

The Citizen Builder

Editor Thomas Sigler

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Boys State Mayors Take the Lead

Kaden Sledge



County Elections Complete

Ethan Coeur



Yesterday, the County elections for the 87th Alabama Boys State took place. The positions of Probate Judge, County Commissioners, Circuit Clerk, Revenue Commissioner, Sheriff, District Attorney, and Coroner were voted upon and selected for the counties of Boys State. Each delegate was given around 30 seconds to speak with many of the speeches electrifying the crowd of voters. Altogether, 56 people have been voted into office and now work in county offices.

Day one at Boys State was a long and exciting day for all of the Delegates. On Monday morning, each City started off their day by electing their city government positions. The position of Mayor in each city is one of the most important and respected roles throughout all of Boys State. In each city one delegate is selected to lead their city though the whole week in hopes of winning the best award out there which is, The Best City Award. Mayors are responsible for the daily

operations of their cities and making sure they are where they need to be. The 2024 Alabama Boys State Mayors for each City are, City of Harper: Ryan Crawford, City of Hayes: Jacob Woods, City of McCray: Amari Parker, City of Copland: Bryce Boothe, City of Cooper: Sam Cochran, City of Jeffery: Michael Madera, City of Frazier: Dylan Germany, City of Stacey: David Hudry, City of Perry: Bryant Morrison, and City of Cook: Donavin Antwone.

An Interview with the Judge

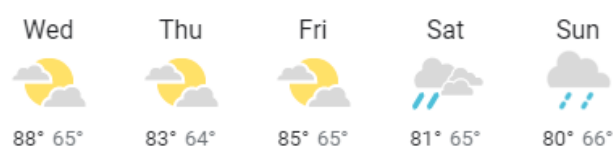
Demondre Dubose



Judge Pete Johnson has had the distinct pleasure of being an integral part of Alabama Boys State for the last 6 decades. When asked what made him want to participate in this prestigious event for such a long time, Judge

Johnson talked about changing the lives of delegates, adding that "The opportunity to help young people be better people is a chance that can't be missed and the delegates that get to participate are the cream of the crop". Participating in this event for such a long period of means changes and Judge Johnson has seen plenty saying "we marched everywhere, the times then were more strict. Today, we allow the delegates to have a sense of control which has helped tremendously in terms of leadership" Finally, I asked Judge Johnson what was one piece of advice that he would give to delegates throughout the week? He advised us to read and stay informed, adding "study and read more than just one website for information, explore other perspectives and you will succeed with the amount of new knowledge that you have." Great words from an even greater man.

5-DAY WEATHER OUTLOOK



Clint Usher Addresses Delegates

Brice Hubbard

On Monday, May 27th 2024, the 2024 Boys State Delegates got to listen to Former Boys Stater Clint Usher. Clint Usher is a 1994 Samford graduate with a degree in Public Administration. He told them about his life and motivated them to "Be Driven by the power of a dream." Clint is a busy man but

always makes sure he can arrange his schedule to talk to anybody anywhere. Clint was born on November 28, 1971. He attended the 57th Boys State in 1971. He has been quoted saying: "Hope alone is not a strategy, harnessing it will help you achieve the impossible." "Life is not meant to make us bitter, it is meant to

make us better." "Everything rises and falls on leadership." "It is not over until I win." "I love Spider-man." "I love Superman." "I love Batman." "Walk on, no matter what. There is no excuse." "There has never been anyone born like you, and after your time is up, there will be never be somebody born like you again."

What to Look Forward To This Week

Akaree Barbour

The 87th Alabama Boys State is halfway through, but the fun is just beginning. Wednesday will be the big day for boys since Wednesday is the debate for the nominated officials from the Federalist and Nationalist party. Wednesday will also hold the State elections after the debates. The boys will elect their Governor and their Lieutenant Governor. Along with that they will elect the

State Secretary, State Treasurer and many more state officials. Moving on this Thursday will be the finals for all sports and academic bowl. Also on Thursday we will meet with our interest groups to prepare for Friday and with the environmental group taking a field trip for their session. For Friday we will all take a group trip to the capitol Montgomery and hear from Governor Kay Ivey along with many mock

trials and government sessions such as the House and Senate have a mock debate and the Judicial have a mock trial. Lastly we will close out Boys State with a Graduation and Awards Session giving out many scholarships in the names of many people who helped make this week so special for us.



General Election or General Ejection?

Gage Franklin and Thomas Mullins

The number of General Election candidates, and the candidates themselves have surprised everyone from both sides. The most important being those of the Governor Election as the winner of that title will be the delegate who has the most say in how Boys state will be run. The nominees for the office of Governor are Solomon Arnold (F) and John Alford (N). An astonishing commitment was made by L.T. Governor nominee Rohan Parekh saying that

he will shave his head if he wins governor! Speaking of commitment, the federalist party has adopted a clever way of passing the time, shadowboxing! Many delegates are baffled by these results causing reactions of shock and disbelief as well as many questions among those on campus. Campaign speeches for the Judicial Branch Tuesday afternoon shall determine the direction of their careers. But until next time, let's see who gets elected and who gets ejected.

And in regards to ejections, out of roughly 23 candidates for Governor (15 Federalists and 8 Nationalists) only 4 went into the run-offs, 2 for the Federalists (Solomon Arnold and JP Mitten) and 2 for the nationalists (Dawson Duncan and John Alford). People are especially stunned by the defeat of Duncan Dawson as he was the popular choice to win the Nationalists nominee for Governor.

On the Go with Anthony Daniels

Cole Myers

Alabama House of Representatives Minority Leader Anthony Daniels met with Boys State delegates Tuesday in one of the most memorable general sessions to date. Stopping by through a Zoom call, since he was preoccupied in supporting a recovering fellow representative, Daniels highlighted the processes that leadership and persistence holds in all levels of government. Displaying his love for the House through his sporty House jersey, Daniels showed what it meant to be

dedicated to what one loves. He explained his own personal experiences in running and representing the people of Alabama, inspiring the Boys State candidates to do the same. Earlier this year, Daniels and another candidate, Shomari Figures, went to a runoff to represent the Democrats 2nd Congressional District. The recently redrawn congressional district map for Alabama was a large topic of debate, one which both candidates wanted to capitalize upon. The runoff, after a long

process, ended with Daniels losing to Figures, yet it sealed his desire and love publicly to represent and stand for the people of Alabama. Daniels drove the Boys States delegates toward doing great things for their state and country by promoting identity and purpose in all that one does. This amazing runoff candidate came at a perfect time to inspire the Boys State runoff candidates, who were later in the day elected to represent their cities and Alabama as a whole.

A Look Into The Theatre Thus Far

Michael Swinford

Counselor Grace Wagstaff teams up with Boys Staters to coordinate a performance by the end of the week! The boys were to agree upon a topic to explore and they selected "Human Nature." On Monday the boys separately wrote lines for the script related to their topic and chose to incorporate various

quotes from prominent figures of both past and present. Tuesday started off with stretches and exercises to improve the boys' situational awareness, vocalization, and overall unification. Grace then introduced a coherent script with all of the lines they had provided! The rest of the day was spent assigning the lines to

individuals, brainstorming ideas to expand upon the script and scenes for the play, and simply practicing their lines and getting the hang of acting! We're excited to see how they'll improve upon their ideas, and we expect a great performance at the end of the week!