

## Launching a successful career

*Rep. Baringer speaks on female leadership, polarization in politics*

BY ANNA HERMANN  
COMPTON CITY

On Tuesday at American Legion Auxiliary Missouri Girls State in Hyland Arena, Missouri state Rep. Donna M.C. Baringer gave an exuberant keynote speech to MGS citizens as an inspiration for the young leaders attending.

Baringer spoke about the start to her career and key events such as championing child locking CBD gummy packaging, which highlighted her determination and relentlessness to prevent the harming of children in Missouri.

After her speech, Baringer spoke with *The Leader* regarding her achievement of leadership roles as a woman. Baringer, representing St. Louis in the Missouri House of Representatives, felt several obstacles in the start to her career, particularly regarding gender equality.

"When I first started working," Baringer said, "women weren't even allowed to wear pants in the office."

Baringer went on to describe the strict dress code which limited her and her female colleagues. These restrictions included always wearing pantyhose and never wearing shoes that showed their toes. Because men didn't have similar restrictions, Baringer felt that the dress code was "harder on the women, especially since we were making less money."

These obstacles, while clear expressions of unfairness, did not stop Baringer from launching her successful career as a representative doing what she loves most: solving

PLEASE SEE **BARINGER**, P. 4



CALLI LARSON/ALA MGS PHOTO

Missouri state Rep. Donna Baringer answers a reporter's question following Tuesday night's American Legion Auxiliary Missouri Girls State assembly at Hyland Arena.



ANDREW MATHER/MBS PHOTOS

Hall of Fame sports broadcaster Bob Costas (right) speaks to citizens as Missouri Boys State Dean of Administration Mike Stewart listens intently during the George W. Lehr Memorial Speaker's Chair assembly Tuesday night at Scheidegger Theatre.

## Sports and politics

*Costas' sportscasting career intersects with politics*

BY CONNOR WICKER  
KOHN CITY

AND BENJAMIN TUCKER  
RICHARDSON CITY

Sportscaster and 29-time Emmy Award winner Bob Costas spoke to Missouri Boys State citizens Tuesday night at Scheidegger Theatre about his career and how it intersects with politics during the George W. Lehr Memorial Speaker's Chair assembly.

One of the main topics Costas addressed in his keynote was the role of the internet in the modern landscape of journalism. The internet, he said, has become an outlet for disreputable news sources and allows misquoting and clickbait in far larger numbers than analogue media.

"A subject that I believe should be taught to young people starting at junior high, at the very least, all the way through college is media literacy," Costas said.

Costas also spoke about the inseparable relationship between politics and sports and how he has addressed that



As a sports broadcaster, Bob Costas has covered 12 Olympic Games, 10 NBA Finals, seven Super Bowls and seven World Series.

in his career. He said he enjoys covering the emotion and drama of sports, but he doesn't shy away from addressing the social and political issues that intersect with them. The FIFA World Cup, he said, is an example of this occurrence, and he cited Qatar's desire to host the 2022 World Cup in particular. A global event should be held all across the world, but it is also impossible to ignore the human

rights issues that spring from Qatar.

Costas also mentioned former President Donald Trump's controversies, including his call to remove Colin Kaepernick from the football field for kneeling during the National Anthem. Costas called certain remarks President Trump made "a racist dog whistle, if I've ever heard one."

When asked during a Q&A session whether or not he condemns sportscasters that avoid speaking on politics, Costas said that he does not believe that they should be criticized, but that there are limits.

"Now, if they're ignoring elephants jumping through the screen, as it may be, then that's another thing," Costas said.

Costas spoke at great length about his career and accomplishments. He pointed to the variety of roles he has taken on as a sports reporter and television personality and said he's had a textured career.

Costas' unique portfolio as a broadcaster has been a great aid in his success, he said, and added that broader interests lead to more interesting broadcasters.

In an interview with *The Leader* after his keynote, Costas was asked about the greatest influences on his style as a broadcaster. He pointed to several classic broadcasters' characteristics, such as Vin Scully's professionalism and Jim McKay's literate touch in his reporting as inspirations,

PLEASE SEE **COSTAS**, P. 4

## MBS parties show similarities at state party caucuses

BY JOHN COOKE  
CROWDER CITY

Missouri Boys State's state party caucuses took place Tuesday afternoon at Scheidegger Theatre and Hyland Arena, and now citizens know the two parties' stances on many subjects.

As it turns out, those stances are more similar than some MBS citizens might think.

The main points for the Federalist Party were lower taxes and gambling. They mainly talked about the fact they were going to lower taxes and make gambling profitable.

At the same time, the Nationalist Party's main points were also for low or no taxes and gambling. Many Nationalists who attended the caucus said the only things they talked about were identical to the Federalists — they were going to have no taxes and were going to make gambling profitable.

For the Nationalists, the only thing that differs from those main points was an emphasis on transparency. And many Federalists said there were very few varying opinions on their side, as well, the only one being a desire for more time to sleep.



JESSE CURETON/MBS PHOTO

William "Zack" Shoki of Weyer City looks at notes on his phone as he speaks on stage Tuesday afternoon during the Nationalist Party Caucus at Hyland Arena.

## Reps, senators are sworn in at ALA MGS

BY IRIS ALVAREZ  
CROWDER CITY

American Legion Auxiliary Missouri Girls State is halfway through the week and activities are in full swing. On Monday, members of the General Assembly were announced and sworn into office by MGS Gov. Cecilia Barton.

To commence the first meeting, the Senate and the House were separated. Positions of leadership were elected in both houses. House of Representatives leaders are as follows: Bridget Burns, Speaker of the House; Sophia Crimmins, Speaker Pro Tempore; Maiya Cote, Majority Floor Leader; Caelyn Wood, Minority Floor Leader; Laylah Doty, Chaplain; Hailley Burlingame, Clerk. Senate leaders are as follows: Ysabella Olsen, President Pro Tempore; Arianna Nuñez, Majority Floor Leader; Ryanna Hatfield, Minority Floor Leader; Samantha Hall, Chaplain; Sara

PLEASE SEE **SWORN IN**, P. 4

# Compton City citizen threatens to ruin Benton City's sidewalk chalk

**BY ZOE LUTOMSKA**  
BENTON CITY  
**AND SAVANNAH TURNER**  
BENTON CITY

As the 2023 American Legion Auxiliary Missouri Girls State session enters full swing, competition between cities is intensifying. Each city is working to beautify, build relationships, choreograph chants and cheers, and participate in fun team-building activities in hopes of winning

a flag at the end of each day. This flag is given to the city which expresses the most pride and enthusiasm throughout the day. Along with the flag given at the end of each day, there is an individual award given at the end of the week to the city with the best decorations, and MGS citizens are already hard at work to earn that award, too. As Benton City worked through the beautification process, citizens decided to decorate the sidewalks with chalk to represent Benton Bull pride at about 11:30 a.m. on Sunday. Later that day, a

citizen of Benton City said she overheard citizens of Compton City threatening to pour water on the sidewalk, where the chalk was drawn. "Benton took up all of the sidewalk leaving no room for our City's design," the citizen said. Luckily, another Compton citizen stepped up, saying that it would be wrong and disrespectful to do that. There ended up being no damage done to Benton City's design. Benton City citizens were disappointed to hear this news, as there

was more than enough room left on the sidewalk for neighboring cities to show pride as well, especially without destroying the work of neighboring cities. Benton City citizens ultimately did not report the threat to authorities, as they felt it was not a large enough threat, and the crime was not actually committed. As competition intensifies throughout the week, cities are working hard to show their determination to win the most decorated city award by the end of the week.



## Radical or reason? MBS citizens weigh in on voting

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

During the past few days, many elections have taken place at Missouri Boys State. During these elections, a lot of pride and personal belief was used to determine who to vote for. But with these aspects, the conflict of whether citizens wanted to vote for someone of their own party or for the most qualified candidate overall arose. On Tuesday, *The Leader* asked the citizens of MBS about who they were more likely to vote for. Out of the 20 citizens interviewed, 90% of them said they would vote for the most qualified candidate. Some common reasons they gave for voting for the more qualified candidate was because they believed that both parties were similar. Another reason was because the citizens thought it would make little sense to vote for someone who is not likely to get anything done, simply because they share the common party. One citizen said that most of the

elections that have taken place were held on a local level, and it will matter more when the elections become more split and views begin to differ. Another citizen commented that he was more likely to vote for his party if he forgot how the candidates presented themselves. He said this because someone of the same party would be more likely to share similar views anyway. Hunter McGee of Blair City mentioned that he was more likely to vote for the more qualified person. When asked if he was less likely to vote for someone of the opposing party that is speaking against his party but may seem more qualified, he commented that he was less likely to vote for them. While gathering information, it became apparent that voters are more likely to vote for someone from their own city or even county. However, voters agreed that they would listen to all candidates and give them the benefit of the doubt. After conducting numerous interviews and asking many questions, it can be determined that MBS is more likely to use reason rather than radical opinion when voting.

## Gambling regulations go live

**BY STEVEN COX JR.**  
WHITFIELD CITY

Missouri Boys State is becoming more active, many businesses are opening their doors to customers and a lot of elected positions are starting to be filled. But there's one matter that MBS citizens have been waiting to see resolved — gambling. On Monday night, citizens got their answer and learned that casinos can finally be opened around Lindenwood University's campus. MBS Gaming Commissioner Andrew Puthumana of Carnahan City wrote a letter stating that in order for him to allow gambling, there were a few rules that needed to be followed. According to the letter, there would be a limited number of casinos allowed around MBS, 16 in total; this is so not everyone

can run one and hurt the economy. Puthumana's rules also state that a \$5,000 BSB fee would need to be paid for a license application. If approved, it will then be decided if a casino will be allowed to open. According to the license agreement for opening a casino, records must be kept for all profits from a casino and U.S. dollars will not be permitted for gambling under any circumstances. All casinos are subject to regular business taxes, as well as state, city and county taxes, per the terms of the agreement. If any illegal or suspicious actions are suspected, a casino and its owners will be subject to legal action. This is a long-awaited move for many MBS citizens, including And'avantae' Bussey of Whitfield City. "We should all have a casino where we can go to have fun in your city, or any city you want to go to," Bussey said.

## Bicameral wedding interrupted

**BY ABIGAIL WODKE**  
ADREON CITY

Chaos erupted Tuesday during a marriage ceremony in Adreon City that onlookers described as "shocking" and "out-of-left-field." During the marriage of Rep. Zoe Johnson and Sen. Ellie Washburn, a member of the crowd — City Manager Harley Norvell — objected and professed their love, stating "I have loved you since I sat next to you in our local government class." Soon after, the debate got heated and things began to go south. Johnson allegedly began to attack this secret admirer "out

of love." Many of the attendees had mixed feelings about the events. Some said the situation was completely unprecedented, while others have gone on record saying that the entire situation may have been staged for attention. "We have a very good relationship," Johnson said. "After the wedding incidents, we do have some things to talk about. The wedding is postponed for now, but it will be happening." Washburn said that she fully agrees with her wife-to-be. "What was supposed to be a happy day turned out to be catastrophic," Officiant Kylie Ferguson said.

## Coffee shortage at MGS leads to caffeine withdrawals

**BY MARIAM NEEB**  
CARVER CITY

The American Legion Auxiliary Missouri Girls State Shoppe has been experiencing some supply chain issues, particularly with iced coffee and possibly because of the high demand for caffeine. On Monday morning, the MGS Shoppe fridge was empty of the iced Starbucks coffee drinks that are usually present. Although there were other caffeinated beverages available for purchase, it was still surprising to see the Starbucks gone. I see girls multiple times a day carrying a can of soda or other caffeinated

drink, and I don't blame them. The busy and demanding day-to-day schedule for citizens has definitely taken a toll on most everyone's energy levels, so caffeine plays a key role in ensuring that citizens are energized and ready to participate in MGS activities. MGS Shoppe staffers say this shortage is normal. It occurs everyday around noon and they go out to local stores like Schnucks to restock the fridges. On Tuesday morning, I found that more Starbucks beverages were back in the fridges. It seems that the scarcity of iced coffee at MGS will be a regular thing and will continue to occur throughout the week.

## Getting to know Lindenwood

**BY CARSON SHEPPEERLY**  
BOONE CITY

Lindenwood University, the home of Missouri Boys State this week, has a rich history that many MBS citizens have yet to learn. Every building and every statue has a reasoning behind being built or named. For those interested in the history, listed below are six facts about the Lindenwood campus. -West of the Mississippi River, Lindenwood University is often looked at as the second-oldest high-level education institution. -Lindenwood University used to be a satellite campus, which has transitioned to

a now separately accredited college. -Lindenwood University offers around 131 different majors in many different areas of study. They also consult degrees from 10 colleges and schools. -Lindenwood University had been a NAIA college for sports for over 40 years but just recently has started transitioning to be a NCAA Division II program. -Lindenwood University is often a top competitor in skeet, trap and clay shooting and has won many national championships in these activities. -Like at many colleges, alumni of Lindenwood University have gone on to do great things. Many have become doctors, scientists, authors and even politicians.

# MBS & MGS Leader

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# MBS elects county government

## Bacon County

**Presiding Commissioner** Luke Hamilton  
**County Commissioner** Jesse Dunn  
**County Commissioner** William Lockwood  
**County Treasurer** Logan Compton  
**County Clerk** Jaxsen Gamm  
**Sheriff** Will Bastean  
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**Circuit Court Clerk** Patrick McCollum  
**Prosecuting Attorney** Eric Irving

## Benton County

**Presiding Commissioner** Brock Huffman  
**County Commissioner** Jaxson Jobe  
**County Commissioner** Derrick Allenbrand  
**County Treasurer** Ibrahim Elnour  
**County Clerk** Jason Hall  
**Sheriff** Joseph Volmert  
**Circuit Court Judge** Aidan O'Donnell  
**Assoc. Circuit Court Judge** Elijah Brakensiek  
**Circuit Court Clerk** Dylan Preston  
**Prosecuting Attorney** Jacob Wilson

## Frank County

**Presiding Commissioner** Simisola Dodolewa  
**County Commissioner** Kai Foster  
**County Commissioner** Kade Jenkins  
**County Treasurer** Elias Tucker  
**County Clerk** Blake Schaper  
**Sheriff** Gabriel Aitken  
**Circuit Court Judge** Jason Burden  
**Assoc. Circuit Court Judge** Rylan Hedges  
**Circuit Court Clerk** Gregory Komaromi  
**Prosecuting Attorney** Jishnu Biswas

## Newberry County

**Presiding Commissioner** Gage Fulk  
**County Commissioner** Anthony Carranza  
**County Commissioner** Reece Svendsen  
**County Treasurer** Nicholas Rice  
**County Clerk** Jonathan Collier  
**Sheriff** TIE  
**Circuit Court Judge** Will Amlong  
**Assoc. Circuit Court Judge** Andrew Wepener  
**Circuit Court Clerk** Great Obianinwa  
**Prosecuting Attorney** Samuel Jones

## Barton County

**Presiding Commissioner** Solomon Anderson  
**County Commissioner** Zachary Van Meter  
**County Commissioner** Lucas Ottoline  
**County Treasurer** Aidan Struempfler  
**County Clerk** Kaden Kimbrough  
**Sheriff** De'Shawn Walker  
**Circuit Court Judge** Ivan Avellanosa  
**Assoc. Circuit Court Judge** Emerson Tertovt  
**Circuit Court Clerk** Joseph Kingsley  
**Prosecuting Attorney** Thomas Pulliam

## Bradley County

**Presiding Commissioner** Noah Armstrong  
**County Commissioner** Cosmo Rhoads  
**County Commissioner** Jackson Martin  
**County Treasurer** Landon Ely  
**County Clerk** Garrett Roberts  
**Sheriff** Calvin Friar  
**Circuit Court Judge** Connor Miller  
**Assoc. Circuit Court Judge** Isaac Brooks  
**Circuit Court Clerk** Benjamin Maurer  
**Prosecuting Attorney** Connor Little

## Gamble County

**Presiding Commissioner** Marcos Rodriguez  
**County Commissioner** William Worobec  
**County Commissioner** Dylan Torales  
**County Treasurer** Jayden Hicks  
**County Clerk** Josiah Robert  
**Sheriff** Johnny Picone  
**Circuit Court Judge** Ezekiel Duren  
**Assoc. Circuit Court Judge** Kyler Burton  
**Circuit Court Clerk** Logan Hornberger  
**Prosecuting Attorney** Benjamin Kruger

## Scott County

**Presiding Commissioner** John Haines  
**County Commissioner** Eshwar Murali  
**County Commissioner** Tarek Hussein  
**County Treasurer** Connor Knight  
**County Clerk** Gabe Porter  
**Sheriff** Samuel Brewer  
**Circuit Court Judge** Samuel Lancaster  
**Assoc. Circuit Court Judge** Reginald Locke Jr.  
**Circuit Court Clerk** Chase Sullivan  
**Prosecuting Attorney** Luke Richey

# MGS county election results

## Bacon County

**Presiding Commissioner** Emma Belmore  
**Assoc. County Commissioner** Lillian Hudson  
**Assoc. County Commissioner** Abigail Hardy  
**Sheriff** Bridgette Hanneken  
**County Clerk** Taylor Botteron  
**Presiding Circuit Judge** Kate Northern  
**Associate Circuit Judge** Ava Moore  
**Associate Circuit Judge** Rachelle Perez  
**Clerk of the Circuit Court** Jaelynn Crowder  
**Assessor** Daida Herrera-garcia  
**County Collector** Ava Schmidt  
**County Treasurer** Sophia Crimmins  
**Recorder of Deeds** Atiana Clark  
**Prosecuting Attorney** Ava Tebo

## Davidson County

**Presiding Commissioner** Katelynn Ferguson-minor  
**Assoc. County Commissioner** Katie Bernicky  
**Assoc. County Commissioner** Kathryn Colvin  
**Sheriff** Abigail Rea  
**County Clerk** Lillian Clymer  
**Presiding Circuit Judge** Kailyn Porter  
**Associate Circuit Judge** Laynie Jones  
**Associate Circuit Judge** Natalie Wiseman  
**Clerk of the Circuit Court** Audrey Courtois  
**Assessor** Emma Musgrave  
**County Collector** Hailey Burlingame  
**County Treasurer** Greta Clark  
**Recorder of Deeds** Maria Wibbenmeyer  
**Prosecuting Attorney** Cassandra Plummer

## Johnson County

**Presiding Commissioner** Harley Norvell  
**Assoc. County Commissioner** Alannah Tapley  
**Assoc. County Commissioner** Grace Peach-righton  
**Sheriff** Avery Criblez  
**County Clerk** Avery Chappell  
**Presiding Circuit Judge** Sydney Lockridge  
**Associate Circuit Judge** Lex Hill  
**Associate Circuit Judge** Vedika Kumar  
**Clerk of the Circuit Court** Megan Meeker  
**Assessor** Riley Langner  
**County Collector** Trinity Alvested  
**County Treasurer** Ella Novak  
**Recorder of Deeds** Dionna Lynch  
**Prosecuting Attorney** Mae Dingley

## Scott County

**Presiding Commissioner** Aubri Meyer  
**Assoc. County Commissioner** Adaline Medley  
**Assoc. County Commissioner** Ainslee Grace Lisk  
**Sheriff** Ava Greenan  
**County Clerk** Abigail Mooney  
**Presiding Circuit Judge** Meredith Cole  
**Associate Circuit Judge** Verily Whyte  
**Associate Circuit Judge** Grace Wessel  
**Clerk of the Circuit Court** Olivia Wolf  
**Assessor** Sydney Sonn  
**County Collector** Taylor Baumhoer  
**County Treasurer** Noelle Innes  
**Recorder of Deeds** Grace Flener  
**Prosecuting Attorney** Hannah Gaines

## Barton County

**Presiding Commissioner** Michelle Burke  
**Assoc. County Commissioner** Jessica Hollis  
**Assoc. County Commissioner** Callie Shoemaker  
**Sheriff** Chelsea Ostermann  
**County Clerk** Sonya Rodekohr  
**Presiding Circuit Judge** Mallory Taylor  
**Associate Circuit Judge** Ava Mccutchen  
**Associate Circuit Judge** Trinity Lorenz  
**Clerk of the Circuit Court** Reagan Stevens  
**Assessor** Mia Fernandez  
**County Collector** Hilary Yang  
**County Treasurer** Addison Gillogly  
**Recorder of Deeds** Christian Assefa  
**Prosecuting Attorney** Bella Holloway

## Dewitt County

**Presiding Commissioner** Christine Wehmeyer  
**Associate County Commissioner** Nadia Mura  
**Associate County Commissioner** Shayla West  
**Sheriff** Payton Gannon  
**County Clerk** Emily Eschbacher  
**Presiding Circuit Judge** Avery Aller  
**Associate Circuit Judge** My'Erin Reynolds  
**Associate Circuit Judge** Daphne Wilson  
**Clerk of the Circuit Court** Madilynn Cook  
**Assessor** Grace Bozarth  
**County Collector** Julia Steele  
**County Treasurer** Rebecca Vail  
**Recorder of Deeds** Josie Villard  
**Prosecuting Attorney** Ellie Primm

## Price County

**Presiding Commissioner** Isabelle Henderson  
**Assoc. County Commissioner** Thomasina Brown  
**Assoc. County Commissioner** Grace Leak  
**Sheriff** Gen Gordon  
**County Clerk** Lanie Jackson  
**Presiding Circuit Judge** India Parris  
**Associate Circuit Judge** Shelby Blake  
**Associate Circuit Judge** Thomasina Brown  
**Clerk of the Circuit Court** Lauren Nageotte  
**Assessor** Lillian Teichman  
**County Collector** Evelyn Sanjuan  
**County Treasurer** Hillary Elifrits  
**Recorder of Deeds** Addison Waller-brenneke  
**Prosecuting Attorney** Olivia Goehrig

## Truman County

**Presiding Commissioner** Emily Lucas  
**Assoc. County Commissioner** Mckelvey Mcdaniel  
**Assoc. County Commissioner** Kassidy Flynn  
**Sheriff** Delaney Quick  
**County Clerk** WGracie Jewell  
**Presiding Circuit Judge** Payton Behrens  
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**Associate Circuit Judge** Juliet Anreder  
**Clerk of the Circuit Court** Norah Crowley  
**Assessor** Lauren Quinlin  
**County Collector** Amelia Holden  
**County Treasurer** Kyra Shaffer  
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# MGS School Board

## Blanton School Board

Erin Seals  
 Jessi Kanak  
 Maeve Shoemaker  
 Sydney Burden  
 Lillian Hudson  
 Soma Hooper  
 Hannah Batts

## Guffey-Irwin School Board

Abigail Mooney  
 Laney McCaleb  
 Elana Clark  
 Chloe Miller  
 Kennedy Maddox  
 Kendall Stennis  
 Gracie Martin

## Calvert-Rogers School Board

Gracie Thompson  
 Lauren Homan  
 Maggie Keim  
 Addison Waller-Brenneke  
 Allison Slagle  
 Anna Seabaugh  
 Hannah Easterday

## Rauch School Board

Eliana Giroux  
 Jazalyn Bailey  
 Laney Arnett  
 Maria Wibbenmeyer  
 Natalie Frey  
 Shayleigh Whetstone  
 Maddie Dalton



## Baringer: Stresses fact checking

CONTINUED FROM P. 1

problems.

Baringer was also asked what her definition of leadership is, and if that has changed throughout her career.

“My definition of leadership is someone who is able to persuade others or encourage them in a positive way, but if that’s ever negative, I don’t consider them leaders,” Baringer said.

Baringer has led a strong career as a servant of the people, protecting them in many ways including safeguarding seniors, improving education and helping her community of St. Louis feel safe. Baringer has also won several awards for this stellar leadership such as the Women of Distinction Award, Outstanding Leadership Award and Outstanding Community Volunteer, St. Louis Schools.

Baringer was also asked if polarization in politics has increased due to the boom in social media usage.

“I think social media, when it comes to politics, is the most horrific, toxic thing,” she said.

Continuing on, she described the importance of fact checking information seen on social media, as “no one is held accountable” for falsifying information on social platforms. Baringer recommended doing extensive research on a significant piece of information found on social media due to the risk that it may be false. Violent and hateful speech can ruin careers due to “cancel culture,” especially in the world of politics.

Baringer was asked if opposing viewpoints were beneficial, and how to disagree productively without resorting to this hateful speech and further separation of parties.

“You don’t always want everyone to think alike,” Baringer said. “Being urban, someone rural may open my eyes to opposing viewpoints.”

Baringer emphasized the importance of learning from opposing viewpoints to mature your own.

Lastly, Baringer recited one of her sayings: “I have no permanent enemies. I have no permanent friends. I just have permanent issues. If you want a best friend in politics, get a dog.”

## MBS governor race heats up

BY CALEB BROWNLEY  
RICHARDSON CITY

On Tuesday, multiple candidates vying for the title of Missouri Boys State governor shared their thoughts about the gubernatorial race before giving speeches at their state party caucuses.

Many, like Federalist candidate Charles Leighton, expressed excitement but also nervousness about the upcoming election.

“I’m feeling pretty confident ... it’s definitely gone from zero to sixty pretty quickly,” Leighton said.

Another Federalist candidate, Ivan Preston, said despite any nervousness he may be feeling, he’s also optimistic.

“I do think I can pull my weight and I should be able to make my way up,” Preston said.

Others were also feeling very optimistic. When asked what motivated him to run for governor, Nationalist candidate Jakweli Gist said he even wants to set a precedent.

“I want this Boys State to be the most successful one there’s ever been. It’s called a party for a reason, so why not have a little fun?” Gist said.

## MBS governor hopeful reveals famous heritage

BY JOSEF SCHULLER  
RICHARDSON CITY

A Missouri Boys State gubernatorial candidate on Tuesday revealed his relation to the famous civil rights activist of the Brown v. Board of Education case.

During the Nationalist State Party Caucus, Jakweli Gist, one of the candidates for the Nationalist Party’s governor nomination, announced in his speech that he was a descendant of Linda Brown, who was denied entry into a white elementary

school in Topeka, Kan.

Brown’s father pursued legal action, resulting in the aforementioned Supreme Court case in the early 1950s and the eventual overturning of the ruling of Plessy v. Ferguson, known as the “separate but equal” clause.

Gist used this idea in his speech, saying that he would carry on her same values, not being afraid to stand for what he believes in. With this riveting information now in the books, it leaves us with one question: Will this accelerate his rise to the top?

## Sworn In: Energy at all-time high

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Steinmetz, Sergeant-At-Arms; Kathryn Colvin, Secretary; Medha Narayan, Majority Whip; Chloe Davis, Minority Whip.

Nuñez, for her part, said she’s loved the MGS experience from the very beginning.

“Being surrounded by intellectual young women who have the same level of ambition to succeed and strive for more has made it feel like I have found a home away from home,” Nuñez said. “...If I could, I would do this all over again.”

After positions were earned, discussion began. Many girls agreed on an array of matters at ALA MGS including mealtimes, lack of rest, differences between Missouri Boys State and no drinking water in the dormitories. To change these things, the General Assembly and lobbyists have been working diligently to create and submit bills.

In the House, around 65 bills were submitted by lunchtime Tuesday. By 3:30 p.m. the same day, ALA MGS staff and House

leadership accepted 12 for consideration. The representatives were divided into four equal groups and began discussing these accepted bills, asking questions and proposing amendments. The first bill discussed as a unified House was sponsored by Cronin City resident Patricia Kirtley. Her bill is about the expansion of religious services at ALA MGS. Many girls felt passionately about this bill and felt underrepresented, as only Catholic and Protestant services were offered on Sunday.

“It was cool that the bill my co-sponsors and I created was discussed first, but also very nerve-wracking,” Kirtley said. “It was a very good discussion, though, and I am proud of all the girls in the House.”

Overall, General Assembly members have ventured bravely into the unknown. Energy and camaraderie in the chamber are at an all-time high.

“I was excited to come together with these amazing girls and make friendships even through our differences,” Lydia Cotten, of Covington City, said.

## Ordinances, budgets get off the ground in Gambrel City

BY ERNIE BATSELL  
GAMBREL CITY

Ordinances and budgets crafted yesterday in Gambrel City are ready to go through the legislative process, following plenty of discussion and votes from Gambrel’s city councilmen.

These ordinances and the city’s budget will be reviewed and revised as new information is gathered, which will be an

important contribution for the budget, especially.

That’s because within the budget, numbers might still be subject to change, and Gambrel’s citizens may notably be in line for a tax return. Ordinances, too, might be altered as they continue through the process.

Gambrel Mayor Jason Dieckhaus and Gambrel’s city councilmen will continue working to improve the city’s budget and ordinances, Dieckhaus said.

## Costas: Says ‘respect your craft’

CONTINUED FROM P. 1

but emphasized that he does not copy their styles completely.

“I don’t think that it’s a good idea to copy anyone else’s style, because then you’ll be a pale imitation of the original, the master,” he said. “But you can be influenced by the things they do.”

In the same interview, Costas was asked

to give advice that he believes will be useful to MBS citizens.

“You always have to respect your craft and respect your audience enough to be prepared,” Costas said. “...You can’t just rest on your laurels, you can’t just say, ‘Well, I can sit down and do it again.’ You have to prepare as hard as you possibly can within reason. You still have to get a good night’s sleep.”

## Plumbing problem prompts perplexity

BY CONNER HILL  
WHITFIELD CITY

Lindenwood University has a nice campus, and Missouri Boys State citizens are lucky that the program is being held here. But one incident Tuesday has some at MBS calling that into question.

In Reynolds Hall, a toilet overflowed and flooded the bathroom on the second story in Whitfield City. The citizens of

Whitfield have now been warned about the volatile plumbing in Reynolds Hall.

One unfortunate citizen went to the bathroom and flushed the toilet, and that toilet in question overflowed and flooded the bathroom. Thankfully, the situation was handled by staff, but the plumbing is still questionable.

Now, MBS citizens want to know what they can expect from staff to help fix the problem.



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# Watching the court process

*A review of the appeals case presented to ALA MGS*

**BY RILEY FRIGA**  
PERSHING CITY  
**AND AUDREY MITCHELL**  
CROWDER CITY

Tuesday afternoon, the American Legion Auxiliary Missouri Girls State and the American Legion Missouri Boys State were provided with the experience to attend a session of the Missouri Court of Appeals.

The court reviewed the case of Cortez L. Easterwood-Bey, 45, charged with unlawful possession of a firearm and first degree murder in the shooting of Bryant Wright Oct.12, 2020.

The attorneys for the State of Missouri and Easterwood-Bey both presented their findings for his appeal. Easterwood-Bey's public

defense attorney argued that he deserved a new trial based on evidence that the prosecution presented at the trial. The defense attorney argued that a surveillance video from a liquor store was submitted as evidence incorrectly.

Since the owner of the liquor store refused to come to the trial to provide extra authentication as in the case of the State of Missouri vs. Moyle, the argument was made that Easterwood-Bey did not have a fair trial.

The defense attorney then made a second point of contention to the judges that Easterwood-Bey was not made aware of the fact that he was going to be charged for possessing the .40 caliber Smith and Wesson in relation to the shooting before the trial took place. Therefore, the instructions that were given to the jury were incorrect, as Easterwood-Bey was not aware of all of his charges.

The prosecution from Missouri stated that the

defense did not object during Easterwood-Bey's trial to the jury instructions. Since there was no objection in the courtroom, no one was aware that he didn't have full knowledge of all his charges.

Missouri's attorney then proceeded to state that because of his indictment, the defendant knew of this charge seven months before his trial took place. The prosecution made note that Easterwood-Bey was wearing a mask during his trial that took place during the COVID-19 pandemic. Because of his mask, the jury was confused about what he looked like compared to the surveillance video. However, the jury managed to look at him and decide that he was guilty and he was consequently sentenced to life without the chance of parole.

The judges will decide on the outcome of the appeals case at a later date.



## Get to know the ALA MGS staff

- Sylvia Harding** - Dance team at Truman
- Adalyn Davis** - Flying planes, driving atv's, four wheelers and dirt bikes, mudding
- Grace Vandall** - Laying in my pool, reading, weight lifting, playing video games, spending time with family and friends, and playing with my dogs! I'm also a big high fantasy and history nerd
- Samara Lewis** - I love to read, baking, gardening and singing in choir
- Lynnea Wootten** - Music, golf, pickleball & planning my wedding
- Angela Lopez** - Taylor Swift
- Molly Kell** - Cooking and being outdoors
- Kelsey Whitt** - Peloton addict, lots of exercise; Piper Nelson - painting, crocheting, naps
- Laila St. Christopher** - Volleyball, Netflix, working out

- Gwyneth Worobec** - Being in nature, hiking, reading and serving in my community
- Sophia Blade** - Watching movies and TV, crafts, eating sleeping and learning more
- Savannah Belko** - Horse riding, tennis, reading, work out, hangout w/friends and family
- Eliza Pierce** - Reading, hanging out w/ friends, cooking
- Antoinette Bates** - Dance, cheer
- Karley Gorman** - Photography, crafting, baking
- Kaylee Sukup** - Reading
- Anna Eitel** - Music, Kansas City Chiefs, anything, agricultural related
- Charis Morasch** - Percussion, crochet, mock trial, Taylor Swift
- Jackie Dunn** - Quilting, cross-stitching



## In appreciation of their service



Alumna and current ALA Missouri Girls State employee, Jackie Dunn (center), was awarded the Johanna Snodgrass Award Monday evening at Hyland Arena. Presenting the award are Natalie Riley (left), MGS director emeritus, and Macae Mickens (right), current MGS director.



Former Missouri Boys State Director Craig Ritchie (left) receives a map of the state of Missouri and a plaque commemorating 40 years of service on the MBS staff. Presenting the award are MBS executive committee member Bill Beydler (center) and MBS Director Brad Lear (right).

## Richardson City spreads love

*And gets love back*

BY CALEB WRIGHT  
RICHARDSON CITY

On Tuesday, Missouri Boys State citizens witnessed a beautiful example of unity and love.

After dinner yesterday, MBS citizens headed to evening Colors. At Colors, citizens heard the normal chants for cities — and also got the normal chants between

MBS and MGS. But out of the blue, there was a new chant.

The chant was coming from controversial Richardson City.

Richardson City was holding up hearts and chanting, “We still love you!” followed by a series of claps. In return, many MBS citizens chanted back the same, showing the love in MBS.

Richardson is a great example of how even though their citizens were surrounded by hate and boos, they still have love for their fellow citizens of MBS.

## Lewis City RBOs robbed, city seeks stolen goods

BY URIAH KOESTER  
LEWIS CITY

On Monday in Lewis City, while the business director for the newly-acquired Retail Business Opportunities was preparing to get the lease and stock of the purchased RBOs, a commerce director was seen by multiple eyewitnesses giving away the stock of the stores to citizens free of charge.

Essentially, that action robbed Lewis City of more than half of its sellable stock.

In the wake of the incident, Lewis City has asked all citizens to come down to Lewis City to return the stolen goods and to purchase new goods for their ad campaigns and other small businesses, as any who took from the commerce director may be liable for legal action that could end in bankruptcy for any newly-opened businesses involved.

Lewis City attorneys are preparing to sue the commerce director to get what they are owed after spending loads of money to acquire the RBOs.

## Alleged soccer cheater revealed

BY KEITH RORABAUGH  
CROWDER CITY

Following a cheating scandal during Monday’s athletics period, leaders with Crowder City — and even the player involved — have apologized for what’s now being characterized as an honest mistake.

As *The Leader* reported Monday, Crowder City allegedly cheated in a soccer game against Clark City after a mystery player from Richardson City came into the game and scored a goal.

It was revealed Monday that player was Preston Brown, who said Crowder City wasn’t at fault in any way for the mishap. Brown said Crowder’s citizens didn’t even know he’d come on the field until he scored a goal.

“I played for about a minute or two at max,” Brown said. “I got in there, scored a goal and then they realized who I was.

They told me that I needed to come out, and I was completely willing to come out. I didn’t argue with them or anything because I found out it wasn’t right that I was in there. I automatically came out and supported Crowder, who ended up winning anyway.”

Joseph Mayne, who plays on Crowder City’s team, said steps were quickly taken to reverse the mistake and set things right.

“We threw out the point that he scored, we flipped the possession so that any momentum would be negated and then we kicked him out of the game,” Mayne said.

Ultimately, this incident had absolutely no effect on the game’s outcome. Sen. George Freeman of Crowder City also weighed in Tuesday and said he thinks it was a complete accident.

“It just happened,” Freeman said. “We apologize for any confusion that went on with the match.”

## Federalists hold party caucus

BY XAVIER WILSON  
RICHARDSON CITY

The Federalist Party gathered Tuesday afternoon in Scheidegger Theatre for its statewide caucus.

Candidates for secretary of state, attorney general, treasurer, lieutenant governor, and governor all spoke, each detailing their visions for Missouri Boys State.

Though many spoke about issues like taxes and gambling, a few candidates presented new points. One in particular, Aiden McDonald, an attorney general hopeful, went for a populist slant and alluded to embezzlement among city councilmen and his imminent crackdown.

Throughout the event, however, both candidates and party officials expressed doubt in the party platform, with one

Federalist chairman admitting “there isn’t much distinguishing” the Nationalists and the Federalists. Another expressed that “what we don’t want to happen is just a big popularity contest.”

Some candidates addressed the issue of platform similarity, though taking different stances to little avail.

One lieutenant governor candidate said, “Do you know what they’re talking about (at the Federalist’s caucus)? Women and gambling.” That was a reference to misogynistic rhetoric candidates have echoed. He later decried this platform sharing, but offered no new take.

Another candidate embraced the parties’ parallels.

“I know Nationalists and Federalists have very similar platforms, but it takes someone who cares to listen,” he said.

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