

# The Citizen Builder

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## Get to Know Your New Lieutenant Governor

Briggs Brown



When Nick Frazier was asked about his personal life, character, hobbies, and what he was looking forward to at Boys Nation, he responded with, “Back in 2019 after I lost my eyesight, I was kind of immobile, I guess you could say that I was immobile for a few years after that due to the blood thinners I was on. I was unable to actually execute in the life that I wanted to live, but I never let that slow me down. Once I was done with my treatment, I started wrestling and that became my passion. It was a struggle at first just because it was something new that I have never done before and it just wasn’t something I was very interested in before losing my eyesight. I knew I wanted to be active in some way, so I picked up wrestling and also picked up JROTC when joining high school. JROTC has led me now to being the battalion executive officer of 175 cadets 9th through 12th grade. I knew coming to Boys State that it wasn’t just for me at that moment, but that it was going to be for all of them and it was going to be for this state.

I was very uncertain of what I wanted to do and that’s why eventually getting here and meeting some different people. I wanted to run for Lieutenant Governor. I knew I had the qualifications to be over this many people and it was more so of what I’ve done before now doesn’t matter. It’s all ground zero starting from here. I like to kayak, fish, swim and hang out with some friends. I feel like building that bond and having people you can trust is very respectable and very honorable, especially in the future, when you never know what’s gonna happen, especially someone who is disabled and has to rely on people constantly. I’m very excited for Boys Nation, and to be in the position to be able to go. I’m ready to bring back some hardware as vice President of the entire nation for Boys Nation. I’m bringing this experience back not only for boys state, but the legacy that we’re building here in the state of Alabama.” And his dog, Morgan, commented, “Ruff Ruff.”

## Boys State Dives Into Interest Groups

Evan Heartsill

Wednesday night at Alabama Boys State gave every delegate the chance to explore their future and interest in multiple new ways. From senators to surgeons, the Interest Group Meetings let us step into the fields we are interested in as we go into our senior year. Each group met in different rooms across the University of Alabama campus.

In the Senate and House group, aspiring delegates learned the legislative process in a whole new way. Across campus in Allen Bales Theater, the

Judicial group dove deep into how the justice system works. Future doctors met in Lloyd 119 to talk to Alabama football players. In Hewson Hall, business-minded delegates brought ideas to life in a Shark Tank style. Delegates wanting to join the military gathered in Lloyd 123 to talk about service, leadership, and discipline. The news media group toured the University’s communication rooms located in Bryant Denny Stadium which included a very own TV station. Also, Engineers worked in HM Comer 1026, while

environmentalists and farmers joined the Agribusiness group in Lloyd 132.

Whether someone plans to fight fires, build rockets, or lead a courtroom, every citizen of Boys State found a place where their interested was met with world-class teachings utilizing the campus true potential. For many of the delegates, this was the moment we had been waiting for at Boys State, to truly work out our passions.

## Hung Jury in Judicial Trial: Majority Vote “Not Guilty”

Paine Gray

Yesterday the judicial group was tasked with the trial of Danny Claxton, a bartender accused of murder. Claxton was accused of lethally shooting Jaxson Jones over an argument about Claxton owing Jones 400\$. Claxton claims he fired in self defence as supposedly Jones threatened him by throwing a heavy bar stool at him and then attempting to throw another, where Claxton fired on him before he could. Witness’s written testimonies seemed to have a plan to paint a different picture during the trial, but during the trial the prosecution’s direct examinations of their witnesses

wiped any hope of an easy trial for the prosecution. When called to the stand, Sergeant Bo Wingo, who investigated the scene and wrote the investigation report, seemed unwilling at times to answer questions posed by the prosecution and defense, and seemed unconfident about certain facts he stated in his report. The prosecution found no respite with their next witness, Lou Bower. While claiming to have witnessed the crime, it became quickly apparent to all that Bower could not be trusted on his report, as he was unconfident in his responses, contradicted known facts

and statements from his written reports, and could not accurately remember how much he had to drink. When the defense called their own witnesses, which were the accused Claxton and a Mike Fields, they seemed much more reliable and confident in their responses. Overall, when the Jury decided on their decision, most agreed there was much suspicion about Claxton’s claim of self defense, but due to the disastrous choice of witnesses for the prosecution they agreed that there was too much speculation and not nearly enough evidence to refute Claxton’s self defense claim.

## City of Cooper Wins Rivalry Basketball Game

Grayson Stanford and Braxton Black

A rivalry basketball game was contested in Tuscaloosa on Thursday, but it wasn’t the Iron Bowl or the Third Saturday in October. Cooper and Copeland have been city rivals in this year’s Boys State, with hard-fought elections and games stacking up. The game ended in victory for Cooper in a 19–12 hard-fought matchup. Cooper was up 9–5 over Copeland at the half.

The game was physical and intense, ultimately ending in a victory for Cooper. James “Travis Scott” Batchler cited the team as the reason for the win. He stated that players like Ronta Watson and Cordon Patterson contributed massively to the team’s success. Teamwork came together and won today, he said, citing the camaraderie here at Boys State.



### 5-DAY WEATHER OUTLOOK

Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue
77° 59°	80° 62°	81° 64°	86° 67°	88° 71°



# Excitement in Perry City

Landon Grove

This week has been full of activity for all of the cities of Alabama Boys’ State, but one city in particular has had significant activity these past few days. City nine, also known as the City of Perry, has experienced a significant level of events from wins in sports to the first trial of the week; and we’ll cover it all here.

Beginning with the city’s competition wins: soccer, basketball, and academic bowl have all won in their respective categories. Soccer winning 8-0, basketball 21-20, and 13-1 for academic bowl’s most recent win.

Perry City is also showing its team spirit through the adoption of their new mascot, Perry the Panther. The new mascot was adopted through a city ordinance presented to the mayor and council by one of the city’s members. Underneath the mask, you can find Jacob Burgess playing



Perry the Panther. The event with the most buzz among citizens happened Wednesday afternoon, when the city held the first trial of the 88th Alabama Boys’ State. The trial took place due to the accusation by the City of Perry Law Enforcement that one citizen was caught sleeping during a general session, which is an offense to the city per an ordinance stating that anyone caught sleeping in a general session must do ten pushups or dance for 30 seconds.

In summary, while the defendant claimed he was meditating, not sleeping, and there were a plethora of witnesses to give their accounts, the prosecution made arguments to make the evidence from the witnesses inadmissible. As a result, the court found the defendant guilty of sleeping during the general session and gave the defendant a lessened sentence of 15 seconds of dancing.

The defendant instead asked for a 15 push-up sentence. Many of the citizens of the City of Perry were very happy about the trial and Mayor Buzz commented, “It’s incredible that the debates we had in that court room only made our city and brotherhood



stronger, when it could tear any other city apart.” The presiding judge was Circuit Judge Asher Davidson. The defendant was Brady Siren and his legal council was TouShawn Bridges. The prosecution was The City of Perry which was represented by supervising legal council Braylan Price and co-council Cash McCoy. The defending legal council is currently seeking to countersue.

# An Amazing Week of Meals

Harris Dunham

This week at Boys State has been anything but forgettable, and we have so many people to thank for that. One of those people are our amazing chefs over at Lakeside Dining and Fresh Foods Dining. The meals that they are serving us for today are nothing less than extravagant, with breakfast being a yogurt bar, a sausage and egg plate, french toast sticks, and oatmeal.

For lunch, we have tender pork chops (with mac and cheese!), a juicy cheeseburger, a variety of pizzas, savory grilled cheese, and an astounding dessert platter. Make sure to thank our amazing kitchen staff for the kindness, meals, and memories!



# Boys State Weather Report

Jack Haynes

For the remaining week.....

Friday- High: 78 Low: 62. Have your best friend Mr. Poncho on hand just in case as there may be light showers along with a 30% of thunderstorms.

Saturday- High: 85 Low: 58. Thank Mr. Poncho for keeping you dry this week and bid him farewell for now as there is NO sign of rain scheduled (at least for this day and as of now...).

NOTICE: Due to the massive amounts of rain this week, be careful going from building to building the rest of this week.

# Dr. Cathy Randall: “BE”

Landon Grove

This week at the 88th Alabama Boys’ State, delegates have had the opportunity to hear from many different speakers who all come from a variety of different backgrounds who have offered their advice for this week and beyond. Just yesterday, Boys Staters heard from Dr. Cathy Randall, a double Ph.D (being education and history), and a previous student at The Capstone. Her speech, although brief, was inspiring and truly phenomenal, and even received a standing ovation from the crowd. Here we’re going to break down Dr. Randall’s speech to the delegates and what it could mean to their futures.

Dr. Randall began her speech by saying she could complete her entire message in one word: “be.” She later went on to explain why that is after she jokingly said she had to give more than a single word at the request of Judge Pete Johnson. She told the crowd

that by just saying “be” she was telling the delegates to be all they could be; to be excellent, be grateful, be loved, and be ready. She used four stories to illustrate these four points. The first was a young girl who was chosen for a highly competitive role for a popular play, yet had she given in to her feelings of unworthiness and frustration, she would’ve never played the role. The second story was of a Chinese farmer who nearly lost everything, including his son, yet he was still grateful for everything he had and when people told him he had great luck, he said, “Good luck, bad luck; who’s to say?” The third story was one given to Dr. Randall by a prominent UA student the day prior to her speech over coffee. It was a fictional story about a young boy who kept encountering flying chances. He ignored these chances until he decided he wanted one, yet he failed when he finally attempted to catch a flying,

he fell down and felt embarrassed. He ultimately realized the if he wanted another chance, it was up to him to make it happen. The final story was from the ending of the movie E.T., when the alien was hugging the children who had kept him, and each of their goodbyes represented on of the four things Dr. Randall told delegates they should be. At the end, Dr. Randall charged Boys Staters with saying yes to whatever opportunities were introduced to them in order to be excellent, be grateful, be loved, and be ready. The writers of The Citizen Builder would like to thank Dr. Randall for coming to Boys’ State to speak in front of the delegates. To end with a quote from Dr. Randall, “Be the hero of your own story.”

# A Letter From the Press: Signing Off

Oz Harbin

This week has been eventful for us at the Citizen Builder, from producing the most issues ever in Alabama Boys State history, to a heavily packed schedule. Hopefully, the readers here at Boys State had the opportunity to read all of them, even despite the complications. If not, you can read all of this years and previous years issues on the Alabama Boys State website. For us to do a proper send off, we feel it would be best

to break the fourth wall and show how us at the Citizen Builder make it all happen. We start off with the idea formation process at the Lloyd Hall and through trial and error we create the stories. We are made up of many different people, different backgrounds, and different future occupations. You may have seen us in the background of your practices or games, taking notes or interviews. We, as a collective,

have been transformed into not only leaders but into men. Whether this experience sticks with you or not, the friends will. The Citizen Builder has enjoyed the opportunity to do some in so little of time. We thank our head editor Tyler, our counselors Lando & Drew, and to readers like you.

