



# The American Legion Boys State of Kansas Staters Union

June 11, 2010

Volume 73, Issue 6

## Conference with the Governor

Matt Carrillo  
Staff Writer

Thursday morning was a little hectic in the basement of Marlatt Hall. The Governor Joel Simwinga and most of his executive office were having a conference with all of the County Commissions and PACs. This was for the Governor to hear the needs of each individual county or PAC and to instruct the organizations on what they needed to accomplish in their group to be more successful. The problem though is that many of these groups were all very eager to see the Governor and his staff. The scheduled meeting times were thrown off as well, due to a late start of the whole conference. Nevertheless, the Governor and his team were

able to accomplish much as they received a lot of needed information on the State's needs and was able to give some much desired advice.

This guidance from the Governor was crucial as most counties and PACs have many problems to deal with. In the meeting with Eisenhower County, Joel and his office were able to offer some solutions to their problems. The County has a high unemployment rate and started out Boys State on a rough note, as many ordinances and laws passed in their county did much more damage than good. The Governor gave them many ideas that would solve this such as: continuing the refinery built in

this oil county, to get rid of jail that actually raised the crime rates, and to get some well constructed ordinances and laws together. This is just one example to show how helpful these meetings were to these needy groups.

The Governor and his team, throughout the conference, emphasized a key main suggestion that is integral to follow for the State to succeed. He stresses the County Commissioners to keep relations between the cities and county, and the relations between the two cities, very strong. Establishing strong communication between your county and cities is imperative for this State to function properly.

Though things were loud and chaotic, as many people were very excited to hear what Joel had to say, much was achieved at this conference with the Governor. Much needed growth in the State should come from this.

## College Fair

Ben Morsman & John Thompson  
Editor-in-Chief & Staff Writer

Being Juniors in high school, Staters are beginning to think about what the future holds for them. One factor that holds a major weight on the futures of the Staters and students everywhere is the college that they choose to attend. In order to help the Staters get an idea as to where they would like to attend, 14 area colleges with the exception of Mizzou set up exhibitions for the college fair. From Kansas State to Southwestern College, Universities from all around Kansas came to Kramer and showed the Staters why their school held their best interests in mind.

Every school, besides offering a wide range of information, brought with them a variety of goodies, such as candy and pretty ladies. With so many booths vying for the Staters' attention, they had to pull out all of the stops in order to make themselves known.

When asked about the importance of the fair, Supreme court Justice from King County, Brian Widleman, said, "The college fair was a great opportunity for Staters to further develop their plans for the future in light of their experience at Boys State."

"Wise men speak  
because they have  
something to say;  
Fools because  
they have to say  
something."  
-Plato

"I have heard there are  
troubles of more than one  
kind. Some come from ahead  
and some come from behind.  
But I've bought a big bat. I'm  
all ready you see.  
Now my troubles are going  
to have troubles with me!"  
-Dr. Seuss

# Department Reports

State Departments  
Kansas Boys State

The state department offices were bustling with activity Thursday morning. The officials were, among other things, preparing for hearings later that day, deliberating on what their portions of the budget would be used for, and holding conferences between the departments over issues that would best be dealt with by multiple departments. Some departments were busier than others, however. Those departments that held jurisdiction over the more relevant parts of an average stater's life, such as the Department of Revenue had more places to be and things to see than departments that worked primarily on policy and rules.

A few mix ups on Wednesday caused a moderate amount of confusion and tension in the departments. Projects were not relayed to all the relevant groups, which resulted in some departments having nothing to do. Also, the bank issued an incorrect price estimate to the Department of Corrections. The department was planning to build a youth correctional center, but their estimate of the cost of construction was much lower than the bank's estimate. The two estimates should not have been different. Never-the-less,

the problem was successfully resolved Thursday, and work on the Prison is set to begin as soon as possible after the state budget is approved.

There were other projects that progressed without as much administrative difficulty. The Department of Revenue was working to have tax evaders that refused to cooperate taken into custody. To do so they acquired a search warrant and worked with the Highway Patrol. The Department of the Environment made efforts for the nearly extinct carp population. They made a statement that indicated the carp were less than two days from extinction. The department said the farming and oil counties were the main cause of the carp's predicament. As of Thursday morning they had not taken any action towards, nor were intending to, sue. The Department of Agriculture worked for an agriculture and biology science school for the agricultural counties. The Water Board was very concerned with the condition of the state's groundwater. Methods of agriculture and industry were dangerously polluting the relatively small supply (due to a drought last year). Though the Water Board faced much contention in its task, Barret Wellmeyer, an apartment of-

ficial, stated "I just like being a part of the board that frees the river of democracy from pollution." In a related case the Department of Health worked to build a super landfill to effectively keep impurities out of the ground water of Kansas. The department stated that it will name the landfill after department engineer Preston Tyler in honor of his 17th birthday.

## Secretary of State Report

William Wolfe  
Secretary of State

Thursday, June 10 2010

Tomorrow, Friday, June 11, 2010, Boys' State of Kansas will be holding a statewide vote over the legalization of the Conceal and Carry Weapon(s) Law. All citizens will be given an equal opportunity to vote on the issue and make their views known. The issue of Conceal and Carry legalization is incredibly important to Boys' State of Kansas and has direct impact at the city, county and state level. Voting is the pillar of democracy and all Boys' State participants are greatly encouraged to vote on this key issue.

Secretary of State  
William Wolfe

## Crime in Schulz

Paul Thomas  
Staff Writer

Recently, the city of Schulz, in Powell County, has been hit with a string of bizarre criminal acts.

On June 10th, a sign promoting an illegal brothel was discovered in the alleys of Schulz. Authorities were immediately called, and the scene was investigated.

Many citizens of Schulz were shocked, and confused why a brothel had been established in an all-male city. The citizens were also angry about the blatant disregard for the law. "Without an ordinance, this destroys the beauty of our city," said Barret Wellmeyer.

The accused citizens, whose names have been omitted to protect the guiltless, are maintaining their innocence, claiming it was an act of despicable defamation. "I am disappointed in our fellow citizens," one of the accused victims stated, "This is libel!"

In addition, on June 10th, the city-wide Flushing Ordinance was also broken. In order to clean up the city, Schulzians passed an ordinance requiring every citizen to flush the toilet, under penalty of fifty push-ups. This "Fecal-gate" incident is in stark contrast to the cleanliness record of Powell County, which was voted "Cleanest County" on June 9th.

The citizens of Schulz are angry and are demanding action. "This brings down the integrity of the whole city of Schulz," said concerned citizen Wellmeyer.

No one has been arrested, but the highway patrol is investigating.

## City Council

John Thompson & Ben Morsman  
Staff Writer & Editor-in-Chief

Even though the simulation is, well, just a simulation, many City Council members have begun to get rather attached to their cities. Since the simulation allows for just about any ordinance, no matter how ridiculous, some Council members have taken advantage of this freedom. Some ordinances are strangely brilliant, and some are downright hilarious, but they all require a very unique thought pattern.

Since some cities are seriously hurting for funds, the Council members often have to employ some unorthodox solutions. For instance, in the city of Klassen from Marshall County, the City simply cannot afford to build a jail to house all the criminals. Therefore, for any crime that a fine can't cover, the standard punishment is execution. While this is a fairly effective way to lower the crime rate, the city's population is beginning to decline.

Other Councils are merely taking their city's temporary misfortune with a grain of salt. The good folks of Schmitt recently suffered a drought that shot their unemployment rate up to an astounding ninety-five percent. When asked about their city's current situation, City Council member Kaleb Kasitz said, with a hint

of sarcasm, "Drought makes Schmitt City the Schmittiest city in the state". However, Kaleb isn't too concerned about the current state of affairs. He's certain that the city will be back on track before the week is over.

Other cities use their down time to take care of a few domestic issues. Perrill, which has been having trouble with bathroom hygiene, has passed an ordinance that issues a \$25 fine to anyone caught using the restroom without flushing. They've also managed to catch one resident of Perrill with illicit substances. Bryce Koonas is currently being charged with possession of cocaine. The authorities were tipped off by his roommate, who noticed him acting very defensively toward his pillow. Upon inspection, the local Highway Patrol found a small baggie of what appears to be cocaine in his pillowcase. The City Council hopes to charge Mr. Koonas with the maximum penalty the law allows.

## County Commissions

Taylor Gravett  
Staff Writer

Yesterday afternoon the county commissions of King County met to discuss issues that related to enforcing and enacting measures that they continue to build upon as the week progresses. They looked to continue their Bison Bill as well as continue to build roads to make the connection between the cities of Hiatt and Harris. The money for these projects is coming from PACs that they feel represent the best interests not only of the commission but also the county.

The commission discussed possible plans of working together with both cities to build both a hospital and a school or university in the county, raising the county overall revenue. The commission also looked towards bringing other forms of money into the population. They looked to enact measures that would make sure that King County stays one of the richest counties in Boys State.

Also meeting yesterday afternoon, the Harris City Council convened to discuss issues ranging from domestic violence and the possibility of building either a hospital or a school. City Councilman Alex Spigarelli proposed an ordinance with tough restric-

tions on those that engage in domestic violence; offenders would be subject to a three strike system of punishment.

The city council also planned on scheduling a meeting with the Department of Corrections to find a way to fund a Youth Correctional Facility, creating jobs and providing families with a new start. Such a facility would increase revenue by approximately two percent; and create a safer environment by keeping juvenile delinquents off the streets.

The council also proposed an ordinance to increase proactive crime prevention through the implementation of programs such as DARE to teach the dangers of drug use and alcohol consumption. The City Council hopes that such an ordinance will drastically lower the crime rate and increase the standard of living.

## The Newspaper

# Big 12 Conference in danger

Jacob Rude  
Editor-in-Chief

All stories pertaining to Boys State within these pages refer to a simulated society, and editorial license may have been used to report the facts of such stories.

Letters to the editor are encouraged and accepted. Letters MUST be signed with your actual name to be considered for publication. Any anonymous letters will not be considered. All letters will be edited for space, grammar and legality. Letters should be taken to the Stater's Union Office.

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\*All errors are unintentional\*

One of the greatest conferences in the NCAA is being torn apart. The Big 12 has started to collapse and there seems to be no way to keep it together. This is one of the saddest moments in the history of the NCAA. No longer will the rivalries that make the Big 12 such a great conference exist. No longer will the passion for sports so closely associated with the Big 12 spark a fire in fans across the nation.

As of this moment Colorado as agreed to leave the Big 12 for the Pac 10 (although nothing official has taken place, only mutual agreement) and Nebraska is seriously considering. The athletic director of Nebraska, Tom Osborne, declared that they are moving to the Big 10; however he is not the one that makes the decision. There is a meeting of the Nebraska Board of Regents, the ones who have the official say, taking place today at 1 p.m. that will officially decide whether or not Nebraska is making the move according to [espn.com](http://espn.com).

The worst part about this entire situation, or "disaster" rather, is that the split is being caused by some of the, for lack of a better term, least influential universities in the

Big 12. These schools feel ignored because they do not get as much funding as the big name schools in the conference such as the University of Kansas and Texas. This is because the Big 12 distributes funding based upon, among other factors, ticket sales and which schools attract the more people. The schools that do not attract the massive crowds complain about this; they state that this is the main reason for the secession. That is completely ridiculous. This unique way to distribute funding is a key reason why the Big 12 is one of the top conferences because it promotes competition among the universities. They do not just give out money willy nilly like some conferences do; the schools in the Big 12 have to work for their money. Any motivational speaker can tell you, success stems for hard work and receiving handouts causes laziness and greed, to an extent where all things become motivated by money.

I cannot possibly believe that these colleges are in their right mind. How can someone believe that this is a good thing for college sport?

Many believe that once Nebraska leaves the domino effect will inevitably start; there will be a loud crash as

each university falls out of the Big XII causing the next to, so on and so forth. The different colleges that are speculated to break away are: Texas, Texas A&M, Texas Tech, Baylor, Oklahoma, Oklahoma State, and Missouri, leaving the Kansas schools out to dry. I still am flabbergasted that all of this is happening; you cannot break up the Big 12! But, the reality that we all must face is that it is happening. One can hear the funeral bells ring throughout the Midwest with Baylor's announcement. Whether we like it or not the Big 12's days are limited. It will all come to an end in 2012. (Interestingly enough that is the time when the world is supposed to end. The end of the Big 12 and, according to the Mayans, the end of the earth; coincidence...I think not!)

