

The Citizen Builder

Editor Thomas Sigler

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New Leaders, New Game



Kaden Sledge

Wednesday night was a night the Boys State delegates were looking forward to all week. After days of speeches and campaigning, it was time for the vote to see who our 2024 Boys State class officials

were. At the end of the night on Wednesday all of the cities met back at Smith Hall Auditorium for this year's inauguration. Delegates had the honor of having Judge Chris McCool on campus and swearing

in our new officials for this year's class and also ending the night delivering some advice to all of the delegates. Congratulations to all of the boys that participated in this year's running for office.

Legislation

Akaree Barbour

From changes to the death penalty to having ice cream in your back pocket, the House of Representatives has been at work with the Senate either sending Acts back and forth and some even making it to the Governor. The house has had a total of 7 Acts sent to the senate, 5 Acts denied, and overall a total of 43 acts which are still in the working. But within that whole process it was pretty rocky getting those either passed or denied. At one point a group of guys tried to "Motion for Vacancy of the chair". The reason behind this was unknown, and this act was seconded by some other people but ultimately failed. During the debates of the delegates there were some heated discussions on the topics of the death penalty whether or not to make it illegal which is called "The Second Chance Act", the regulation of cannabis which was passed in the house and sent to the senate, and lastly the choice to change the state dessert to Vanilla ice cream which is called "State Dessert Act". One Act was passed that could help Boys State with elections, though. The Visual Voting Act, which is the idea of submitting a picture and a short description about yourself for elections. This would be submitted before Alabama Boys State starts and would not only help put a name to a face but if a short description is submitted before then it would help you get a description on each of the candidates and help the candidates prepare and have what they already want to run for instead of picking it when they get here.

The State Board of Ed

By Ethan Coeur, Thomas Mullins, and Brice Hubbard

On Wednesday, the State Board of Education met for the first time in order to discuss how to fix the abhorrent state of the Alabama education system. One major problem in the Alabama Education system is funding and allocation of funding. Schools in Alabama are not paying teachers enough. In order to fix this, the Board is planning to increase funding exclusively for teacher pay. Along with this, the state will be increasing teacher qualifications and it will be expected that as pay increases the skill of the teacher must also increase. The State Board of Education has found that many student behavior issues could be related to the absence of a positive role model. To combat this, we have created mentorship programs for students and teachers. We believe that students should mentor lower grade levels to foster connections. Teachers also deserve their own support groups due to the intense mental pressure of their occupation. The final problem is the horrible quality of the ELL program.

ELL (English Language Learner) is the program that teaches kids that are not fluent in English how to speak it. The biggest problem with the ELL program is that too many teachers can't translate due to a lack of speaking Spanish. To fix this, the teachers will have to be trained and retested through the state to ensure their quality as a teacher.



5-DAY WEATHER OUTLOOK

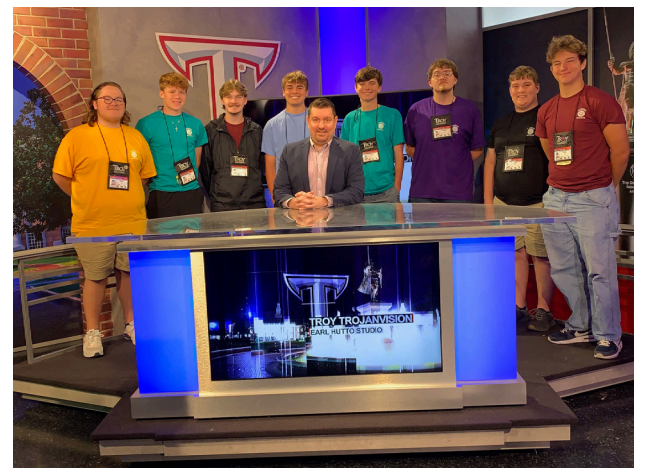


News Media Interest Group

Michael Swinford

Boys who participated in the “News-Media” interest group this week learned about principles of both sports journalism and general journalism, toured the Trojanvision Studio in Wallace Hall, worked on a news project together, and visited the WSFA News Station! On Wednesday night, the boys met up with Journalism Professor Hanna Cooper to discuss in-depth about sports journalism and how one’s mindset and knowledge contributes to their success and later discussed the other major spheres of journalism and what all may be applied to them. The boys visited the Trojanvision News Studio with Troy’s Director of Television Aaron Taylor on

Thursday morning and got a significant amount of insight on how good Troy is for Broadcast Journalism, how the set operates, and even got to try anchoring and meteorology! Production Coordinator Paige Ray worked with the boys Thursday night in order to produce a news packet as well as a newscast for broadcast on Trojanvision. On their last full day of Boys State, boys in news-media participated in a trip to Montgomery’s WSFA News Station to tour, meet prominent figures at the station, and enjoy the amazing view of the Capitol building!



Election Results: At last.

Gage Franklin and Brice Hubbard

At last, one of the most significant elections is over. The Suspense that reigned on everyone has now become a wave of shock and for some, jubilation. Boys State delegates casted their votes for the next governor, lieutenant governor, and various legislative, executive, and judicial positions on Wednesday. There was one nominee for each post from the nationalists and the federalists party. Tuesday night continuing into Wednesday morning, All of the Alabama Boys State delegates for 2024 were addressed by the two contenders for

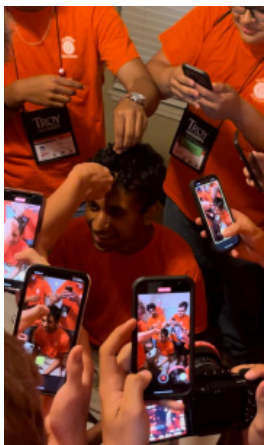
each position. Then followed a Debate between all positions. The delegates then returned to the polls to cast their ballots for their preferred contender. The dedicated Citizen Builder team brought you the full results in yesterday’s edition, now we hear directly from the Governor and Lt. Governor: Governor: Solomon Arnold (F)- “I am so stoked to serve them as the 87th annual boys state governor. Let’s get to work!” Lieutenant Governor: Rohan Parekh (N)- “My first reaction was actually shock more than anything, when I found out first thing I

did was call my mom and the second thing was to express my gratitude to all those who got me here, it truly is a big honor. To my fellow delegates of 2024 Boys State. I appreciate each and everyone of you for your advice, support, and just being genuinely good people. I want to thank each and everyone of you again and say, respect is something to be earned, not given. I hope over these past few days I have earned your respect because each and every one of you has mine.”

Pledging Offices—and Haircuts

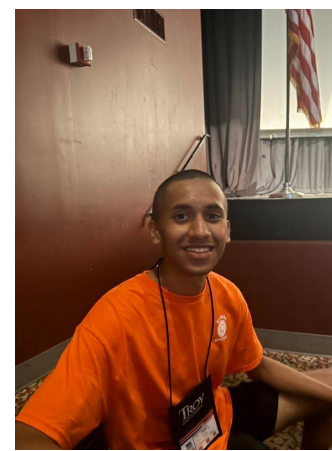
Ethan Schmidt

Wednesday night marked a crucial moment in Boys State: the inauguration of the 2024 statewide officers. Among those sworn in was Vestavia Hills resident Rohan Parekh, the 2024 Alabama Boys State Lt. Governor elect. Parekh’s campaign started upon arrival at Troy University midday on Sunday, hopping into dining hall congregations and crafting rapport with the delegates. Determined yet weary, it took Monday evening’s party convention to spread Parekh’s name across the Nationalist party. Among the various policies Parekh pledged to enact in accordance with the Nationalist platform and a customary job



at the Feds, Parekh decided to take his 1.5 minute spiel a different direction: he vowed, in front of the approximately 250 member body, to shave his head. “I want to show my dedication,” Parekh explained the following night at the general session after a successful runoff election earlier Tuesday morning, “to all of you [Boys State delegates].” Prior to Wednesday’s debate between the Federalist and Nationalist candidates for Lt. Governor, Parekh acquired a new alias: “The Buzz Cut Kid.” This name, as Parekh would come to express, was not quite the ground he wanted to be elected on. A seasoned Public Forum debater, Parekh highlighted several policies between his opening statement, debate-style question responses, and closing statement, including education reform, 2nd amendment expansions, and building support systems for law enforcement. The idea of the haircut, Parekh explained, was more a vessel by which he wanted to express his dedication to his

policy. The polls would work in Parekh’s favor by Wednesday afternoon, and he wasted no time in



following through with his promise. Parekh showed up to the Senate Thursday morning as a new officer, and with a new appearance. In less than 24 hours, Parekh is already proving his passion for the cause. He will represent Alabama alongside 2024 Boys State Governor Solomon Arnold at Boys Nation

in July. Let us all wish him luck (and speedy hair growth!).

The Room Where It Happens

Demondre Dubose

The Alabama Boys State Senate began their first legislative session on Wednesday, May 29th, 2024 in the Trojan Center Ballroom A.. The session, while short, was a promising start to the Senate as two pieces of legislation were successfully passed with one of these bills focusing on expanding

mental health services in public schools. The senators, despite being new at their job, showed poise, intelligence, and enthusiasm when debating over the bills and asking thought-provoking questions on the effects of the bills as well. Lieutenant Governor Rohan Parekh presided over

the session, only hours after his win in the general election and the following inauguration. While new, these senators have shown immense promise and it will be interesting to see what bills get passed in the room where it happens.

Opinion: Contesting Common Sentiment

Hunter Mears

For starters, both candidates want to improve education by funding it further and by bringing trade schools to impoverished communities although Alabama has one in its most crime-ridden area, Bessemer. I have commonly heard that funding the public school system through a lottery will bring a huge benefit to the average Alabamian. According to taxfoundation.org, less than 10% of winnings are withheld for tax purposes, so hypothetically if a \$1 billion lottery jackpot were won today, only \$100 million at best would go to the state government. This pales in

comparison to the \$9.3 billion in the Education Trust Fund. Not to mention, this would only lead to a legal slippery slope that may allow casinos in the state of Alabama, and it is strictly prohibited as of Section 65 of the Constitution of the State of Alabama. Governor Arnold says he is going to give tax cuts to businesses to fight inflation. The problem with this is that it depletes the total tax dollars the Alabama state government will have, allowing a surplus in liquid capital to businesses that could consequently make inflation worse due to a sudden jump in economic growth. This policy could only

hope to slow the bleeding. It does not seal the wound, but it rather opens up another one. The Nationalist Party candidate, John Alford says he wants to add a 10% tax of foreign products coming into the state of Alabama, but the issue with a state level imposed tariff will (1) discourage the flow of capital into Alabama slowing down economic activity and (2) violates the Interstate Commerce Clause of the U.S Constitution.