirit," Portell said.

Riah Wigfall of Carver City started a nail salon to help fund her run for governor. She offers gel nail polish and designs.

"I want to get to know people by doing their nails!" Wigfall said.

Three citizens have teamed up to tackle the task of braiding MGS citizen's hair. Brooke Ande of Clark City, Madison Everts of Stephens City and Abby Beyeler of Clark City, are offering many types of braids and even accessories like ribbon or beads.

"We strive to become a successful business to prove that you don't have to be running for anything to be an important and valuable citizen," they said.

These citizens have found the best ways to connect all of the cities. City pride is important, but the friendships created after these interactions are unbeatable.

Federalist Party introduces its candidates

BY ELI FERGUSON
CARNAHAN CITY

The Federalist State Party Caucus for Missouri Boys State moved forward in its election season Tuesday at Scheidegger Theatre, as candidates had the chance to speak in front of their party before today's statewide primary election.

John Honnold, state party chairman for the Federalist Party, led the event and hyped the crowd up for the election, chanting "Fed Rules, Nats Lose."

"We're on top, we're going to make it happen," Honnold said.

Currently, the Federalist Party owns 41 spots on the primary ballot, compared to the 36 for the Nationalists, Honnold explained. The Federalist Party has also raised \$50,000 BSB in funds.

After these promotions, the Federalists got the chance to hear their potential leaders speak.

Currently those on the ballot for primaries are as follows:

- Attorney General: Jaxon James Kelly
- PLEASE SEE **FEDERALISTS**, P.6



Garrett Flack of Kohn City speaks on the stage as a candidate campaigning for Missouri Boys State lieutenant governor during Tuesday's Nationalist Party Caucus at Hyland Arena.

Nationalists announce party platform

BY MILES BRANNAM
CLARK CITY

At the Nationalist Caucus, Party Chairman Sahil Sijad announced the Nationalist Party Platform, which is founded on five pillars: rule of law, tax transparency, cleanliness, recycling and veterans affairs.

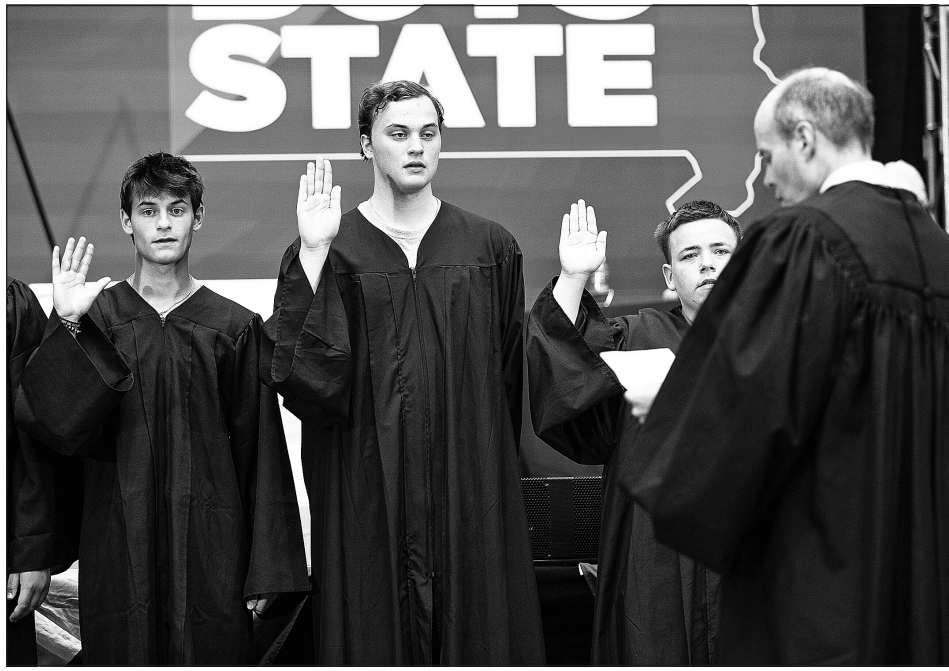
Following up the pillar of recycling,

Party Vice Chairman Mason Long announced a Nationalist plan to sue Dean of Operations Jerod Bleit for using recycling bins in dorm halls, despite legislation requiring Missouri Boys State Citizens to recycle.

Mason also presented the Nationalist plan for veterans affairs, saying the party

PLEASE SEE **NATIONALISTS**, P.6

MBS in action



Immigration could lead to economic gold mine

Businesses would be able to reach twice as many citizens

BY TONY DeARMITT
WEYER CITY

Allowing easy immigration between Missouri Boys State and ALA Missouri Girls State would allow the economy of both programs to thrive immensely, with double the consumers and double the businesses.

Currently, Boys and Girls State has a fixed amount of money, unable to provide realistic tourism or immigration in its economy. But with immigration legalized, every business would be able to reach an additional 800 citizens and all citizens will be able to utilize many additional businesses. This immense growth has never been seen before in MBS or ALA MGS history.

Currently, neither the Nationalists nor the Federalists have adopted this philosophy into their platform in Boys State or Girls State, even though it is inarguably the path to unheard of economic success. Only the citizens can push your local representatives into

attempting to embrace this motion.

Firstly, reaching out to the citizens of Boys State resulted in mixed reception. Boys saw the potential for a cultural and economic boom, because of the girls are believed to be more creative. Some boys were worried though, believing girls would distract boys from the experience. Some worried that the girls would pool their money to destroy the Boys State economy. Dean Hester of Boone City was personally worried, as he owned the only sign making business in Boy's State currently, and combining would undoubtedly contribute to many additional sign making competition.

In reaching out to Girls State, they also saw the political and cultural possibilities, along with their own fears. Girls were worried about the gambling epidemic present in Boys State spreading to the girls. Others thought since everyone is here to make the most of this experience, more people would mean nothing but more possibilities.

Both boys and girls agreed on a number of issues. Many agreed "the man" would not allow this to happen, considering the numerous logistical issues involved. Everyone also agrees the lack of a universal economy is crippling the ability to make the most of both Boys State and Girls State.

ALA MGS, MBS citizens stepping out of comfort zones

BY ABBY BROWN
BROEG CITY
AND COLE VOGEL
WHITFIELD CITY

ALA Missouri Girls State and Missouri Boys State are the perfect opportunity for citizens to figure out who they are and who they may become.

Citizens have also noticed how humbling it is to be surrounded with an incredible society of leaders. Therefore, finding a place for themselves they wouldn't expect, and meeting failure with resilience.

ALA MGS and MBS citizens were asked, "How have you stepped out of your comfort zone so far at Girls State and Boys State?"

"Normally I'm a shy person, but as far as everyone here knows I'm as 'outgoing' as they come, and that mindset has really gotten me pretty far." Broeg City citizen Izzy Dodd said.

ALA MGS and MBS citizens stepping out of their comfort zones has allowed them to pursue opportunities that they otherwise wouldn't have sought out in the "real world."

Citlali Arzabala from Broeg City wouldn't typically find herself running

for governor but ...

"I'm usually always with somebody, I don't usually do the talking, but being here has pushed me to get my name out there, and make sure people know what I stand for," she said.

ALA MGS and MBS have stepped out of their comfort zones in similar ways, such as finding interest in new subjects and practicing open-mindedness. ALA MGS and MBA give citizens the opportunity to shape-shift into lawyers, broadcasters, representatives and more.

"The pace we go at is uncomfortable, but it is definitely helping me grow," MBS citizen Eli Ferguson from Carnahan City said.

ALA MGS and MBS has given us all a chance to meet new beautiful facets of ourselves.

Whether that be the compact to be more open-minded, make new friends, or even being able to wake up earlier or staying up later than usual. When citizens are multifaceted, they open up the door to new opportunities.

"I was worried I wasn't good enough, but I kind of just had to 'get over myself' people are just going to like you for being yourself, so why not just try to go bigger?" ALA MGS governor candidate Riah Wigwall said.

By Kendall Kingery
Gambrel City

City Word Search pt.2 (boys)

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

Richardson	Whitfield	Carnahan	Ingle
Doniphan	Pershing	Duggan	Blair
Gambrel	Carver	Boone	Kohn
Clark	Crowder	Lewis	
Weyer			

Jokes!!

A small person admitted themselves a to rehab with a gambling addiction. It's okay. They're a little better

A guy wanted to take a bath, but then he decided to leave it where it was.

A man goes to a beekeeper to get 12 bees. They gave him 13. He said, "you gave me one too many." He said, "it's a freebie

What do you call a factory that sells generally decent goods? A satisfactory!

MBS & MGS

MISSOURI

LEADER

Boys Editor in Chief
Isaiah Kutrip, Boone City

Girls Editor in Chief
Sophia James, Cronin City

Boys Managing Editor
Tony DeArmitt, Weyer City

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

Boys Business Manager
Zion White, Ingle City

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



MBS elects county government

Bacon County

Presiding Commissioner Ronald Johnson
County Commissioner Nolen Winkler
County Commissioner Aleksandr Careaga
County Treasurer Grant Mueller
County Clerk Eli Curtin
Sheriff Elijah Fry
Circuit Court Judge John Glaude
Associate Circuit Court Judge James King
Circuit Court Clerk Noah Adrineda
Prosecuting Attorney Jaxon Kelly

Benton County

Presiding Commissioner Dayn Henderson
County Commissioner Joshua Spraul
County Commissioner Samuel Gohn
County Treasurer Ben Loesing
County Clerk Theodore Casey
Sheriff John Smith
Circuit Court Judge Asher Leonard
Associate Circuit Court Judge Noah Boslaugh
Circuit Court Clerk Cohen Jasper
Prosecuting Attorney Thomas Pratz

Frank County

Presiding Commissioner Carter Queen
County Commissioner Gavin Fritts
County Commissioner Tucker Burton
County Treasurer Brody Wave
County Clerk Adam Kruse
Sheriff Andrew Hennessy
Circuit Court Judge Tristan Nokes
Associate Circuit Court Judge Jonathan Buss
Circuit Court Clerk Logan Crane
Prosecuting Attorney Josiah McCord

Newberry County

Presiding Commissioner Tug Thornton
County Commissioner Junhao Chen
County Commissioner Aaron Sebacher
County Treasurer Elijah Schmieder
County Clerk Aidan Connell
Sheriff Owen Derosier
Circuit Court Judge Garen Simpkins
Associate Circuit Court Judge Aaron McBride
Circuit Court Clerk Micah Bacher
Prosecuting Attorney Gavin Collyott

Barton County

Presiding Commissioner Reece Cole
County Commissioner Carl Taraporevala
County Commissioner Trystan Chadwick
County Treasurer John Hyde
County Clerk Braden Hedrick
Sheriff Cedric Lakes II
Circuit Court Judge Kael Black
Associate Circuit Court Judge William Snow
Circuit Court Clerk Demare' Howard
Prosecuting Attorney Chase Jackson

Bradley County

Presiding Commissioner Avnith Kumar
County Commissioner Braden Thompson
County Commissioner Bradley Darling
County Treasurer Ethan Smith
County Clerk Landon Behrens
Sheriff Brock Harmon
Circuit Court Judge Max Angle
Associate Circuit Court Judge Kellen Geiger
Circuit Court Clerk Matthew Andrews
Prosecuting Attorney Luke Buehler

Gamble County

Presiding Commissioner Conner Wright
County Commissioner Carter Stephenson
County Commissioner Mohammed Amer
County Treasurer Parker Fritz
County Clerk Dillon Coonce
Sheriff Connor Briggs
Circuit Court Judge Brody Adkison
Associate Circuit Court Judge William Sapp
Circuit Court Clerk Alexis Soto
Prosecuting Attorney Owen Sward

Scott County

Presiding Commissioner Aidan Maristany-Diaz
County Commissioner Gavin Drikow
County Commissioner Slade Nagel
County Treasurer Carter Meirick
County Clerk Gavin Hensley
Sheriff Damian Vestal
Circuit Court Judge Nathaniel Clark
Associate Circuit Court Judge Alexander Merrell
Circuit Court Clerk Cooper Auten
Prosecuting Attorney Brandon Williams

ALA MGS county election results

Bacon County

Presiding Commissioner Bridgit McCoy
Assoc. County Commissioner Allison Meyer
Assoc. County Commissioner Cassidy Moore
Sheriff Sienna Lorenz
County Clerk Emily Austin
Presiding Circuit Judge Keleen Woods
Assessor Sarah Ding
County Treasurer Brenna Ludy
Prosecuting Attorney Kaitlyn Lavery
School Board Katherine Arnold, Kaylee Michalik, Makenna Keller & Kyrie BOWENS

Davidson County

Presiding Commissioner Hailey Wilson
Assoc. County Commissioner Allison Miller
Assoc. County Commissioner Angelia Witt
Sheriff Devyn Spratt
County Clerk Anwita Kudaravalli
Presiding Circuit Judge Jocelyn Swan
Assessor Emilia Sinclair
County Treasurer Lila Griesemer
Prosecuting Attorney Lucia Zschoche
School Board Layla Pobst, Laura Martinez, Morgan Kallmeyer, Rachel Franke & Callee Groves

Johnson County

Presiding Commissioner Mahaila Brunner
Assoc. County Commissioner Mykinley Bice
Assoc. County Commissioner Elizabeth Newell
Sheriff Ella Drake
County Clerk Miranda Mcartor
Presiding Circuit Judge Lillian Cho
Assessor Savannah Denison
County Treasurer Kerynna Jarman
Prosecuting Attorney Manasi Tripathi
School Board Audrey Legg, Ruby King, Grace Smith, Liliana Balaney, Jasmine Farrow, Kayla Humes & Taylor Shaw

Scott County

Presiding Commissioner Haley Burke
Assoc. County Commissioner Amy Gates
Assoc. County Commissioner Yoo Jung Lee
Sheriff Lily Conrad
County Clerk Anna Fleetwood
Presiding Circuit Judge Katherin Matthews
Assessor Galia Galicia
County Treasurer Margot Revelle
Prosecuting Attorney Shakira Abiola
School Board Jordynn Phipps, Reese Bedford, Aspen Daniel, Reagan Hull, Jillian Reller & Lilli Leeker

Barton County

Presiding Commissioner Julia Henderson
Assoc. County Commissioner Jayla Jordan
Assoc. County Commissioner Laney Ballenger
Sheriff Annamarie Smith
County Clerk Lauryn Pycke
Presiding Circuit Judge Isabel Tott
Assessor Chloe Hendrix
County Treasurer Whitley Sunderland
Prosecuting Attorney Hailey Dennis
School Board Kailee Austin, Rylee Heitgerd, Karina Griffin, Misha Mcneil, Samantha Ng'ang'a & Kyra Meyer

Dewitt County

Presiding Commissioner Kara Karst
Assoc. County Commissioner Katelyn Conover
Assoc. County Commissioner Maggie Owens
Sheriff Whitney Nissen
County Clerk Elise Sebacher
Presiding Circuit Judge Kerra Lindbloom
Assessor Riah Wigfall
County Treasurer Lily Leaman
Prosecuting Attorney Mackenzie Morgan
School Board Mya Bell, Hailey Henderson, Abigail Painter, Audrey Buttry, Alexis Francka, Abigail Robinson & Addisyn Marshall

Price County

Presiding Commissioner Cam Burkhardt
Assoc. County Commissioner Dashayla Bean
Assoc. County Commissioner Maribelle Martin
Sheriff Eleanor Beckett
County Clerk Khalia Andrews
Presiding Circuit Judge Mily Daily
Assessor Kailyn Kirkendoll
County Treasurer Claire Thoroughman
Prosecuting Attorney Cecilia Meppiel
School Board Adrianna Hoepfer, Ashleigh Arnold, Makaiden Bolles, Kaidence Graff & Reagan Heath

Truman County

Presiding Commissioner Malinda Anderson
Assoc. County Commissioner Haley Weinhart
Assoc. County Commissioner Ava Lund
Sheriff Trystyn Ziegler
County Clerk Taegan Novel
Presiding Circuit Judge Kallista Nguyen
Assessor Gemma Fish
County Treasurer Molly Dunnavant
Prosecuting Attorney Lydia Ruby
School Board Isabel Ball, Adalynn Draveling, Haley Stephens, Abbye Johnson, Hayden Robertson & Rileigh Kuntz



Let the games begin

Lewis City completes comeback with buzzer-beater

BY OWEN MARTIN
LEWIS CITY

On Monday, Lewis City and Kohn City went head-to-head in basketball to kick off the sporting events at Missouri Boys State.

Heading into the end of the first half, Kohn City was up 12-10. Kohn maintained this lead for the majority of the final peri-

od until, with less than a minute remaining, Lewis City hit a big-time 3-pointer to bring it to a tie. But Kohn City quickly answered with two points of its own.

Dribbling up the court with 4 seconds left, Lewis City's Kevin Holman stepped back from the logo and banked in a game-winning 3 as time expired, leaving the final score Lewis 31, Kohn 30.

☆☆☆☆☆☆

Cross country challenges citizens with competition

BY KOLBY BOHON
WHITFIELD CITY

On early Tuesday morning, cities from Missouri Boys State ran and competed in cross country. It was a total of three laps (1.1 miles each).

The course was tough and had many different challenges along the way. The par-

ticipants were diverse, some were citizens who had no prior running experience while others are currently apart of their respective high school teams.

One of the participants, Cole Vogel from Whitfield City, said, "The race was hard but I knew I needed to finish the course for my city and my county to help them win today and later on in the week."

☆☆☆☆☆☆

Richardson, Carnahan cities win on basketball court

BY COLTON THOMPSON
LEWIS CITY

During Monday's basketball games, Richardson City took on Blair City, and Whitfield City faced Carnahan City.

Carnahan City took the lead early and never looked back. At halftime the score was Carnahan City 21, Whitfield City 10. Coming out of the half, Whitfield City had a lot of work to do and was left with little spirit.

Through the second half, Carnahan City continued to dominate Whitfield City and ended up taking the victory with the final score of 40-22 Carnahan City.

Meanwhile, Blair City was taking on Richardson City. The game started off being very competitive with the score at the end of the half being 25-21, Richardson City. Soon the competitive and hype like atmosphere was hushed as Richardson City pulled away. The final score was 40-22, Richardson City.

☆☆☆☆☆☆

Weyer City scores at will in soccer landslide victory

BY OWEN MARTIN
LEWIS CITY

Tuesday morning saw a battle on the pitch between Weyer City and Lewis City.

Weyer City jumped out to an early lead and maintained that dominance for the duration of the game. In the first half alone,

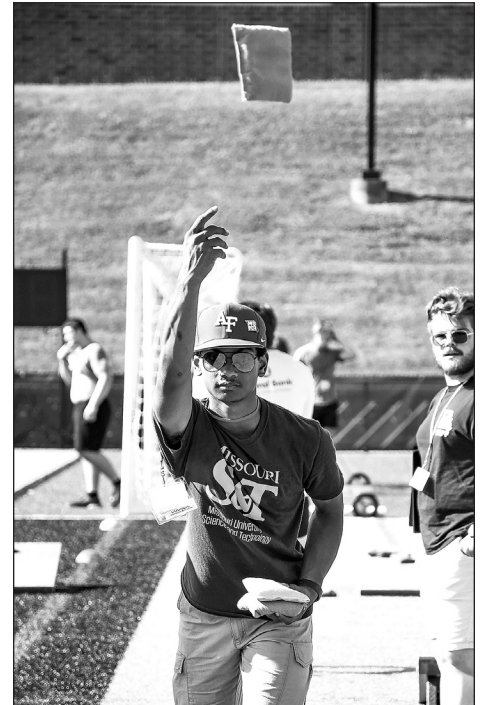
Weyer City scored a total of 10 times, leaving the score 10-0 heading into the final period.

Weyer City picked up right where it left off, scoring three more quick goals. From there, the scoring began to slow until Lewis City broke the silence and scored its first — and only — goal of the game, leaving the final score 13-1 Weyer City.



MBS ATHLETIC SCORES

	Tuesday	Total
Pershing City	5	18
Clark City	6	11
Whitfield City	5	11
Carnahan City	5	10
Duggan City	10	10
Richardson City	5	10
Carver City	4	9
Doniphan City	4	9
Boone City	2	7
Blair City	0	5
Crowder City	0	5
Gambrel City	0	5
Lewis City	0	5
Ingle City	5	5
Kohn City	5	5
Weyer City	0	2



Citizen sprucing spirit separates Bacon County

City beautification sparks competition between Weyer City and Gambrel City

BY HARPER COOK
GAMBREL CITY

Gambrel City and Weyer City are fighting to be the top city in Bacon County during their week at Missouri Boys State.

Throughout the week at Missouri Boys State, every city is fighting to be the best of the best and become model city. There are multiple factors contributing to how cities

get points towards the model city award. One specific way cities win points is room inspections and overall city appeal.

To gain the most points and elevate city spirit some cities have started to decorate. Gambrel City has started brainstorming, figuring out how they are going to transform their dorm into a thriving city. Gambrel City appointed Derek Darr as their parks committee chairman on Monday. Derek is now leading the city beautification process.

"The things that really helped the process of making our city look like a city is that all Gambrel citizens love our city. We also wanted everyone to know the pride we have to be apart of this city. We want someone that has never been in our city to know that we are Gambrel even when no-one is present," Will Hervey of Gambrel City said.

Weyer City is among several cities who are relatively late in appointing a parks

committee chairman— appointing on Tuesday.

"The reason why we hadn't started decorating earlier is because we had no Parks Director to lead us. We finally elected [sic] one yesterday, and will start making our city look better soon. We plan on getting supplies and using all of the great ideas that everyone has to lift the city spirit," Drew Melching of Weyer City said.

Parties left jockeying following county elections

City and county elections over, yet state party preference remains unclear

BY JADRIAN THURMON
GAMBREL CITY

Though the results of county wide elections at Missouri Boys State finally were unveiled Tuesday afternoon, the potential of future success for either of the Nationalist or Federalist parties is still unclear.

41 Federalists and 37 Nationalists have solidified themselves in their respective county wide positions, with two positions going to a runoff. These

results not only have built upon the standing drama between the two parties, but have also made the balance of power at MBS even more ambiguous.

Now that the votes are in, both parties are undoubtedly aware of the necessary work that is still to be done. While the Federalists are currently in the lead in terms of number of positions held, following both the county wide and municipal elections, the number of ties that have occurred leave

the door wide open for the Nationalist Party to establish a better foothold within the state.

Despite this, the Federalists and Nationalists both have prevented complete sweeps in the elections so far. Many cities, and now counties, have filled their positions with either split results or near total control from either the Federalist or Nationalist Party. Yet, in every case so far, there is still at least one member from each oppos-

ing party represented in every city and county. As long as that remains true, and as long as an individual from an opposing party has their foot in the door, then preventing the success of their political opponents will never be out of the question.

With statewide elections only a day away, the amount of grit and determination that both Federalists and Nationalists will need will be substantial — and possibly near immeasurable.

Pershing toll triggers turmoil

BY ISIAH KUTRIP
BOONE CITY

Missouri Boys State's Pershing City enacted a very controversial law Monday morning, affecting other residents of Matthews Hall.

"We created a law that said that anytime they (MBS citizens not from Pershing City) pass through our territory, each of their citizens gets fined \$20 BSB," Pershing City Mayor Caden Bichsel said. "And now they're not too happy about it. They've been causing an uprising, booing us and things like that."

Citizens of Boone City and Crowder City have shown their distaste for the new Pershing City law, booing at the mention of Pershing City during assemblies.

Pershing City has been having trouble attempting to enforce this law.

"They keep enforcing it," Andrew Russell of Crowder City said. "We keep ignoring it, but they keep trying to enforce it."


In response to the backlash, Bichsel said Pershing City has "the best lawyers ever" and "They should be scared".

With the massive push back directed towards Pershing, citizens have expressed the need to take a step back.

"I think that at Boys State it's good to have a sense of rivalry," Jack Reider of Boone City said. "But the level it's gotten to now is excessive. Mass booing, genuine anger. I hope that everyone can take a step back, and come together as a nicer Boys State community. I think that would be more beneficial for everybody."

Boone City Councilman Ji'Kiess Walker said he thinks that sorting out the issue via the court process could be a better — more civil — solution.

ANNA'S ASPIRING



BRACELETS

Design your own bracelet with different colors and adjustable options. Friendship bracelets with thread!

\$15 each

Located at: Drake City room 312

Follow on Snapchat: @anna-sappington

From Cowboys to Cougars: Cities define spirit with mascots

BY ANNA PEARL STANLEY
COVINGTON CITY
BY ALICIA HARRISON
BENTON CITY

The ALA Missouri Girls State cities may not agree on everything, but they can agree on the importance of establishing a quality city mascot. While becoming familiar with city agendas, multiple cities were quick to come up with ways to set themselves apart. Taking inspiration from the world around them and things they encounter at ALA MGS, citizens carefully considered what mascot would best embody their cities.

Carver City chose a cowboy to represent them on their first day together. After taking into account many ideas for a city figurehead, Carver City citizens were inspired by the works of a popular singer, leading them to decide on their mascot.

“We wanted it to be like Beyoncé’s album Cowboy Carter, but instead it’s Cowboy Carver,” says Kendall Ramsey, Carver City citizen.

When examining other entertaining qualities of a cowboy, the city also found the idea of having “yes haw!” as a slogan to be a fun way to keep spirits high during ALA MGS events. To add to the excitement of their city chants, some girls downloaded a sound effect app on their phones, which would play the sound of a whip when their city was called. By choosing a mascot, the city of Carver City has the ability to keep their citizens involved and eager to participate in this week’s festivities.

Covington City chose the cougar. After opening up discussions to their entire citizen body during city meetings on Saturday, the city decided to choose an animal which would exhibit a fierce attitude and sound good with their city’s name. After throwing

around ideas, Covington landed on having a cougar represent their city.

With their choice, they had a much easier time coming up with cheers for assemblies and events. From chants as simple as yelling, “Covington Cougars,” to elaborate cheers that involve multiple roars and holding up a claw. With the help of their figurehead, Covington is able to keep their collective energy up in hopes of winning the Spirit City flag.

Benton City adopted their city mascot of a bearcat on Saturday night before city bonding. This icon successfully leaves an impression on their peers and represents the strong girls that make up the city.

“It was a rigorous process with a lot of options. Bearcats are intimidating and come off as ‘not-to-be-messed-with,’” states Charlie Meredith, Benton City citizen.

Benton City mayor, Avery Riley, plans to teach her citizens Bearcat cheers and chants to exercise city spirit.

Compton City decided to take a different approach and name their city mascot after their county. They chose the pig to act as their emblem because of their relation to Bacon County.

“Our mascot is a pig because our county is Bacon and we love to show our pride with our fellow city,” says Ali Hausgen, Compton City, citizen.

Hausgen also points out that the President of Andy’s Frozen Custard on Sunday morning’s assembly, told the story about the chicken and the pig. He explained that the “pig” is someone who fully commits and puts their all into what they may be involved in, whereas the “chicken” gives less in order to not breach their comfort zone. After hearing Sunday’s speaker, Compton citizens declared that they would choose to embody the actions of the pig throughout the rest of ALA MGS.

Excitement builds as talent show takes the stage

BY EMMA THAYER
ANTHONY CITY
BY RAQUEL RIVERA
ANTHONY CITY

The ALA Missouri Girls State Talent Show is a major event during the week at Lindenwood University and is an opportunity to have some fun with citizens’ cities before the end of the ALA MGS week.

As first-time attendees of ALA MGS, there is not much information on what to expect when it comes to the annual talent show. When discussing what to expect for tonight, Ms. Lynnea Wooten claimed to expect a wide variety of different acts for the nights’ event.

The 30 women participating tonight had to go through an audition to be able to perform. With fierce competition some acts had to be cut from the show.

“The whole experience is surreal to me. I always am driven to go in front of others, so what is the best way to get everyone’s attention than the talent show? The talent show is the best way for me to make an influence and show my love,” participant

Evelyn Virtue of Anthony City said.

Wooten is excited for the talent show. She is a well known woman around campus, being the head of the ALA MGS band and annual talent show. According to Wooten, the widely acclaimed ALA MGS Talent Show of has been a part of the program for more than 20 years. This year a wide variety of acts will be performed, giving the air a sense of excitement for what the ALA MGS citizens have in store for us tonight.

“There will be singing, some dancing, instruments, poetry... there will surely be something for everyone,” Wooten said.

Another exciting act to expect, is the ALA MGS Band that has been working all week to create a first grand performance to open the show. To prepare themselves for tonight, they have been working on their performance during athletics, putting in the extra hours to make the concert memorable.

“I think everyone’s going to have a lot of fun with all the music we have prepared, it’s been a blast and be prepared to sing along,” Lauren Nickel of Anthony City — a member of the ALA MGS Band said.

Business Casual: Mandatory or optional?

BY LEANDRA KENNEDY
DRAKE CITY

Many of the ALA Missouri Girls State citizens have noticed by now that, at the joint assemblies between ALA MGS and Missouri Boys State, the MBS citizens are not all in their business casual best. Many were sporting basketball shorts and t-shirts on the first day. The girls on the other hand were all dressed in their finest, as required by the ALA MGS dress code. The Mayor of Drake City, Isabella Medley, had a few opinions on this topic, that she shared in an interview Tuesday morning.

When asked if she thought business casual dress should be mandatory for the joint assemblies, Medley replied, “We are... being taught how to be professional in that kind of setting”, but she also said “Everyone should be held to the same standard, so that it’s fair.”

MBS citizen Jadrien Thurmon, a police

officer from Gambrel City, presented his point of view at his interview. “If one has to, both should have to.” When asked if he thought the business casual dress code should be mandatory for the joint assemblies he said, “It shouldn’t be mandatory... considering the heat... especially given the uncomfortable nature of dresses and blazers for some girls.”

He also shared that “Last night (Monday), because it was a government speaker, we were advised to wear nicer clothing for the meeting, but it wasn’t something that was forced. Some chose not to dress up, and some just didn’t have the clothing.”

Thurmon elaborated about some of the boys not having the appropriate clothing by saying, “On our packing list... it said to bring a sport coat and tie, but in parenthesis it specifically stated ‘optional but encouraged.’” This was not the case for the ALA MGS packing list, which listed under the Clothing and Shoes section “At least 4 business casual outfits”.

Dorm life to buddy system: Adversity breeds friendship

BY EMME JONES
DRAKE CITY

While there are still many intense upcoming elections and busy schedules at ALA Missouri Girls State, citizens have had a great experience so far. From dorm life, to new friendships, to all the meetings, there are many things that have made a positive impact.

Citizens enjoy being together with other girls and making new friendships.

“I really like the overall atmosphere. I like when we are all together as a group at the assemblies at Hyland,” said Sydney

Partney of Clark City.

Sydney also enjoys the time participating in morning athletics and traveling around campus with the buddy system.

Dorm life is another important part of the positive environment Girls State provides. The closeness of the dorm rooms along with the random roommate system allows girls to meet new people everyday.

“Everyone is kind and respectful of each other and there is no drama,” says Olivia Pena of Drake City.

She has been impressed that all aspects of dorm life — from sharing a bathroom to running city meetings — have ran very smoothly.



MBS & MGS LEADER FILE PHOTO

Patriotic participation: Sporting red, white and blue

ALA MGS, MBS show off their support for USA with clothing

BY SOPHIA JAMES
CRONIN CITY

Have you noticed anything similar here at Missouri Boys State and ALA Missouri Girls State? Do the colors, red, white and blue ring a bell? Headbands, hats, beaded necklaces and even George Washington costumes. It’s exciting to see how everyone has taken this theme and made it their own. Even though everyone is rocking the colors that represent America, multiple sources would argue that one side is doing much better than the other when it comes to this theme.

One girl who has been dominating the USA theme this week is Reese Cook from Covington City. Reese has been wearing everything from leis to colorful beads and even fun headbands! When interviewed, she expressed how comfortable she feels dressing up here rather than back home. Reese said, “Here is the place where you can count on other people to match your energy.” Walking around campus you can see the girls who are putting forth lots of effort to make everyone feel a sense of pride for our country. Reese has also noticed something rather strange at the joint assemblies. She said, “I was looking around at the joint meeting and I saw a lot of red, white, and blue being worn by the girls, but the guys

were just wearing T-shirts and shorts.” The guys would probably argue this is because they aren’t as concerned with their appearance as much as the girls are. The girls would likely agree that the guys need to step up their American spirit game.

Gabby Fatcutt from Compton City also said, “The boys might be louder when it comes to joint meetings, but the girls have got more red, white and blue.” When interviewing Gabby she was wearing a stunning red business suit with blue and white accessories which made her interview all the more fun. During our brief conversation Abby also revealed that she’s been trying to incorporate red, white, and blue on a daily basis. Girls like Reese and Abby and “George Washington” have made great strides to encourage everyone to go all out for the theme.

When interviewing the boys, all of them agreed on one similar thing, the guys are louder but the girls are showcasing the theme. Kendall Kingery from Gambrel City said, “He’s been doing his part whenever they do the city chants.” Obviously though when asked who he thinks has more spirit he answered, “Girls have more of the decorative spirit while guys are more proud and vocal with their spirit.” The boys have definitely been more intense, but what do you think? Patriotism is a major part of politics so hopefully the boys are becoming more willing to dressing up and stepping out of their comfort zones as the week goes on.

Who have you seen showing the most spirit, the boys or girls? We all know friend-

ly competition is an American tradition. If you’re not very involved in your city then dressing up could be one way you are being an active participant in your community. You never know, you just might meet your best friend by bonding over one

another’s cute headbands or bead necklaces you got Sunday night. Being here at Lindenwood with girls and guys that want to have fun should encourage all of us to step out of our comfort zones and try something new! Who’s got spirit, do you?





Missouri Gov. Mike Parson addresses citizens from Missouri Boys State and ALA Missouri Girls State during Tuesday night's joint assembly at Hyland Arena.

Touching on personal topics

Parson talks education and agriculture

BY ELIZABETH NEWELL
DRAKE CITY

A good education system solves many problems, according to Missouri Gov. Mike Parson. Parson touched on many topics during his speech Tuesday night during a joint assembly between ALA Missouri Girls State and Missouri Boys State. Among those topics were the role of faith, family and freedom

in personal life and government. But one of the topics he returned to most frequently was K-12 education. He often connected the quality of education in Missouri to the good of other things, including agriculture. As the son of sharecroppers, Parson highly values the agricultural industry in Missouri. When asked how government can protect and improve our state's farms, their workers and the revenue they bring, he said education is a key element. "I think number one is educate people who don't understand agriculture and how important it is," Parson said.

He went on to say 2 percent of people nationwide are related to farmers, compared to 50 percent in the 1940s, and this disconnect between citizens and farmers leads to a misunderstanding of what needs to be done for agriculture. "It's about understanding how important it is for farmers and ranchers to provide the crops they provide, the livestock they provide, actually to feed the world," Parson said. "... I think it's important for people to learn that, and I think it's our job, my job, your job as the media to be able to help people understand why that's so important."



Citizens watch Court of Appeals

BY AYDEN MARSHALL
RICHARDSON CITY

Missouri Boys State and ALA Missouri Girls State attended the hearing of an appellate case Tuesday at Hyland Arena. The case concerned the sexual assault of Shanon Dugan — a Deputy Sheriff for New Jersey — at the St Louis Hyatt Hotel. She was awarded \$177 million in the judgment. Dugan was intoxicated after a St. Louis Cardinal baseball game

and unresponsiveness led to a wellness check from security. The wellness check was performed by security guard David White who came back an hour later with a master key and sexually assaulted Dugan. A jury had previously found that the Hyatt Hotel didn't follow its hiring policy — concerning White's criminal background check. Hyatt appealed the case and it was scheduled for MBS and ALA MGS 2024. The case started with the

Hyatt's attorney arguing the jury's instructions were not clear and how the damages should be negated because of it. The judges were having none of it and quickly fired back with a series of questions relating to the White's previous convictions from 10-12 years before employment with Hyatt. These convictions included catcalling minors and masturbating in public. During his background check he admitted to the convictions.

Federalist candidates for ALA MGS governor differ in opinions

BY LUCIE EPEMA
ANTHONY CITY

Interviews of both Federalist and Nationalist candidates kick off governor campaigns for ALA Missouri Girls State. These candidates representing the Federalist Party include Citlali Arzabala of Broeg City, Kaylen King of Stephens City, Micaela Shipley of Covington City, Riah Wigfall of Carver City, Lily Gregory of Boone City and Hadley Cleavenger of Adreon City. When asked why she's the best candidate for the trees, Arzabala said she wants to "hear and encourage people to use their voice to make a greater impact at MGS beyond the week we have." To her fellow citizens she advises to "always do something you might regret instead of regretting not doing it." Arzabala was the first Federalist name on the list and she continues her campaign with high spirits. Kalen King is running for Federalist governor on the premise of "exemplifying everyone's genius."

She began campaigning the moment she stepped foot on Lindenvold's campus but encountered campaign management issues along the way. Ultimately, King pushes to make genuine connections with people in order to make the most impact. Her flipped perspective of shining the spotlight on everyone else might just separate her from the pack. Shipley stands on empowering women for representation and unity. She said, "I hope to see more unification in MGS with more opportunities to bond, more female representation, and also implement mental health breaks." Wigfall is a candidate who plans on using her power to amplify the voices of the citizens of Girls State and furthering high spirits. She said, "My name is Riah Wigfall! I am Wigfall for all and hair spelled backwards!" Cleavenger is running for governor alongside Madelyn Mildred, who is running for lieutenant governor. Together they plan on using their two minds to create a stronger team for the people and less separation within the government.

Federalists: Want coffee in addition to lowering taxes

CONTINUED FROM P. 1

of Weyer City, Adewale Osibamiro of Richardson City, Thomas Pratz of Kohn City, Justin Blue of Carver City, Dylan Deckard of Pershing City, Luke Buehler of Carnahan City and Owen Sward of Blair City. • State Auditor: Arjun Garikapaty of Weyer City, Thomas Elliott of Richardson City, Keilan Johnson of Gambrel City, Jack Bralley of Carnahan City, Luke Blömquist of Carver City and Will Dace of Carver City. • State Treasurer: Conner Strickland of Clark City, Jedidiah Howell of Blair City, AJ Simon of Richardson City, Andrew Russell of Crowder City and Ronald Johnson of Gambrel City. • Secretary of State: Solomon Naraine of Lewis City, Miles Turner of Pershing City and Amin Gozal of Gambrel City. • Lieutenant Governor: William James of Kohn City, Nicholas

Ruggeri of Clark City, Joshua Goodman of Carver City, Gideon Duren of Pershing City, John R. Bertoncin of Gambrel City, Ridwan Osman of Carnahan City and Maxwell Strode of Doniphan City. • Governor: Brookson Ware of Doniphan City, Logan Reynolds of Whitfield City, Charlie Mathis of Blair City, Max Power of Gambrel City, Eli Curtin of Gambrel City, Nathanael Martin of Boone City, Talon Lemoine of Kohn City and Jack Funke of Carnahan City. Many candidates had unique campaigning strategies. James threw candy, Johnson played the saxophone and Simon threw Boys State Bucks to the Federalists in the audience. Candidates ran on platforms such as lowering taxes, gambling and getting coffee in the morning. Primary Elections will take place from 6:30-8 a.m. today at the Multipurpose Room in Evans Commons.

Nationalists: Hope to sweep

CONTINUED FROM P. 1

has discussed multiple ways of supporting veteran affairs at MBS, such as a plan for a disabled Veterans Day during MBS or an event to honor the veterans at the end of MBS. Of the 33 Nationalist candidates at the caucus, the most notable were governor candidate Gabriel Branson of Lewis City tearing off his shirt to reveal a political message underneath and Spencer Dixon of Pershing City directly defying Nationalist Ser-

geant at Arms Chris Jordan by continuing to walk up and down the aisle as he was asked to return multiple times. Boden Lankford lightened the mood by running on the slogan of "Your friendly neighborhood State Auditor." Throughout the Nationalist Caucus, lieutenant governor candidate Sahil Sajid of Doniphan City, Mason Long of Clark City and several others had the crowd chanting for a Nationalist sweep of the state ballot — the first in MBS history if it happens.

