



“One Generation of Leaders to the Next”

By: Kendall Williams, City 3, McCray

Leadership has always presented itself in many ways -- service, inspiration, and even legacy. Leadership has been the theme here at Alabama Boys State and Wednesday two leaders were inaugurated and two former leaders were represented in their legacy of leadership.

As both Mason Laney and Arman Sheffield took the stage that night, the atmosphere seemed different. The two political parties of the Alabama Boys Stators were indistinguishable. Putting aside their different political ideologies and beckoning a spirit of brotherhood the two parties were eager for the inauguration. This brotherhood would now be led by two great young men of exemplary servitude and unprecedented strength -- Governor Laney and Lieutenant Governor Sheffield.

This same spirit of brotherhood was something former Alabama Boys State Lieutenant Governor Nicholas Albright spoke about when asked how the legacy of leadership would be handed down by the former governor and lieutenant governor in an interview today stating that “The legacy of leadership will not just be handed down to the governor and lieutenant governor, but will be handed down to all the boys of Alabama Boys State.”

Former Governor Darius Thomas also added that as the newly elected governor and lieutenant governor, “You should be conscious of who you are because you are in an office that is a representation of the entire state of

Alabama because people look up to you.”

Thomas is confident that the newly elected governor and lieutenant governor will lead Alabama into a “bright future.”

Laney agreed with Thomas and says, “He feels a lot of responsibility in duly representing the state of Alabama and the young men that elected him to this position.”

Newly elected Sheffield added, “[Laney is] ready to lead Alabama Boys State and represent the state of Alabama in a new light in Washington, D.C. this July.”

Leadership Through Gospel Music

By: Dalton Cates -City 2, Hayes

There are over 7.5 billion people on this planet and every single one of them can make a difference. Everyone has the ability to be a leader. A leader encourages others to assist in solving a problem instead of pushing the problem on to someone else. Leaders will always try to do the best that he or she can for others, even if they risk looking foolish in the process. Varied skills for being an excellent coach, working hard to encourage and build people up, and trying to assist others are the qualities of a great leader. There are many ways to be a leader, but being a boss is not one of them. A leader who has had a tremendous influence on my life is William “Bill” Gaither. Bill and his wife, Gloria Gaither, make music that will knock you off your feet. They, and their homecoming friends, make magnificent gospel

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music together. I have been to Gaither's concerts and each time, I feel inspired to go do great things all in the name and Glory of God.

Bill sings, "Because He Lives, I can face tomorrow. Because He lives, all fear is gone." Bill and Gloria wrote this together for their hit single, Because He Lives. This song is really close and sentimental to me. I first heard this on an old record of my grandmothers. If I had the opportunity to sing on the road with Bill and his friends, I would take it any second! He is a great man that creates great music! I would estimate about ninety-five percent of the songs on my phone are written and/or sung by Bill Gaither and his friends.

Those who strive to do what is right and best for everyone, make the best leaders; even if they look foolish. In my opinion, everyone is a leader, but those who choose to help others achieve the most. One must have the will and want to lead others on the right path in order to be a great leader.

Parting Thoughts of a Boys Stater

By Jackson Weisskopf City of Jeffrey

Upon the last day of Boys State, I have reflected over all I have learned about leadership and about the people of Alabama. I am eternally grateful for the speakers and the staff spending their time to serve students from across Alabama and will remember their dedication to the future of Alabama. But I can not say that my experience at Boys State was pleasant the whole time here. As such, this is a memoir of my experience.

I'll get the bad stuff out of the way. Some of the representatives of Alabama schools showed a minimal amount of respect towards those serving us, whether it would be the speakers, food staff or counselors. They shout during speeches, curse constantly, and fall asleep during sessions. Then there were the elections. Half of the speeches contained references to the video game Fortnite, and often were just the ramblings of people who did

not give a crap about government. They were just looking for something to put on their college resume.

However, the pros I have encountered outweigh the cons of my experience. Apart from the ill-mannered students, I have met some highly intelligent, well intentioned students who truly are impassioned by the government and want to make the world a better place. All of those who actually won offices were such students. The programs for the students are fun and are extremely insightful to the philosophy of our government. The speakers were genuine, the food was delicious and my counselors were relatable, and experienced in their fields.

If I am completely honest, most of my complaints on Boys State are just due to the nature of teenagers, and I now understand that those things will always be precedent in dealings involving juveniles, and to blame Boys State for such is not my intention. Overall, I have loved my experience and am extremely thankful for my time here.

AL Boys State Blog

By Seth Self, City 7, Limbaugh

As Boys State delegates began to arrive this past Sunday, one common theme was prevalent among those who have attended in the past - which this week would fly by. An equally prevalent response by delegates was to scoff at those remarks. However, as Boys State begins to draw to close, it is clear that the original statement was the truth.

Today marks the last full day here at Boys State. In just one week, we've accomplished some great things! The elections have been conducted, the campaigns won; we have formed our own government and made our mark on the long history of this week. All of these things fail to compare to the knowledge we have learned and many things we have experienced. All of this has been done with one goal in mind: to grow our character and become better leaders.

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This week has been filled with speakers, debates, elections, government and much more. Though perhaps more significantly, this week has been filled with learning experiences and many memories that we will always remember. From the memes we've created, to the memories we've made, to the friendships we've forged, this week will be one we will surely never forget.

—Boys State Weather Report—

For Saturday, June 2, 2018

By *Evan Rainey, City 6, Jeffrey*

- (High/Low) Temperatures:

92F / 73F

- (Chance of Rain for Saturday): 20%

- (Humidity): 66%

- (Wind): Southwest 5 to 10 mph



Data via Weather.com

**--Boys State Sports Results--**

(from Thursday, May 31, 2018)

By: *Evan Rainey, City 6, Jeffrey*

SPORT: CITIES: *(Winner in Bold)*

BASKETBALL-

(1) Harper vs (4) Copland

(10) Cook vs (6) Jeffrey

(9) Barnett vs **(2) Hayes**

(3) McCray vs (5) Cooper

SOFTBALL-

(1) Harper vs **(4) Copland**

(10) Cook vs (6) Jeffrey

(9) Barnett vs **(2) Hayes**

(3) McCray vs **(5) Cooper**

VOLLEYBALL-

(1) Harper vs (4) Copland

(10) Cook vs (6) Jeffrey

(9) Barnett vs (2) Hayes

(3) McCray vs (5) Cooper

SOCCER-

(1) Harper vs (4) Copland **TIE**

(10) Cook vs **(6) Jeffrey**

(9) Barnett vs **(2) Hayes**

(3) McCray vs **(5) Cooper**

ULTIMATE FRISBEE-

(1) Harper vs **(4) Copland**

(10) Cook vs **(6) Jeffrey**

(9) Barnett vs **(2) Hayes**

(3) McCray vs **(5) Cooper**

