



MBS & MGS LEADER



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AND THE WINNER IS ...



Hayden Hradek hailed as new governor of MBS

BY MILES BRANNAM
CLARK CITY

Citizens of Missouri Boys State filled Scheidegger Theatre, waiting with anticipation as Missouri Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft announced the winners of statewide office Thursday afternoon.

Ashcroft raised the already-tense atmosphere in the room as he announced the winner of each statewide position. A perfect silence settled over the theatre as Ashcroft prepared to announce the winner for governor as the citizens were on the edge of their seats. Every citizen was on the edge of his seat, not a single one disturbing the perfect silence made by Ashcroft as he led up to the announcement of the 84th governor of MBS: National Party's Hayden Hradek of Clark City.

As soon as Hradek's name was announced, residents of Clark City erupted into cheers and celebration.

"(I was) engulfed by people and a feeling of pure ecstasiness with no other way to describe it," Hradek said.

Citizens of both the Nationalist and Federalist parties in the room were letting loose screams of joy as Hradek walked across the stage.

Hradek talked of the wait and walk up to the stage, saying, "I get really, really nervous." He then quoted his high school football coach, who said: "Nervousness is excitement, and excitement is nervousness. If you don't have one, you don't have the other."

Hradek will succeed John Holt, who was elected MBS governor last year and served in that role throughout this week.

Hradek walked across the Hyland Arena stage a day earlier, talking of a 600-pound squat and the five columns of his platform speech, one being cutting the fat government spending.

Hradek claimed that, instead of cutting beneficial taxes, he would lower taxes that go nowhere. He also claimed to keep taxes transparent and he would be "working with our state auditor and treasure to publish an easy to read and easy to understand financial report daily."

After being elected, Hradek wanted to thank his city counselors — Tyler Johnson, Will Hausman and Jayden Hicks. He then thanked Clark City and Barton County citizens for their support, before finally thanking his parents and everyone who has ever helped him get to the point of governor.

More to come with Moore as governor-elect

BY THE LEADER STAFF

ALA Missouri Girls State citizens gathered for their final assembly of the day Thursday evening at Hyland Arena, eagerly awaiting the announcement of their new statewide officials. The night was particularly significant due to the impending State Fair and the excitement surrounding the election results.

The moment everyone had been waiting for arrived as Ms. Macae Mickens prepared to announce the new governor of ALA Missouri Girls State. The arena fell silent with anticipation.

The name announced was Breleigh Moore of Covington City, the Nationalist candidate. This announcement was met with a roar of applause, as Moore became the only Nationalist Party member elected to a state office this year, with the other positions being filled by members of the Federalist Party.

Moore's campaign focused on inclusion and equality, with a platform dedicated to ensuring that all members of ALA Missouri Girls State feel represented and advocating for equality between ALA MGS and Missouri Boys State. Her compelling slogan "Moore for More!" highlighted her commitment to these principles.

The other new statewide officials include: State Treasurer Jacqueline Rogers of Covington City, Attorney General Skai Peterkin of Clark City, State Auditor Glory Mokuia of Clark City, Secretary of State Michelle Lin of Covington City, and Lieutenant Governor Madelyn Meldrem of Adreon City.

The election of Moore as governor marks a significant moment in the history of ALA Missouri Girls State. Her leadership and vision for a more inclusive and equal community are highly anticipated. Moore, along with the other newly elected officials, will be sworn in tonight at the Inauguration Ceremony.



A visit to the Capitol

MGS senators, representatives debate bills in Jefferson City

BY HANNAH CARLSON
ADREON CITY

ALA Missouri Girls State representatives and senators traveled Thursday to the Capitol Building in Jefferson City to debate bills with the help of real-life members of the Missouri House of Representatives and Senate.

These 112 young women have spent the week writing, reviewing and amending numerous bills, each one with the goal of improving MGS for future generations. This trip is the culmination of all that hard work, granting them the opportunity to debate their bills in the same place the Missouri House and Senate take up session.

ALA MGS Rep. Triya Budipati of Benton City was one of a handful of students whose bill was chosen for the Capitol session. Her bill was the Ensuring Equality Act, which fought for equal treatment of Boys State and Girls State students. It aimed to even the playing field for MGS citizens by eliminating non-inclusive language and empowering girls to make their voices heard in their co-ed classes.

"The entire purpose of Girls State is to give women a voice and a place in politics, so coming here and finding that we're still put at a disadvantage just seems so counterintuitive," Budipati said.

Though her bill was ultimately

PLEASE SEE **CAPITOL**, P. 5

Editorials and commentary

Programs provide open environment for equity

BY CAMILLE CRANSHAW
ANTHONY CITY

Leadership programs like Missouri Boys State and ALA Missouri Girls State are especially valuable in their ability to foster civic engagements and channeling leadership skills in young students across all communities.

With nearly 1,600 students in attendance this week on the Lindenwood University campus in St. Charles, a look across the table shows why events like these are incredibly important to students of color and other underrepresented communities. MGS and MBS have really shown their commitments in inclusion and has high hopes for all its up and coming leaders.

Sometimes the lack of appearance to students does make events like ALA MGS a little daunting initially, but the open environment and attempt at equity has been incredibly gratifying for the Black students. This problem is not only present at MBS or MGS, but in other corporations around the state and the country. The future is present here at both programs, and representation should remain a responsibility to ensure that leadership programs truly reflect and serve the diverse populations of Missouri they aim to empower, ultimately leading to

more equitable and inclusive environments.

The program in general takes our state of democracy in the United States and opens it up for thousands of students to interpret it in their own way. What I think is so important about this concept, when bringing in people of color, is the fact that in the real world, not many get this opportunity.

When asked about his time here, Ayden Marshall from MBS' Richardson City, answered with "it's great," or "I'm having a lot of fun," along with just reciting encouraging moments from the past few days. He has really expressed himself here and felt there was "no need to diminish anyone's opportunity, we have all been given the same resources regardless of background." But he also said, "I do feel I have to work a little harder compared to my white counterparts."

Keilan Johnson, the newly elected MBS state auditor from Gambrel City, said, "It was disappointing not to see very many people who looked like me, but I know the guys around me were chosen for a reason, and I in no way want to take away their accomplishments." He added, "It's really a mentality, you have to promote yourself, programs like this really help."

Lucas Starks, MBS mayor of Carnahan City, agreed and said, "the program was transformative — they offer vital oppor-

tunities for underrepresented groups like skills, confidence, and networks that are crucial for leadership roles."

They were really willing to answer questions about MBS, approaching my questions with clear minds and even smiled when they reflected on their time. They stepped away from race almost as a whole, saying it's just about commitment and fighting for what you want. Girls felt the exact opposite, while the boys identified their differences, really throwing caution to the wind. The girls stated clearly across the board that was not the case at MGS.

Dashayla Bean of Lewis City said point blank that, "What brings us together is the fact that we are building a government, and race is such an important piece in America." She continued on saying this fictitious 51st state wasn't completely open to the imagination. Bean felt she had to cover up parts of herself to be more palatable to the majority in attendance, like wearing her hair in braids, restricting her thoughts and just overall walking around the campus with low confidence when she's usually an outgoing person.

Kendall Gethers of Clark City felt even though the idea of empowering women was pushed through the week, she couldn't help but feel left out and "unwanted." In her words, "Diversity, equity and inclusion isn't

really a focus, even though it's a huge deal in the United States." Race was something unspoken at MGS, and they didn't even feel acknowledged.

By this point, we've all assessed the great differences between MGS and MBS, and while thinking about this editorial, I stressed the experiences could be different because of the fundamental differences between boys and girls. Though it is rooted in us, I don't believe MBS and MGS needs to be capitalizing on it and ostracizing people for it. The foundation really needs to change for the future of this program.

It starts through assessment to understand the current state of the foundation. This can be sorted through, workshops, training sessions and more open and balanced discussions for participants. New policies to ensure active change and communication supported by leadership, like involving more Black and brown counselors, new partnerships with minority-serving groups and even more diverse speakers. These are all small changes that can be made to make a big impact.

Just knowing the problem and really seeing it as such is half the battle. Once this happens, we can create a better and more probable tomorrow to all citizens of Missouri.

Goodbye, Girls State

With one night left, it's bittersweet to look back at good times

BY SOPHIA JAMES
CRONIN CITY

It's almost the end of ALA Missouri Girls State. Can you believe it?

During this extremely short week, we've laughed, cried, cheered and not slept. So many girls have made connections with either their house moms, counselors and even their fellow citizens. It's extremely heartbreaking to think we only have one day left. One more late night, one more early morning and one more cheer for your city.

Every single girl here has made a difference whether it be in law, journalism, government or even running a business. Girls State has brought us all closer together. We have agreed on elected officials and their causes, we have agreed that after this we're all gonna need a nap, and that we've all discovered our love for "HOT TO GO!" Being here with all of you has been life changing, and so many girls agree.

Marlie Hatton of Covington City, when asked how she's enjoyed Girls State, said, "I've been really good at keeping a positive mindset and really getting out of my bubble, because back home I'm more quiet and kept to myself."

Hatton is a perfect example of a shy kid from a smaller town, breaking out of her comfort zone and making Girls State as great of an experience as she wanted it to be for herself.

Hatton's one complaint about Girls State was that, "It's really hilly on campus." Hatton understood Girls State can't exactly move mountains but she said maybe they could mention it to next year's girls as they prepare for this life-changing experience.

Jasmine Cooper of Adrian City said she's had a great time at Girls State. She said, "I've made a lot of really close friends in just the short time I've been here." In her

interview, Cooper told me how Girls State has been really impactful on her and she is going to miss not only this program but also all of the people she has met this past week.

This week has also proven just how easy it is to make friends. All you have to do is put yourself out there, and remember that another girl probably feels just as awkward and scared as you do, so embrace it.

Mary Rehagen and Dashayla Bean of Lewis City were super excited to be interviewed. They both seemed so happy to be at Girls State and neither one of them could stop smiling. Seeing them so excited to be here is astonishing because just a week ago we were all scared, we didn't know what to do or where to go and now most girls like Rehagen and Bean are planning to come back as future Junior Counselors.

Through this week, Bean said she has also "learned the privilege of failure." She is proud of herself and the fact that even though she didn't always succeed she kept on moving forward and trying new things. That is definitely what Girls State is all about.

Being in an environment where you feel alone is super-intimidating, but the scariness and cluelessness of it all is exactly what Girls States wants. Girls State isn't a popularity contest, it's an equal group of girls who are all leaders and will all change the world one day. You being here and stepping outside your comfort zone is one step in the right direction. Every girl who is here is a voice that will continue to fight for rights in and out of Girls State.

Equality, education and even equal wages are things that as women we must stand up for. We all can and will change the world, all it takes is one person to speak up to start a movement.

As we look around those assemblies and read these interviews, all of us girls can definitely agree that we will impact this world. We are all girls and as long as we keep supporting each other like we have done this week, we will truly — as Beyonce says — someday, "Run the World!"

Lack of mental health awareness causes concern for MBS citizens

BY JADRIAN THURMON
GAMBREL CITY

Mental health is a sensitive subject that isn't covered nearly enough, especially here at Missouri Boys State.

Mental health is extremely elusive in its open publicity. It's no secret men's mental health is underrepresented and less advocated for than it should be. This is not only due to the vast majority of men who struggle with talking about these issues, but also the harsh stereotypes that downplay the importance of recognizing these difficulties.

At the moment, MBS does not have any formal way of informing its citizens about mental health, while citizens at ALA Missouri Girls State does. The only weapon MBS has to combat such obstacles are the available counselors, many of which aren't directly qualified to fill the shoes of such a position. Putting these counselors in these positions as well is extremely unfair, as this can be very taxing on a counselor — maybe even triggering.

Statistically speaking, suicide rates are much higher for men than women. Yet in a society that stands strong in the ideology regarding the suppression of mental health issues — especially for men — the discussion is rarely known to occur. This itself is incredibly alarming. In addition to this, most mental issues lead to bigger problems, such as substance abuse, domestic abuse and even self-harm.

A study recorded and found that, overall, there is an estimate amount of more than 57.8 million adults age 18 or older that have a mental health issues. This represents 22.8 percent of the United States, more than one-fifth of our population. That means that one in every five adults are affected, with most never receiving help.

According to a UK study of 1,000 men, 40 percent have never spoke to someone about their mental health. This can be from a lack of availability from healthcare, restrictive environments and, most importantly, the lack of ability to reach out. This study undoubtedly shows one of the main reason the suicide rate is so high — instead of being encouraged to talk, they're forced into silence.

Noah Cerneka of Weyer City and Jemuel Lee of Weyer City, alongside other legislators, are currently working to at least make some progress forward to bringing more attention to this pressing issue.

Specifically, they're trying to get MBS to officially establish two on-site guidance counselors that are available to speak to at all times. To do this, they're working rigorously to pass legislative bills and consult committees to help make this happen.

This step alone is huge, and this simple acknowledgment is one of great renown. Yet this is only the first step of many. It's time that men's mental health, and mental health in general, is more advocated for, regardless of who you are.

It's time for a change.

MBS & MGS LEADER

Where you get your morning news at MBS and ALA MGS.



MBS & MGS



GIRLS STATE

LEADER

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Thank you



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By Kendall Kingery
Gambrel City

Building word search

GWWJLWNWETRETDKFRWXIKNRGL
TMACTDRGMLCQNBIIPTROLSXU
VQHPMCKWDYIFMMMWIOMMFXCZ
AEASTLICKGOLACZRTSHJYKEOQ
LRULHRIUAFQOTNHSJCLJKFRRA
HOATAPXRHNNKHUYXWQUVSOFOW
PQEORRRTDEGLEAUWQWAETHDOO
AEGLMJKFUSBJWJAIFJHSRDHET
RJVIOATRSWZGSIYJKPFREMMER
KSUNNVCOFTPSCHEIDEGGERGUM
EPRDBLNEDCRYGACTFNJWUKAVC
RPKEUCCMCEUGJAAAYRESLCCRJC
WIGNEICEUXUQDMYUONNTKKIKL
NFHWMSWRVGYWITARQBCXAIIZEE
SLAORCYPXRQNBHJPENJIPTQU
SOXOKOCOCXLSAGWARNERCIWIR
RWQDGBBYUYWWPHIXYSTUMBERG
OENUGBBUKNGUJEPLYRUYZMWR
RRTXBSIDTKGTPILXXYNCIBTNL
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TXJLLQYJETFNTGVVWMNIIRHWN
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Scheidegger	Lindenwood	Spellmann	Irwin
Reynolds	Stumberg	Eastlick	
Pfremmer	Flowers	McCleur	
Parker	Mathews	Warner	
Hyland	Harmon	Sibley	
Butler	Young	Ayres	
Roemer	Cobbs		

Jokes!!

**When is a door not a door?
When it's ajar!**

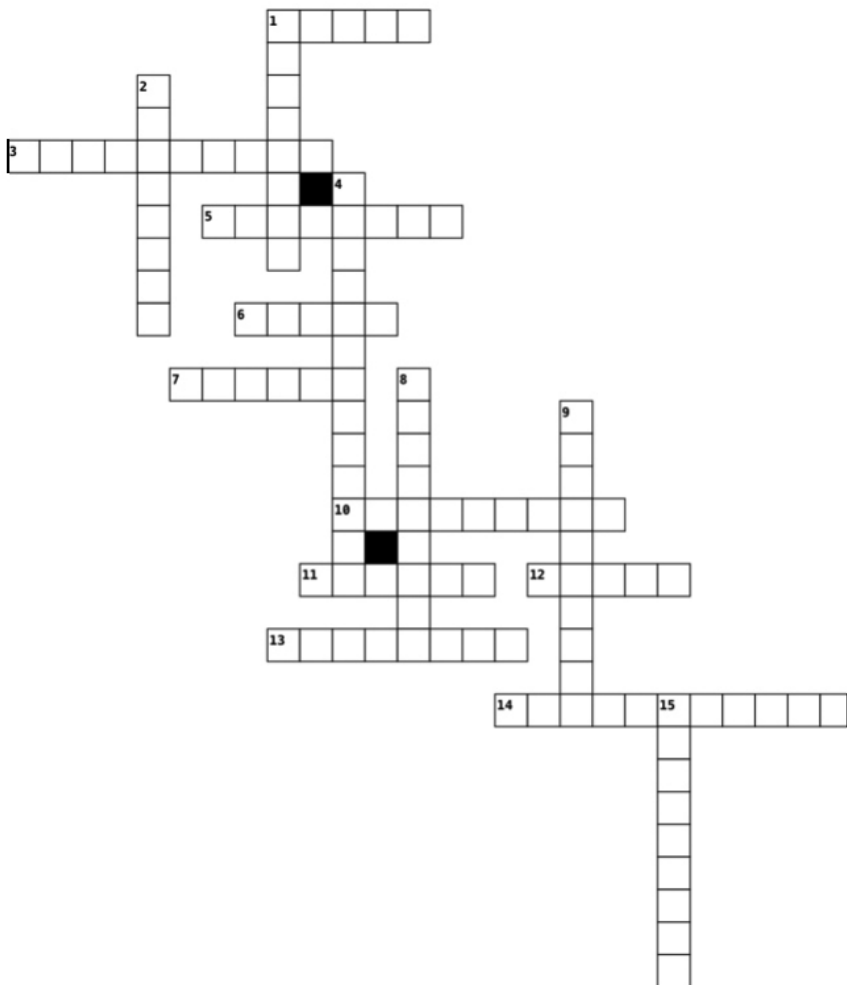
**Why is it hard to make friends in Antarctica?
Because you can't break the ice!**

**What was Forrest Gump's email password?
1forrest1**

**What do you call a bee that lives in America?
A USB!!**

By Kendall Kingery
Gambrel City

Crossword!!



Across:

- highest honor for a city/country
- Campus of boys state
- Current Capital city of Boys State
- form of currency
- location of courtrooms
- this position deals with funds
- arena
- leader of a city
- highest position in boys state
- Blue lanyards

Down:

- legion
- boys state
- supposed best lunch
- big event Thursday
- Red lanyards.
- What you are currently reading



Off the beaten trail

Yard games not as common but just as competitive at MBS

MBS ATHLETIC SCORES

	Thursday	Total
Pershing City	5	23
Whitfield City	10	21
Carnahan City	5	15
Duggan City	5	15
Carver City	5	14
Doniphan City	5	14
Ingle City	9	14
Kohn City	9	14
Clark City	0	11
Crowder City	5	10
Richardson City	0	10
Gambrel City	4	9
Lewis City	4	9
Boone City	0	7
Blair City	0	5
Weyer City	0	2

BY OWEN MARTIN
LEWIS CITY
COLTON THOMPSON
LEWIS CITY
KOLBY BOHON
WHITFIELD CITY
AND COLE VOGEL
WHITFIELD CITY

At Missouri Boys State, citizens are given a variety of options to choose from during their athletic time. Some of the more popular options include basketball and pickleball, but there are some lesser-known events that are just as competitive.

These lesser-known events are categorized as "Yard Games" and are becoming more and more popular throughout the Lindenwood campus.

Crowder City's Joe Coce on why he chose to play yard games: "I really enjoy playing corn hole and different games like that. I'm not a big fan of organized sports." Whitfield City's Ethan Hanks said, "I chose yard games because I am not a particularly athletic resident, but I still wanted to enjoy my athletic period."

While these games may not seem as competitive as some of the better-known sports, Coce said nothing could be further from the truth.

"I like Connect Four because it was really surprising how it got very competitive. Teams were talking and communicating their next moves," he said.

Some of the other games included corn hole, Kan-Jam, and Hanks' favorite, Jenga. Hanks enjoyed Jenga because it allowed him to "be able to sit while playing, (which) helped (him) to bear the intense morning heat." In extremely high temperatures, yard games offer a less physically demanding alternative during athletics.

When we asked what game they would add to the mix if given the choice, Coce and Hanks both answered "ladder golf" because they have both built personal connections to the game back at their respective homes.

The MBS staff has picked a great variety of sports to attend throughout the athletics period, providing everyone with an activity to enjoy.



MBS Store breaks record

Sells more than \$50K during session, offers diversity of products

BY HARPER COOK
GAMBREL CITY

Starting last Saturday when all of the Missouri Boys State citizens arrived, the MBS Store opened up for the week at Hyland Arena.

The store provides merchandise, snacks and drinks. The store not only had employees that checked out people after they shopped at the MBS Store, but they also have a store manager, Kerry Boardman. The store manager does everything that a regular store manager would do, such as restocking things when they run out.

"This year will be my eighth year working at the MBS Store during the week. It is a great experience, it's diverse and we get to provide the things that the MBS citizens need and want. My favorite part about working at the store is learning what jobs the citizens are doing and why they do those jobs," said Boardman, who is a former department commander of the Missouri

American Legion.

Many of the citizens have visited the store to get the things that they want and need. Some of the citizens go to the store to buy merchandise and some go to buy snacks.

The MBS Store has been so busy this week, citizens broke last year's record and have spent more than \$50,000 at the store, a figure that was announced during Thursday's lunch period.

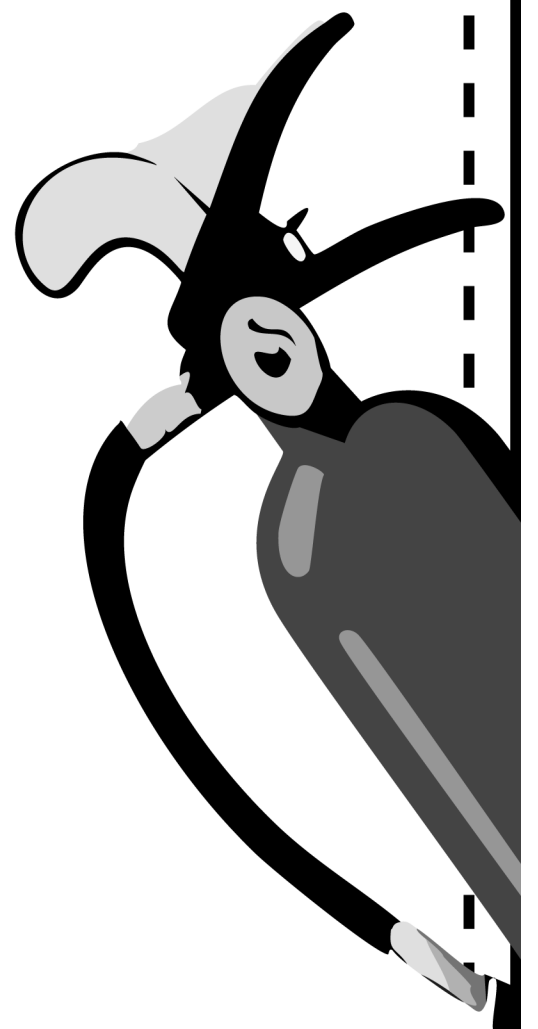
Every year, the citizens are required to buy their white MBS T-shirt from the store to wear for today's "Picture Day." This year, the white MBS T-shirt wasn't the only thing that was drawing the citizens into the store.

"The first time that I went to the store, it was pretty easy to find it and I was glad when I saw that it had a big selection to pick from," Miles Turner of Pershing City said. "My favorite part about the store is just all the things that they offer, and being able to keep everyone here fed with snack. Sometimes, people want a snack or to share a snack with a friend, and with the store they can do that. I also enjoy the fact that there is all the merchandise that way later in life we can show that we were here and show our family and our friends that we went to MBS."



FIRE SAFETY RULES

1. STOP, DROP, AND ROLL
2. HAVE AN ESCAPE ROUTE
3. CALL 911
4. GET OUT AND STAY OUT
5. FALL AND CRAWL
6. FEEL DOORS BEFORE OPENING



Documentary changes life at Girls State

BY ISABEL SAPP
LEWIS CITY

In April, “Girls State,” a documentary about our very own political simulation, debuted on Apple TV.

The film premiered to mixed reviews. It followed young women attending ALA Missouri Girls State in 2022 and their journeys to become governors, Supreme Court justices and active citizens.

Some critics lauded the documentary’s examination of mid-American sexism embedded in politics, whereas others found the film an eerie and accidental message on the dangers of American nationalism.

It seems here at ALA MGS, the documentary remains just as divisive, although for different reasons. Many cannot agree with whether or not the documentary is the reason for numerous changes at ALA MGS since the filmmaking process.

When “Girls State” was first made, the differences between ALA MGS and Missouri Boys State were visceral and apparent. The boys had no dress code, but the girls certainly did. The boys had no buddy system, while girls were frequently reprimanded for walking alone.

As the documentary points out, Missouri Gov. Mike Parson swore in the boys’ governor, but he did not appear at the girls’ inauguration. However, this incident itself requires context befitting its own article and is not a clear indicator of sexism — the Mis-

souri Supreme Court did swear in the girls.

For years, these systematic inequalities were unknown and ignored, much like all intrinsic prejudice. These discrepancies only reared their ugly head in 2022 for one reason: it was the first year that MBS and ALA MGS were held on the same campus.

Every year prior, MBS and ALA MGS were held at the University of Central Missouri and took place in separate weeks. Most assumed that the camps were the same, due to the similar content material and adjacent sponsors.

The fact they were so incredibly divergent shocked many 2022 ALA MGS attendees, such as Lily Medley.

“Boys and Girls State were surprisingly different,” Medley said. “One thing I noticed was gym access.”

During the 2022 session, only MBS had access to Lindenwood University’s athletic facilities and had sports or athletic events. Girls could not use the track or participate in sports. Still, gym access was not the only controversial variation.

“Girls were concerned with the dress code,” said documentary cast member Emily Worthmore, who now is a counselor at ALA MGS.

At the time of filming, the girls followed a three-finger strap rule, had to wear longer skirts and shorts and could not wear hats.

Maddie Rowan, another cast member from the documentary, believes the film “shined a light” on the inherent issues found



GIRLS STATE GAZETTE FILE PHOTO

Documentary filmmakers and crew (background) follow around Emily Worthmore (right), one of the subjects for the “Girls State” documentary during the 2022 ALA Missouri Girls State session.

in Missouri and reflected in its political camps.

“Sexism is society,” Rowan said. “As teenage girls, we learn to combat it.”

However, some girls from this 2024 session found the documentary a stark contrast to their own experience.

Grace Conner of Lewis City believes the documentary does not always reflect her time spent at ALA MGS.

“I just think there have been a lot of changes made,” Conner said. “It’s not very similar to what I experienced.”

Fellow Lewis City resident Dashayla Bean said those differences are felt thanks to each session serving as a home to different groups of girls.

“(It) was filmed when Roe v. Wade was first overturned, so people were expressing their political opinions more,” Bean said.

Charis Morasch, one of the ALA MGS legislative assistants, said the program has done a lot more to “make the experience the best.”

The changes Conner and Morasch allude to are the looser dress code, access to the gym, shared speakers and schools of instruction with MBS, the allowance of hats and the aligning of MBS and ALA MGS resources. However, unlike what many would assume, most staff members of ALA MGS do not attribute these changes to the documentary and the criticism of policies that came with it.

“Advocacy plays a role,” Rowan said. “But I don’t know.”

Rowan’s uneasiness comes from a single fact: most girls — and some staff — who attended this week of ALA MGS have not seen the documentary. Multiple girls from Lewis City, such as Jessica Rousch and Reagan Heath, said they didn’t watch the docu-

mentary due to not having access to Apple TV. How can it have a profound effect when most barely know of its existence, let alone have seen it?

Some staff and ALA MGS attendees reconcile this fact, believing the documentary exposed some issues, but the reforms the program underwent were prompted by extraneous circumstances.

Morasch asserts the reforms ALA MGS underwent were due to a “natural evolution.” She contended that staff are always searching for ways to help ALA MGS expand.

“These changes were ones we wanted to make because we wanted the citizens’ experience to be the best it can be,” Morasch said.

Morasch is not the only one who believes in the natural growth of the ALA MGS program.

“(The documentary) highlighted the changes,” said Anna Chellis, another one of the documentary’s cast. “But, as staff, I realized this program is constantly changing.”

Worthmore agreed ALA MGS “will evolve.” She said although some issues like the unequal buddy system and the lack of funding for ALA MGS are still prevalent concerns, the program will continue to move in a “positive” direction. She and Rowan also cited Director Macae Mickens as the primary catalyst for reforms at ALA MGS, as she is always trying to make “powerful” changes that ensure everyone enjoys their week at Lindenwood.

Regardless of whether it was or was not the primary reason for the changes here at ALA MGS, it is true the documentary is a unique perspective on our political simulation and has helped raise awareness of our program and women in political science.



Starring in the “Girls State” documentary are Maddie Rowan (far left), Emily Worthmore (second from left), Brooke Taylor (second from right) and Anna Chellis (far right). Posing with them is 2024 ALA Missouri Girls State citizen Isabel Sapp (center).

Capitol: Woodley aspires to be in House of Representatives

CONTINUED FROM P. 1

voted down, Budipati remains optimistic about her efforts.

“It isn’t personal,” Budipati said. “Other people have good ideas too.”

Rep. Lauren Nickel of Anthony City approached the session with a similar perspective. Her bill was the Sexual Well-being Act for Young Adults, which aims to provide more effective sex education within Missouri schools. For example, her bill sought to provide students 17 years and older with free access to protective measures — such as condoms — within their schools. Nickel’s bill was ultimately passed and officially enacted into law.

For Nickel, who is also one of the top eight finalists to be selected for Girls Nation, Thursday’s trip was the perfect culmination of her time in the ALA MGS House of Representatives, allowing her to make a direct impact on an issue that is important to her.

“Everybody was really receptive,” Nickel said. “When you’re passionate about something, it really means a lot more to you.”

Ultimately, Nickel sees serving as an ALA MGS representative as a great way to make a positive impact at Girls State.

“Be kind to others, but be true to yourself,” Nickel advised future ALA MGS representatives. “Stand up for what you believe in.”

In the Senate, similar debates were taking place. Sen. Jaelyn Woodley of Cronin City, who is also the Majority Party Whip, was ready to step out onto the Missouri Senate floor from the moment she applied to Girls State.

“I was fortunate to know exactly what I wanted to do before I got here: Be in the House,” Woodley said.

As an aspiring future member of the Missouri House of Representatives, Woodley sees the Capitol as her future workplace, and everyone inside as future coworkers and constituents.

For Woodley, Girls State is more than just a fun summer camp, it’s a valuable investment in her future.

“You get as much out of it as you put in,” Woodley said.



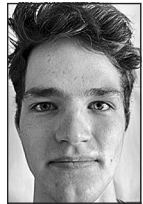
Serving his county

A day in the life of a prosecuting attorney

BY MILES DECK
DUGGAN CITY

Missouri Boys State gives all citizens the opportunity to participate in the various aspects of government.

Whether that job is in law enforcement or journalism, commerce or education, they all contribute to the democracy that has been formed throughout this week at MBS.



SWARD

For Owen Sward of Blair City, the law is of utmost importance.

Sward is a private lawyer following his successful completion of the MBS bar exam Tuesday. Sward also

serves as the prosecuting attorney for Gamble County.

Sward described his office's main role as "taking in people who have been caught by the police and committed crimes ... and actually making sure they pay for those crimes."

He also said the job is "a lot harder than people think."

There is a difference between catching people committing crimes and actually convicting them through a trial by jury, Sward said. Convictions lead to citizens having to "pay fines and punitive damages" for their wrongful actions; however, Sward said getting to this step is extremely hard. Persuading a jury is not easy, but Sward is confident that, with determination and focus, it can be done effectively.

Sward shared insightful advice for future prosecuting attorneys at MBS, including that "being able to speak and think on your feet" is necessary for success. He also said having the ability to "take in all of the information of a case and create an argument" is critical to winning that case.

Sward said he looks forward to serving his county through his judicial duties alongside his private practice, and he intends to continue to fight for justice here at MBS.

One man with much influence

Domenech's win earns respect from MBS citizens

BY AYDEN MARSHALL
RICHARDSON CITY

After Attorney General Ethan Domenech of Blair City finished his speech during the joint party rally at Hyland Arena, there was a distinct lack of applause.

Instead, Missouri Boys State citizens held their fists high and yelled "Silence!" Ethan's signature gesture was started during a Gamble County meeting where he had to quiet the crowd down. He raised up his fist with rigid posture and screamed "Silence!" in a military-esque fashion.

The Gamble County crowd proceeded to laugh and repeat the chant and gesture.

Domenech garnered broad support from Federalist Party and Nationalist Party members across multiple cities. His supporters imitate his signature stance and yell — not as a way to silence Domenech but to show their support.

"It's pretty exciting but also pretty scary that one man has so much influence, but the Nationalist Party has someone to stand behind. It just happened to be me, right place at a right time and well, silence," Domenech said.



Pictured above are the winners of Thursday's general election for the 2024 session of Missouri Boys State. They are (from left): Gov. Hayden Hradek (Nationalist) of Clark City; Lt. Gov. Ridwan Osman (Federalist) of Carnahan City; Secretary of State Solomon Naraine (Federalist) of Lewis City; State Auditor Keilan Johnson (Federalist) of Gambrel City; Attorney General Ethan Domenech (Nationalist) of Blair City; and Ronald Johnson (Federalist) of Gambrel City.

Finalizing state government

MBS elects its statewide officials

BY JADRIAN THURMON
GAMBREL CITY

Early in the afternoon Thursday, statewide elected officials for Missouri Boys State were officially presented to citizens.

Leading up to this election, MBS finally held its gubernatorial debate Wednesday afternoon. Federalists and Nationalists clashed hard as they went head-to-head at the debate, and the support for either party left everyone oblivious to who the clear

winner would be. As the evening went on, ideas out of both parties only left people more unsure about the elections results that were soon to come.

Early Wednesday morning, citizens casted their votes and waited eagerly through the day to finally figure out who would be their statewide candidates. When it came time, the 807 citizens of boys state marched to Scheidegger Theatre, rallied their parties and waited for the results to officially be announced.

Missouri Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft took the stage to announce the results, and did so with extreme enthusiasm. The room erupted with applause, cheers and chants as each position of the statewide officials was announced.

At the conclusion of the assembly, Nationalist Hayden Hradek, became the official governor of MBS. Despite this, Federalists still had something to say, as they took a two-thirds majority rule at MBS. In doing so, the Federalist Party officially solidified themselves in the role of taking the majority ruling in every single election at the 84th session of MBS, beating out the Nationalists every time.

Additionally, Gambrel City claimed a one-third rule within the Senate, claiming the most representation for their people than any other city in MBS.

Even still, the future of MBS is unclear, as the elected officials have big shoes to fill and policies to enact.

Park trashed by suspect

Mysterious 'Ben' allegedly vandalizes Carnahan City

BY WILLIAM HUNTER
CARNAHAN CITY

On Wednesday morning, someone vandalized the city rest area of Carnahan City — and the prime suspect is a citizen of Blair City.

That suspect is simply named "Ben."

Forrest Montgomery, the man who handcrafted the rest area during the canceled athletics period, was displeased to find the park in ruins after returning.

"I went to go to the rest area, found a chair on its side, found a rest area sign missing, our Lucas Starks memorial poster missing and our poster in honor of our athletic director, Caleb Carter, missing," Montgomery said.

Earlier in the day, an official from Carnahan City cracked down on Blair's "Stair Tax" that many people saw as unfair, including residents of the city itself. These citizens of Blair, when asked for an official statement of the rest area incident, had nothing to say except, "it was Ben."

Then they promptly put up a sign outside of their door which said, "Ben, The City Destroyer, was here."

During the questioning of these citizens, they conducted themselves in a joking manner, but insisted they were serious, so the integrity and truthfulness of those statements is up for debate.

When Montgomery went looking for answers immediately after the incident, he also came to the same conclusion of "Ben" being the vandal. This is because when he accused one citizens, they said, "Oh no, it was this guy named Ben."

Montgomery stated he believes this incident will actually unite Carnahan City instead of causing chaos.

"I really don't think it's going to have (repercussions) on us," Montgomery said. "I think it brings us together. It brings sort of a rivalry which is always interesting."

Montgomery is looking to take legal action when more information is uncovered.



'Hydration deprivation' takes over Boys State

BY ELI FERGUSON
CARNAHAN CITY

Adequate hydration has been a problem at Missouri Boys State throughout the week.

Each citizen has the opportunity to get a bottle of water at meal times, but they are encouraged to refill their bottles throughout the day at water fountains. However, there are simply not enough water fountains on campus, as each dorm building has one water fountain on the ground floor. Water is also sparse at athletics.

Simply put, there is not enough water to go around. As of the second breakfast shift on Thursday, water bottles were not available and citizens had to retrieve water from the soda fountain.

A lack of water is not something that should be occurring as we approach the peak of summer, especially with mandatory exercise.

Luckily, Sen. Samuel Shaw of Carnahan City has proposed a bill in the Senate to create more access to water in cities and athletics. The bill would lead to the creation of "Hydration Stations" in each city and at athletic event for citizens to drink out of or refill whatever container they are using.

Sen. Caleb Carter of Carnahan City is a co-sponsor of the bill, and he also argues for its passage.

"I think many people, in my city especially, just don't have access to water on the fourth floor," Carter said. "Having water on every single floor allows for easy access to water during very busy days."

The bill is being amended in the Senate's Public Safety Committee and is being reviewed in the House as of Wednesday.

The passage of this bill would create more access for water for the future generations of MBS to enjoy.

MBS & MGS LEADER

Where the weather is never wrong. Always right.

Boys, girls citizens reflect on busy week at Lindenwood

Confidently 'laying a solid foundation for a better tomorrow'

BY ELISE SEBACHER
CARVER CITY

KASSIDY HARDY-CARTER
CRONIN CITY

AYDEN MARSHALL
RICHARDSON CITY

AND EMME JONES
MARSHALL CITY

As the week comes to a close, we look back and see both MBS and ALA MGS worked very hard constructing their governments and building relationships, but what has really been going on all week and how did the programs differ from one another?

Upon arrival, various things were noticed within the dorms themselves, and these observations only became more exaggerated throughout the week. Boys Staters struggled with flooding, and came upon various other issues.

According to Gambrel City resident Ayden Munford, "Our toilet didn't stop flushing for a solid half-hour multiple times ... our closet door is broken in our room as well as similar broken closet doors or various pieces of furniture broken throughout the rooms."

Citizens of Girls State have expressed that their dorms are far more calm than the boys'. Their biggest problem has been the bathrooms, with malfunctioning toilets and dicey showers, and the temperature, with some girls kept up by the cold and some sweating through their blankets.

Despite issues, the enthusiasm was almost immediate upon first gathering in Hyland Arena for the joint assembly on Monday. Boys expressed to Leader journalist Ayden Marshall that the girls seemed much higher on energy, entering with chants and frequent applause, whereas boys from some cities had to come up with a chant on the spot to reach the same level.

The enthusiasm only increased when it came time for the first elections. Mayors from both organizations expressed their joy at earning an office. When it came time to make appointments, Mayor Jackson Houston of Blair City, MBS had this to say: "All the candidates running are all really good and bring many different ideas to the table. That's what makes the voting so hard for me."

Over at ALA MGS, Mayor Isabella Medley of Drake City expressed, "My main goal is to make sure everyone is included and that they feel the love of Drake city because I feel like all these girls have a lot of love to give."

At the time, it seemed being mayor was one heck of a job, but now that state elections are coming up, campaigning is all any candidate can seem to think

about. Harper Word, a resident of Carver City, ALA MGS, who is running for County Public Defender, had this to say when asked about her strategy: "I'll do it, it doesn't matter if it's on the municipal level, if it's on the county level, or if it's on the state level; I will raise my hand and I will do it."

This sounds like a pretty foolproof strategy, but Boys Stater may have a different one. John Honnold, the MBS Federalist Party Chair, said, "It was really fun to see all the different speeches and all the different people running for office...I think we'll emerge victorious."

All these skills have been picked up throughout the week in daily joint classes. These were the first time that Girls and Boys Staters worked together. At the law school, Emaline Little expressed how it was to work with boys. "I find it pretty unremarkable, honestly," she told the Leader. "I work with guys all the time...they're still cool people from what I've talked to." Attorney Brayden Bennett of Crowder City said law school was "pretty tough." He also said of the Girls Staters that, "All of them are pretty respectful. It's nice having some female interaction and it brings a little bit of sensibility to all the boys."

In the media school, a program with just more than 200 citizens, Abby Kirn of Carver City shared, "I think it's a very fun environment... you get to pick what you want to work and how you want to do stuff which I think is really fun."

Kirn writes for the MGS & MBS Leader, and attends Journalism and Media courses. So does Bacchus Lemberger from Clark City, a frequent host of the podcast and radio station. He said, "I find that the instructors are really helpful; they have a lot of great points and they have a lot of great examples whenever they're actually in the classroom and it's been a great time being able to learn some things from them for sure."

When asked how it was working with Girls Staters, he responded, "It's been amazing; all the ladies from Girls State are really energetic and they're really kind and welcoming." Bacchus also expressed he wishes the podcast was more accessible, and appreciates when people stop and listen to the team's hard work, which unfortunately doesn't happen due to timing at lunch and dinner shifts, as well as technical difficulties that have occasionally prevented the podcast from being aired at all.

Girls and Boys Staters only have one more day to make the most of their time on Lindenwood campus, and based on who spoke to the Leader, the experience has been varied. One thing is for certain: every citizen has expressed gratitude for the opportunities and the connections that have been made since arrival. Have a fun last day, citizens!

A call for unity between ALA MGS, MBS citizens

Sharing perspective on the benefits of their experiences

BY KENADY KRAPP
CLARK CITY

Though I have heard many viewpoints this week on believing that the world would be better if women "rose to the top," I think that the foundations of ALA Missouri Girls State and Missouri Boys State would be stronger if we pushed to work together.

I, as a young woman, would truly not be where I am in life if it were not for the great role models of the men in my life, and I often see in today's society that those men are talked down upon as if they have too big of a role.

There are some at ALA MGS that agree.

"I feel like we should do more stuff together; that way, we can be more prepared for our jobs," Alyssa Carver of Clark City said.

After interviewing Alyssa, I realized the crucial role that both boys and girls play in society as a team.

In the future, real-life jobs aren't going to be split by girls and boys. They are going to require us to work together and accomplish goals as a team. From my perspective — and I am sure many others — men and women were created to work together and hold different roles. With this, our cities, counties and state would become much greater and only go up from there.

After interviewing a MBS citizen, I realized that many boys would agree with this idea as well.

"I think that it would prepare us better for the future because in the real world, we work together for jobs and different things", Logan Robison of Carver City said.

Saying this, as the week has continued I have noticed more "togetherness" between both MBS and ALA MGS, but I still think that it could improve during the beginning of the week and for those who were not elected for those positions and miss out on those opportunities.

Dispute rocks Rogers

BY ANNA PEARL STANLEY
COVINGTON CITY

A feud has broken out between the cities of Covington, Lewis, Drake and Adreon, all housed in Calvert-Rogers Hall at ALA Missouri Girls State.

What once was just a rivalry between two cities has transformed into building-wide chaos filled with arguments and lawsuits.

A rift within Calvert-Rogers Hall was first noticed between Lewis and Drake City, stemming from disputes over who was the rightful recipient of the Spirit Flag. Lewis City was the first to win the flag at this year's ALA MGS session, as they were extremely committed to their own chants and cheers on Saturday. But by Sunday, Drake became determined to hold the flag next.

Drake City's dedication to their spirit made them the next chosen holder of the Spirit City flag. This enraged Lewis City due to their continued belief that Lewis was the superior city. In turn, a small squabble over a flag grew into a deep rooted strife between the two cities.

As tensions grew within the building, other cities began to join in. Covington City started to show disdain toward Drake as Lewis, their fellow Price County city, pulled them onto their side. Lewis' goal was to team up with Covington in order to win the flag back.

As the week went on and neither Lewis nor Drake help custody of the Spirit Flag,

vandalism broke out in both city's territory. Everyone residing in Calvert-Rogers was quickly aware of all disputes due to conflicting words written on the sidewalk leading into the building.

On Wednesday, a picture was taken of two Covington citizens holding both Adreon and Drake's stolen city flags. The picture, taken by a Covington City counselor, was accidentally AirDropped to an Adreon City citizen. What seemed to be a civil disagreement between two cities had now turned into pandemonium, which engulfed the entire building.

Enraged citizen from Adreon questioned citizens of Covington, threatening to file a lawsuit, and Covington citizens' rooms were searched for the missing flags, which were not uncovered.

"I had no clue the flags had been stolen until someone from Adreon screamed in my face," Ruth Shackelford of Covington City said, "I thought it was silly and in good spirits, but everyone took it serious and threatened to sue us."

As that altercation continued, a Covington City citizen stole a traffic cone from the streets of ALA MGS and decorated it as an alien. When questioned about it, the citizen claimed that Lewis was to blame for the stolen object. Once Lewis caught wind of this accusation, they filed a lawsuit against both the cone thief and the city as a whole.

Tensions amongst everyone housed in Calvert-Rogers prevail as citizens from different cities refuse to speak to one another and more lawsuits pour in.

Covington adoption approved

BY ABBY BROWN
BROEG CITY

Adoption rumors across ALA Missouri Girls State have been stirring ever since the rise of weddings and marriages. In Covington City, its mayor signed an adoption certificate made by two married citizens, Reese Cook and Avery Swanson, wanting to adopt another citizen, Preslie Todd.

"Roomies adopting Roomies" Mary Kate from Broeg City said.

Those from Covington City had the mayor sign the certificate confirming it's

possible here at Girls State. Mary Kate, and Kailee Austin from Broeg City say the 'child in question' doesn't have to pay taxes, and the "parent in question" may get a tax break. Although, in Covington City those who did adopt have not gotten tax breaks. Broeg City may be going about this adoption process differently. It poses the question if you aren't married, can you still adopt? So what if you're a single parent?

You may see more adoptions in other cities here at Girls state. Regardless of disputes and legality issues they may encounter, citizens may want to start a family.

Ruby rakes in revenue

BY LUCIE EPEMA
ANTHONY CITY

Outstanding Political Citizen candidate Ruby Willis from Anthony City makes Girls State history by becoming the first owner of the Campaign Store. Her fantastic application allowed for her to get the job despite the original requirements. Although the job required her to attend the School of Business and Commerce, the selection committee loved her application so much that they made an exception, allowing Willis to attend the School of International Affairs. Once she obtained the position, she had to gain \$75,000 to become the owner of the Campaign Store. She looked into different options

but was approached by Wolverine with an offer of investment. After setting up a meeting, Willis bargained to gain \$80,000 while Wolverine gained 60 percent revenue and 20 percent ownership. "I was very happy about this," Willis says. "I still had majority ownership, the final say, and veto power."

Willis' hard work has not gone unnoticed by her city and county. When asked how she felt about her nomination as OPC, she said, "I am very grateful for this opportunity that could truly be life changing. I worked really hard for this position so that I could promote and support others in a unique way." Willis uses more than just her positive spirit to make a difference at ALA Missouri Girls State.

Citizens think highly of veterans

BY JOELLE BARKER
BRADLEY CITY

During the week, veterans have been a key focus of MBS and ALA MGS. Citizens have participated in patriotic activities like flag-raising, the Pledge of Allegiance, and the singing of the national anthem. The Leader interviewed citizens asking them how they view those who have served in the armed forces and if they thought veterans approve of our country's trajectory.

Citizens mostly shared a similar view of veterans, honoring them and being thankful for their service.

"They put themselves out there to pro-

tect us and protect our country," Carter Younger of Lewis City said.

In response to the question concerning veterans' feelings toward our nation, answers were more varied. Ayden Marshall of Richardson City, believes veterans wouldn't approve of the direction of the country." (It is different than what it was before". Naiyah Wurdeman of Bradley City believed that veterans would approve.

"They fought for freedom and I think we do have freedom," Wurdeman said. "I really respect them. I believe I wouldn't be here without people that serve our country."

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Come get a stack

Water works

Clark City cursed by flooding pipes

BY ALLIE BENOIST
CLARK CITY

At 12 am on Wednesday morning in Clark City at ALA MGS, a toilet flood disrupted the sleep of the many citizens and counselors.

The victims of the flood in Clark City at ALA MGS were Alyssa Carter, Kathrine Bolte, Ava Lietz and Ephrata Endalkachew.

The group tried to turn the water off, but that did not solve the issue. Citizens and counselors found many ways to clean up this unfortunate event. They used buckets and empty trashcans to scoop the water down the shower drain. They also tried

to mop and dry up the water with towels. They were successful in their efforts and eventually went to bed around 1:30 to 2 am.

These resilient citizens and counselors are still active parts of MGS even though their night was interrupted by this tragedy. This incident shows that Clark City is a community that is there for each other no matter what.

This “curse” of the Clark Cities was started on the second night of the week when Clark City in MBS was affected by similar but overall worse events. Let’s all hope that there are no more incidents like this throughout the week.

Safety rumors in Covington City

BY REESE COOK
COVINGTON CITY

Covington’s mayor, Rebekah English, presented citizens with their city problem during Wednesday night’s city meeting: a TikTok star selling water filtration systems claiming that Covington water was unsafe to drink. A city problem is something that ALA Missouri Girls State staff give to each city mayor, and solving the problem will give them 50 points for model city.

English told citizens about a TikTok video that was going around of someone who was selling water filtration systems, claiming that it made Covington water safe again. This had led to some concern for citizens, leading to the city receiving calls asking about the safety of their water. A water safety check was performed, and all results came back normal, meaning that the TikTok was providing false information as a business strategy.

“I believe that a lot of the public is scared because of this misinformation. The best thing the city can do is come out with a statement backed by an expert

proving that our water is clean and safe to drink,” proposed Covington citizen Breleigh Moore. While many citizens agree with this option, some proposed also suing as well. “I think the best solution is taking action and filing a lawsuit against this guy who is trying to take our city down. We are a strong city, and we don’t deserve this,” said Maribelle Martin, another Covington citizen.

It was decided at the meeting that a lawsuit would be filed, but a public announcement assuring safety was needed as well.

“I believe that this is a very common problem that can happen all across the nation due to the rise of digital media ... and that we have to be careful what we see in the news and be sure to check our sources,” said Moore.

Citizens believe that this prompt was given to Covington due to how common this may be, and it was a great way to practice how to react to not only leading in a situation like this, but responding as well.

English concluded the meeting by saying, “I promise you guys, Covington water is clean.”

State candidates rally citizens with whistle-stop tours

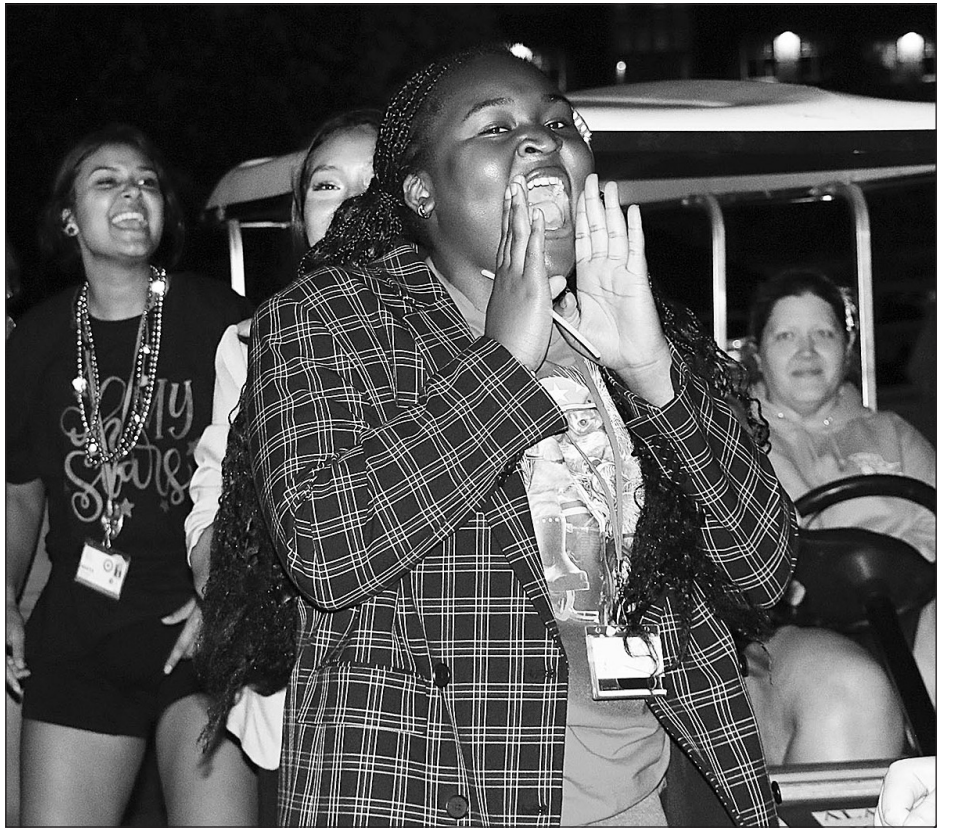
BY LUCIE EPEMA
ANTHONY CITY

State politician candidates campaigned through whistle-stop tours to rally citizens. Both Nationalists and Federalists sent golf carts full of their party’s candidates around Lindenwood’s campus to give their final words before the election the next morning.

Although whistle-stop campaigns do not have a long history at Missouri Girls State, they have been a way of campaigning since early US presidential elections. Presidential candidate Williams Jennings Bryan — who was one of the first to actively campaign. According to the History of Political Presidential Campaigns, he “traveled the country by railroad and gave speeches at various train stops.”

This is where the phrase “whistle-stop campaigning” emerged from. President Franklin D. Roosevelt more effectively used this campaign strategy, reaching 41 US states on his tour. Similar to Girls State campaigning, his tour generated enthusiasm from voters and carried him to victory.

When asked to share her opinion on the whistle-stop campaign, Camille Cranshaw of Anthony City stated, “It was fun! It was a great way to hear some last words from the candidates after the debate, and I could know who to look for when I vote in the morning. It was an exciting way to end the night.” Citizens showed their spirit for their party through chants and cheers led by their potential leaders, building anticipation for the results in the polls.



Lindenwood’s Sibley Hall: A hot bed of paranormal activity

BY MIA SEGOVIA
BRADLET CITY
BY COURTNEY JENNINGS
BRADLET CITY

Lindenwood University is teeming with rumors of a haunting by Mrs. Mary Sibley — the university’s co-founder. Many reports from students and faculty claim they have witnessed first-hand paranormal events with the Sibley ghost. Staff members described eerie experiences such as hearing footsteps to seeing unexplainable things.

Everything began when Mr. George Chaplin Sibley, the founder of Lindenwood, and his wife Mary decided to settle down into what is now known as Sibley hall. Mary had the bright idea to teach and house the young women living in the community. After being actively involved in the community for many years as an educator, she passed away on June 20, 1878, due to natural causes. Mary was buried along with the rest of her family on campus.

Her legacy continues as she haunts Sibley Hall. Before her passing Mary promised her students that she would always look after them. To this day, she haunts those who walk into her home, Sibley Hall. At times, you can even hear her playing the organ on the first floor inside the chapel.

Words cannot describe how haunted Sibley Hall is, many staff members demand-

ed to remain anonymous in questioning. Many of the faculty refuse to sleep in this hall, describing that they feel unsettled from the moment they walk in. Along with mentioning that they feel a “presence” with them at all times.

One unfortunate staff member had experienced a paranormal occurrence. Ms. Calli Larson explained that when she was in the showers, she heard someone at the door “opening and closing it, almost like playing with it” however when she looked nobody was there, or was there someone with her?

The fourth floor of Sibley is where all of the spine chilling moments occur. Many students and staff leave comments about hearing a woman talk, sudden stomps, and even someone going up the stairs. The fourth floor has gained such a frightening reputation throughout the Lindenwood campus.

“I walked in my assigned room at Sibley, and I was so scared that I quickly got my stuff and left to stay someplace else”, an anonymous faculty member said.

The atmosphere surrounding Sibley hall is so unnerving, that many people feel unwelcome walking inside so they steer away from it. Sometimes, if you’re lucky, you can even see the lights on in Mrs. Mary’s room on the fourth floor. If you ever decide to pay the Sibley Hall a visit, make sure to not come alone.



Diverse platforms discussed at gubernatorial debate

BY ELIZABETH NEWELL
DRAKE CITY

At this week’s gubernatorial debates, candidates at both ALA Missouri Girls State and Missouri Boys State had to firmly express their platforms to potential constituents.

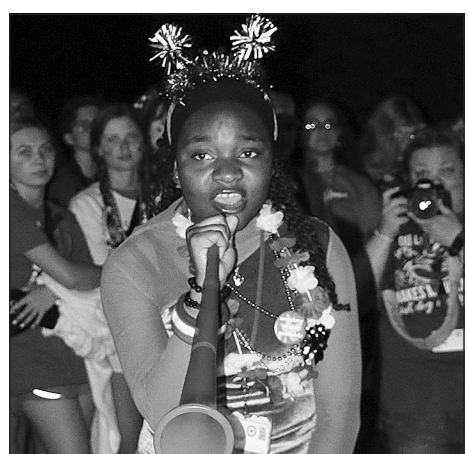
Those ideals differed between ALA MGS and MBS, though some shared values were on display. That includes bipartisanship, good communication and strong leadership. Apart from those, however, girls and boys had distinctly different priorities.

According to a poll conducted by The Leader’s Tony DeArmitt, the most important issue during the MBS general election was “working together” and the second most important was “squatting 600 pounds.” This refers to Hayden Hradec, the Nationalist candidate for MBS governor, campaigning by working out. The third most important issue was “expanding government agencies,” particularly the police department, followed by lowering taxes, promoting gambling and simply “saxophone.” The saxophone issue is related to Federalist Ronald Johnson’s campaign for treasurer, which involved him playing the instrument.

More issues Boys Staters cared about, in descending order of importance, are party loyalty; commitment; equal representation; “Scooby-Doo,” the significance of which remains unexplained; open-minded policies; the slogan “Better Call Sol” used by Federalist secretary of state candidate Solomon Naraine; “custard;” good communication; and originality.

An anonymous respondent to the MBS poll said he was looking for candidates “actually saying something unique and not just copying their opposition’s talking points.”

The issues that determined the general election at ALA MGS were a little more political. In a survey, most girls selected greater freedom in schedule and independent travel as the most important issue from the debate. Following that was greater equality between MBS and ALA MGS, then greater emphasis on diversity within ALA MGS. Techniques for more fundraising were the next most important issue, followed by the gubernatorial candidates’ stances on real-world issues. Other issues discussed by the candidates at the debates included waste reduction and providing more religious services to accommodate everyone’s faiths.



Conflict in Rauch Hall leads to legal action about living spaces

BY KENDALL RAMSEY
CARVER CITY

Due to a limited number of rooms, almost every ALA Missouri Girls State city has some overflow citizens who live on the floor above them. For example, a city may be on the third floor but have a few rooms on the fourth floor that house a small group of their citizens. This living arrangement has led to tensions within the residence halls — resulting in lawsuits, theft and rivalries. Especially toward the end of the week, citizens are getting tired and pressure is building up.

On Wednesday during a Carver City meeting, Clark city residents stormed in and served Carver City citizens with an arrest warrant. Clark claims the eleven Carver citizens living on their floor are guilty of tax evasion and defaming their city spirit. Clark City insists that since the citizens are on their floor they must follow Clark City rules.

Clark City Mayor Chasey Mitchell describes the Carver half of the hall as undecorated and not representing Clark well. Clark City Citizens believe this dam-

ages their spirit points. Additionally, Clark City asked for Carver City citizens to pay \$100 in taxes.

Carver City claims that though the area is a floor above, it is still part of their city and that Clark City should no jurisdiction over it. A border of streamers has been put up to divide the hall into Clark City and Carver City. Emaline Little of Carver City argued that there are obvious differences in what areas belongs to which city. Carver City having plates on their doors while Clark City has hot air balloons. Both cities also have specific posters indicating their allegiance.

The two cities went had a court hearing during government activities Wednesday and reached a compromise. Clark City dropped their tax evasion suit and arrest, with the conditions that Carver City residents agreed to decorate their half of the floor.

When Carver woke up Thursday morning, their city had been vandalized by an unknown city. It seems the tensions are still present within Rauch Hall, and who knows what will happen in these last hours of the 2024 session.

Gambling a force for good?

BY JACOB PETROWSKY
DUGGAN CITY

Gambling has been spreading through Missouri Boys State like wildfire.

Many cities and counties have tried to establish gambling as the backbone of their economies. Widespread gambling has citizens wondering how this trend started, and whether or not the public is as supportive of it as they seem.

Jonathan Rohrer of Duggan City was already an avid gambler when he arrived at MBS. He has frequent poker sessions with his friends back at home, and brought along a poker set to play with others at MBS. Rohrer has a unique take on why citizens gamble.

"Gambling is an escape from all the stresses of the elections and trying to get a good job and paying taxes; it also has the

potential to profit," Rohrer said. "...Duggan has already made it a large part of its identity. It's one of those things that always seems to be popping up."

Duggan City has used gambling to raise funds for the city while keeping taxes at a manageable rate.

Many MBS citizens share a more common viewpoint about gambling's purpose.

"It's about friendship," Andrew Higginson of Whitfield City said, "since gambling traditionally involves playing cards or making a bet with someone. Forming bonds is what MBS is all about."

Citizens interviewed from more than four different cities have all shared this or a similar sentiment as to why the popularity of gambling is so high. Creating connections with your peers is a part of MBS that is very commonly presented by members of the MBS organization. Gambling is used as

a tool by many to help create these connections, and it seems to be quite effective at it.

Citizens may still wonder where the idea of gambling at MBS originated from. Higginson believes that students attending MBS may have already wanted to introduce gambling when they arrived. Rohrer, meanwhile, thinks that it's a fun way to separate MBS policy from the real world. Others say it's a commonality at the program every year.

Whatever the case may be, the people believe that it creates more good than harm. Cities have used it to generate revenue, and many entrepreneurs have been able to establish successful casinos. It also has helped create stronger bonds between people that they will never forget. Citizens need to remember to gamble responsibly throughout the week, and not set themselves up for failure by gambling everything away.

Gaming on campus

BY SYDNEY PARTNEY
CLARK CITY

A game of Senior Assassin is currently ongoing across Lindenwood's campus at ALA Missouri Girls State and Missouri Boys State.

Senior Assassin is a game which involves participants trying to "eliminate" others by using different objects. Objects used are supposed to leave a mark — indicating a citizen is eliminated from the game. Eliminations are only allowed to happen place outside of school issued grounds and buildings.

Kennedy Krampf of Clark City expressed her love of the idea of this game, believing that it brings joy to the programs in a different way.

"I think it would be something fun for the citizens to do and gives the a way to interact, not regarding government," Krampf said.

Kai Dixon of Ingle City had his own opinions of the game.

"It's a fun game for citizens; the competitive side makes people closer. And it's always fun because most the time you win money," Dixon said.

There sure is lots of excitement for this wonderful activity happening here at ALA MGS and MBS!

Is Hugsy Next? A city in peril

BY ABIGAIL CROSS
CROWDER CITY

CHLOE PLYLE
CROWDER CITY

AND JULIA NEWLAND
CROWDER CITY

A Crowder City resident's stuffed dog was found brutally murdered Thursday afternoon.

On Thursday around 3:20 p.m., Crowder City resident Isabel Ball's dog was found murdered in room 204 at Crowder City, located in Irwin Hall. Fellow Crowder citizen Gabby Becerril — a roommate of Ball, the dog's owner — stumbled upon the

scene.

When entering the room, Becerril said she noticed a trail of blood leading to her closet door and notified her suite-mate, Emma Bodkin. Bodkin immediately notified city officials, including Mackenzie Arnold the police chief of Crowder. Many citizens rushed to the scene of the crime, so there is no telling how contaminated it has been.

"I swear I didn't do it, on my mother I didn't do it!" Becerril told The Leader.

When Ball arrived onto the scene, an altercation broke out in which Ball cried,

"He's special to me, Gabby! He was my everything!"

On the scene, a note allegedly signed by Becerril stated, "She snores ... to make her stop, I'm going to kill that dog!"

A handwriting analysis, comparing Becerril's to the note's, came back negative.

Becerril maintains that she had nothing to do with the dog, Wilbur's, untimely death, and that Anthony City was trying to "frame her" as both cities live in Irwin Hall. Becerril wondered if another animal, "Hugsy," might be next.

Other citizens agree with the sentiment that the case is suspicious and that Anthony City may be involved. The case is still under investigation, as Crowder citizens live in fear of a murderer on the loose.

Citizens seek more than slogans

BY ELIZABETH NEWELL
DRAKE CITY

At this week's gubernatorial debates, candidates at both ALA Missouri Girls State and Missouri Boys State had to firmly express their platforms to potential constituents.

Those ideals differed between ALA MGS and MBS, though some shared values were on display. That includes bipartisanship, good communication and strong leadership. Apart from those, however, girls and boys had distinctly different priorities.

According to a poll conducted by The Leader's Tony DeArmitt, the most important issue during the MBS general election was "working together" and the second most important was "squat-

ting 600 pounds." This refers to Hayden Hradek, the Nationalist candidate for MBS governor, campaigning by working out. The third most important issue was "expanding government agencies," particularly the police department, followed by lowering taxes, promoting gambling and simply "saxophone." The saxophone issue is related to Federalist Ronald Johnson's campaign for treasurer, which involved him playing the instrument.

More issues Boys Staters cared about, in descending order of importance, are party loyalty; commitment; equal representation; "Scooby Doo," the significance of which remains unexplained; open-minded policies; the slogan "Better Call Sol" used by Federalist secretary of state candidate Solomon Naraine; "custard;" good communication; and originality.

An anonymous respondent to the MBS poll said he was looking for candidates "actually saying something unique and not just copying their opposition's talking points."

The issues that determined the general election at ALA MGS were a little more political. In a survey, most girls selected greater freedom in schedule and independent travel as the most important issue from the debate. Following that was greater equality between MBS and ALA MGS, then greater emphasis on diversity within ALA MGS. Techniques for more fundraising were the next most important issue, followed by the gubernatorial candidates' stances on real-world issues. Other issues discussed by the candidates at the debates included waste reduction and providing more religious services to accommodate everyone's faiths.

Whitfield City wins softball game

BY RAIDEN SHAFFERKOETTER
RICHARDSON CITY

The cities of Whitfield and Richardson cities engaged in a friendly game of softball early Thursday morning, hoping to win a handful of Model City points.

Richardson City had just come off of a win in basketball, and they were hoping to keep that momentum going into their match up against Whitfield.

Whitfield was up to bat first. In the top half of the first inning, they put up three runs. Richardson matched Whitfield the next half-inning.

Going into the fourth inning, both Richardson and Whitfield were tied 7-7. However, that tie would soon be broken. Whitfield's offense exploded, putting up five runs to bring their lead to 12-7.

Once all three outs were recorded, it was Richardson's turn to go on the offensive. Unfortunately, they fell short.

Richardson ultimately fell to Whitfield with a final score of 12-8. This brings Richardson to 1-2 for athletic events, while Whitfield moves to 3-0. We'll see what both cities have in store for the citizens of Missouri Boys State in the near future.

Missouri Scholars graduates reunite at Boys State, Girls State

BY ISABEL SAPP
LEWIS CITY

Have you noticed something strange at Missouri Boys State and ALA Missouri Girls State?

Maybe it's citizens wearing odd pink shirts that have the words "tai so" on the front when you're pretty sure it's "tai chi." Possibly you see students talking about a mysterious "MSA" or saying they've met when they don't attend schools anywhere close to each other.

Well, there is an answer: ALA MGS and MBS are not the only places where Mis-

souri's best and brightest convene to grow as citizens and humans. Missouri Scholars Academy (MSA) is another, and one that has a special relationship with both programs.

MSA is a summer camp for gifted students entering their junior year. At MSA, a student has a major — a class they take for three hours a day — and a minor, another class taking up an hour of each day. Each evening has a speaker, ranging from professors to UN ambassadors to our very own ALA MGS and MBS citizens. Due to their efforts, many graduates of MSA have come to ALA MGS and MBS to continue their personal development and experience in their future careers.

"It's been super cool to meet up with some of my friends from MSA again, as well as become friends with people I didn't spend much time with at MSA," Casper Safranski of Doniphan City — who attended MSA in 2023 — said. "The MSA night definitely ...encouraged (coming here)."

Another MSA graduate also shared their insight on choosing to come to ALA MGS.

"Hearing there was another program (than) MSA available the following summer gave me something to look forward to," Hannah Carlson of Adreon City said.

Both Safranski and Carlson have agreed

that the similarities between MSA, MBS and ALA MGS also appealed to them.

"Both camps attract gifted students with a passion for learning," Carlson said. "Like Girls State, MSA encouraged students to get involved and make a difference."

"One similarity is the leadership," Safranski added, "and the incredible guests."

Safranski and Carlson are only two of the many MSA graduates who have made a new home at ALA MGS and MBS. So next time you meet an MSA graduate, yell "Boomba!" (Fun fact: they will yell "Hey!" back).



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

Enjoying a Thursday night at the State Fair



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