

## Patriotism in the Fine Arts

Demetrius Coleman



Due to rain from earlier in the day, all outdoor activities were canceled yesterday, leaving only a few in session. Among these activities were the fine arts groups: band, chorus, and theatre. During each activity block, each fine arts group continuously prepares a performance in which they will present this coming Friday, preceding our awards ceremony

here at Alabama Boys State. Since Monday, the band has been practicing an assortment of patriotic pieces for their concert to honor the Legion. At the helm of this group is conductor Caleb Acton, a University of Alabama graduate with a degree in musical education. A few pieces he and his band have been rehearsing are “The Star

Spangled Banner,” “The Dauntless Battalion,” and “Battle Hymn of the Republic.” Although having to wait for their concert this Friday for the final product, Alabama Boys Staters have had the opportunity to hear a few musicians from the band play the national anthem during our daily flag ceremonies.

## Interviewing Gubernatorial Candidates

Jayden Jones

Question 1: What are your policies and what do you stand for?  
Luke Lawson: His policy is building Alabama; he sees Alabama as a shining star. He believes in exceptions for abortion like if the mother is raped, and if the baby has the potential to kill the mother as he is pro-life. Wants to Eliminate grocery tax/ not giving tax breaks to the wealthy. Flat income tax. Building hospitals in rural communities. He says his entire campaign and life are about helping others. He will account for ALL counties. One of his biggest policies is education. Luke believes teachers, workers, and rural communities are the backbone of the state. He will help give funding to schools and rural communities regardless of what money they put into the state’s pockets.

Saban Sasser: He stands for the overall Boys State community, so that we may unite and achieve the greatest possible purpose together. He supports the sinners tax to be use for the educational system and overall well-being of Alabama. He stands for individualism and free will so that people may make their own choices as long as it doesn’t harm others. He believes in getting people in the right positions so that the sum of the parts is greater. He also believes in a Christ-led government based on biblical principles. He also believes in the greatness of capitalism and

the ability for every American to make it to the top. He also is against Abortion and a high sales tax (above 8%).  
Question 2: Why should you win and not another candidate?

Luke Lawson: He says Saben is a friend of his, but believes we need a governor who knows what it’s like to be in such a position. He worked with two U.S. senators, four State Senators, two State Representatives, and one District Attorney. He is a 4-term class and FBLA president and will use those experiences. He wants to take advice from citizens, and believes bills should benefit the citizens.  
Saban Sasser: he said It’s not that he thinks Luke is a bad candidate for the job - after all, they are both well-qualified. He believes he just offers something different from the mediocre leaders of today. He believes in leading from the front and in the idea of servant-leadership. It’s not what people can do for him that he’s worried about, but what he can do for you. He believes a leader should be able to tolerate stress and he has been in numerous stressful situations on this Earth and has thrived in every single one of them. He has conquered every club, class, and situation that has come his way and he plans to do the same for you.

## Lakeside and Fresh Foods Dining Serve Up Classic Favorites

Harris Dunham and Landon Grove

At Boys State, the dining experience plays a key role in shaping the week — it’s not just about the food, but the friendships built over shared meals. Yesterday, Lakeside Dining and Fresh Foods Dining turned up the flavor with a delicious variety spread featuring flavorful pizza, seasoned beef tacos, and a sweet finish from a carefully prepared dessert platter. Each morning, Boys Staters wake up to Lakeside Dining serving them a variety of breakfast items to prepare them for their day. Yesterday, delegates were met with French toast sticks, eggs, bacon, sausage, potatoes, and a plethora of à la carte options. This morning, boys staters can expect FFC dipped waffles, eggs, bacon, sausage, potatoes, and the same à la carte items. For today’s meal, the amazing people over at Fresh Foods have been cooking up one of the best meals this week: Soft Chicken Tacos, Cheeseburgers, and Pizza!

### 5-DAY WEATHER OUTLOOK

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
				
82° 68°	77° 68°	76° 60°	79° 61°	81° 65°



# The Beauty of the Fine Arts

Oz Harbin

Yesterday, The Citizen Builder had the great opportunity to attend both the Chorus and the Theater practices. Located in Marion Galloway theater the chorus activity group is also made up of different cities but more importantly different vocal ranges. The harmonies between the sopranos and baritones are beautiful. The Chorus activity group is performing the song Lovely Day and most likely more. The group also has a wonderful piano player that elevates the collective. The group shows quick

improvement and dedication to the craft. For a group of strangers, they almost seem like they have been working together for years already. The Theater practice, located at the Allen Bales Theater, also went quite well. The Theater is putting on a show that will involve both acting and singing roles. The characters' names are Adam, Brian, Collin, and David. David is the main character of the play and the supposed plot of the play is about the tough decision between your perfect school and friends. The group decides most of their

decisions by a blind group vote. Commitment is a main idea that the theater group is trying to achieve. During the voting, the leaders of the group make sure that the voters are committed to their individual choice. When asked to comment about the members Ryan Foster, the main musical director, said, "The boys are very brave, poised, and brilliant". Us at the Citizen Builder can't wait to see both these groups perform on Friday.

# County Elections Energize Boys State

Evan Heartsill

The 2025 Alabama Boys State delegates took charge this morning during the county elections. Despite the weather, each county- Washington, Jefferson, Madison, and Lincoln- elected multiple members to lead towards a better future for the county. While all of these counties had many delegates nominated for each position, only a few could get the chance to be a county official. While listening to

different delegates around Boys State, each had similar things to say. Multiple said their elections were full of speeches (some good, some bad), multiple run-offs, and leaders wanting to take a stand for the better of the county. Many also reported coming out of their elections with true excitement on the future of their county and the change they intend

to make here at the 88th American Legion Alabama Boys State. As all of these new county delegates prepare to take office in the next few days, The Citizen Builder is excited to see what each one of these delegates intends to achieve while here and the future that lies ahead for each county.

# Second in Command, First Impressions: The Lieutenant Governor Race

Briggs Brown

Pertaining to the race of the lieutenant governor position, the two candidates were asked, "What are your policies? What do you stand for, and why should we vote for you?" Jeb Blair, the Nationalist Party candidate, commented, "I am a man of the people, that's the first thing. Honestly, I put my own policies last, and I put the people of Alabama's policies first. I've talked to a lot of people this week, and one of the main things they've brought up is legalizing marijuana. If that's what the people want, then that's what the people should get. In general, it comes down to me representing

these people and doing what they want and need to better their lives in this state." Nick Frazier responded with, "Being a part of the Federalist Party, we have a lot of beliefs, especially ones that will improve our education system. We also want to improve healthcare and increase the amount of revenue that comes into our state. I'm going to expand on these policies in my speeches. I'm not going to write a speech; I want people to feel like I have a personal connection with them and that it's coming straight from the heart. I'm a realist with them. I can't see what I write down,

but they can hear the words coming out of my mouth. I have great integrity, and I will not disappoint them. They need fire to represent them at Boys Nation in Washington, D.C., and I feel like I can bring that fire. I feel like we are all one, as a brotherhood. And right now, I don't believe in the Federalist or Nationalist Party. Yes, the Federalist Party got me where I am today, and I'm very thankful for that. Yes, my city is where it all started at Boys State. But all in all, we will graduate as one, we're going to end as one, and we will leave a legacy as one. Thank you."

# Nationalist and Federalist Run-Offs Decide Final Governor and Lt. Governor Nominees

Clay Clemons

The 2025 primary run-off elections have officially ended, and both the Nationalist and Federalist parties now have their nominees for Governor and Lieutenant Governor. For the Nationalist Party, Saban Sasser won the run-off for Governor, defeating Eli

Jett. In the Lieutenant Governor race, Jeb Blair came out ahead of Jonah Batson. On the Federalist side, Luke Lawson won the run-off for Governor, beating William Tabb. For Lieutenant Governor, Nick Frazier secured the nomination.

These candidates will now represent their parties in the general election. Voters across the state are getting ready for what's expected to be a big showdown later this week.