



State of the Boys



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Boys State opens one-week run at SMSU

By Luke Prairie, Duluth

Boys State kicked off its 61st annual gathering on Sunday June 14, 2009. Hundreds of young men arrived from all over Minnesota to participate in this opportunity we have been given. Leaving our moms and dads behind, we went on our way to begin a journey that most of us know very little about. Walking confusedly throughout the building, we gathered our things and were sent on our way in no time, and soon found ourselves feeling right at home beginning the process that every boys stater goes through.

Shortly after entering our new homes for the week we found ourselves learning already that the counselors waste no time in telling us how things are going to happen. We quickly began electing officers and officials, which is just a stepping stone in the process of learning about government. Learning about city and state government is the direct purpose of Boys State. We are all gathered here this week so that we may further our knowledge of all aspects of government and better serve our country.

After elections took place and groups had met, the time came for what many people may find to be the happiest time of their day: dinner! A great first meal that we all had the pleasure of sharing together: the extensive salad bar was all right, the lasagna delicious, and who knew they grew yellow water-

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Director Mike Bredeck gives Boys Staters an overview of the week.

Riley rouses Boys Staters

By Kevin Yang, Anoka

After a brief, but very congratulatory, introduction by Minnesota Boys State 2008 Governor Tom Sawatzke, it was clear that Joe Riley has the credentials of a great leader: a 4.0 GPA, several scholarship offers from Ivy League colleges, positions of power in organizations throughout the



Boys Nation President Joe Riley

United States—it was clear that Riley had been quite active in his home state of Tennessee. As the keynote speaker at the first evening of Boys

State, Riley showed off the amazing charisma that had propelled him to both positions as Tennessee Boys

State Governor and Boys Nation President.

Like any great leader, Riley came prepared with a clear message to the next class of Boys Staters, one of both national appreciation and pride. Not shying away from the violent, pivotal chapters in

American History, Riley explained in great detail the stories of heroic and selfless Americans serving in

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Sawatzke reflects on his year as governor

By Christian Myers, St. Cloud

Tom Sawatzke’s success, both on the court and off, is impressive to even the elite group of young men that comprise Minnesota Boys State 2009. That is why it is so strange to think that just last year he was in our shoes wondering why he was giving up a week of his summer. As he said, he came in with a “clustered mind,” and full of thoughts about what he was missing rather than what he was gaining. By the end of the week he understood why he had come, and by the time he was back in school he had realized that this one week had helped to shape his life and his future. He expressed that what his experience meant is beyond word — even Spanish words.

Some might say that Sawatzke’s election as Minnesota Boys State Governor is the culmination of what he learned here last year. One could say his true fulfillment comes in the sharing of advice and wisdom, gained during this past year as gov-

ernor. Sawatzke lives this quote he used: “Don’t let a win get to your



Boys State Governor Tom Sawatzke

head, or a loss to your heart.” He told attendees that those wins will come not from being the smartest, but rather from being the most motivated. He said those losses will come, and urged Boys Staters to learn from them and embrace the other aspects of the week. He urged

everyone to make the most of the opportunities in the coming week and to work hard for those who have sacrificed so much so that Boys Staters may experience the opportunity the week presents.

Sawatzke shared the insights of his experiences at Boys State, and urged the boys to get involved in the process. “It doesn’t matter if you win or not—just get involved.”

He advised Boys Staters to thank their respective American Legion posts for sponsoring their trip to Boys State. He then moved from friendly advice to wielding the weight of his office, saying “making the most of this week’s opportunities isn’t just advice anymore, it’s an executive order.”

Tom also expressed gratitude to all those who had helped him and expressed his admiration for all those who work for, and with, the American Legion to make Boys State possible. He is one of the rare leaders who is humbly and genuinely

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World War II, many of whom gave their lives to uphold the liberty that many Americans today take for granted. Although the stories were different in their own rights, whether it be how Charles J. Lee’s trip through crowded and filthy train cars while David Goldin dredged in the snows of the Battle of the Bulge, or James Hugh Ross’ failed bombing run in North Africa, or William Craig’s heroic march of death, one defining message was quite clear throughout: pure courage and selflessness. These men refused to give in to the evil of the world and gave all they had to keep America safe. These were all personal stories of committed individuals, and they

should never be forgotten.

Despite the presentation being a solemn and educational message in its own right, Riley believes that it is clear that as Boy’s Staters, we should strive to keep the dreams of these Prisoners of War alive. He continued to stress the importance of being grateful throughout both the mundane and entertaining moments that we as Boys Staters will encounter. His message echoed the idea of being appreciative, especially towards the veterans who made this opportunity and service possible to us. For there will be opportunities.

On a much lighter note, Riley also took time out to explain some of the many adventures provided to him by Boys State. He spoke about the longevity and qual-

ity of the friendships he was able to build at Boys State, and told attendees that they might not know it yet, but strangers on the first day will become lifelong friends by the end of the week. He also went into further detail about his journeys at the nation’s Capitol, where he sang with U.S. senators. It was quite inspiring to hear his experiences during this past year as Boys Nation president, and told Boys Staters that they can and will influence the world.

In a quote worthy of expressing activism as a whole, Riley ended his inspiring presentation well, saying “Life void of service is a life void of purpose.”

Trio of newspaper editors to head *State of the Boys*



From left, editors Connor Farrell, David Banks and Graham Wyatt.

By Connor Farrell, St. Cloud; David Banks, Rochester; and Graham Wyatt, Mankato

As boys from all across the state of Minnesota venture towards Marshall, we each bring a unique set of characteristics that allows us to view the Boys State program through different lenses. While we come from different communities, we hope that our publication, the *State of the Boys*, will allow you to identify what's occurring within, and outside the walls of your city.

During the week, this publication will strive to bring you news surrounding activities at Boys State. Sunday's first day was highlighted by a tremendous speech given by Boys Nation President Joe Riley from Tennessee. Today's schedule is full, as well.

One event that isn't on the schedule but which is meaningful to the staff of Boys State is a flag dedication this afternoon at 3:10 a.m. The flag will be dedicated to Jim Thelen, the vice director of American Legion Minnesota Boys State, who died earlier this year. Thelen lived in Albany and spent six tireless years serving Boys State, primarily in recruitment and fundraising.

Just as you all bring a different perspective to the program and your city, we hope we'll offer something new to the *State of the Boys*. We, the newly selected editors—Connor Farrell, Graham Wyatt, and David Banks—come from different backgrounds that will present something fresh to the newspaper just as you do to Boys State.

Connor Farrell hails from Minneapolis and will be residing at St. Cloud city for the next week. He is interested in athletics, and gave up the school paper last year to go to Boston to compete in the largest rowing race in North America, the Head of the Charles. Looking to get back into writing and the news, he jumped at the opportunity of editor for *State of the Boys*. He plans to bring his passion for the news and writing to the paper this year.

Graham Wyatt came from Buffalo to attend the program and will be a part of the city of Mankato for the duration. He's the editor-in-chief of his school paper, a member of National Honor Society, the Student Council Vice President, and an all-state Mock Trial attorney. He's appreciates the vast opportunities that we share, and looks forward to interacting with the newspaper and you in the upcoming week.

David Banks comes from Plymouth and will be "posting up" in the city of Rochester for the remainder of the week. He writes a column in his school newspaper, he is the editor-in-chief of the yearbook, president of National Honor Society, varsity captain of both the soccer and golf teams, plays varsity basketball, and is involved in debate. He looks forward to bringing the entire Boys State community up-to-date news in sports, politics, guest speakers, and everything else your heart desires.

We're all new to the program and we'll be here to inform you of what's happening and the exciting events to come outside your city limits.

Menu

Monday

Dinner: Roast turkey, cheddarwurst, mashed potato with gravy, vegetable.

Tuesday

Breakfast: Scrambled eggs with cheese, waffle squares, tri-tators.

Lunch: Grilled cheese, ziti, marinara sauce, meat sauce, carrots.

Dinner: Tator tot casserole, baked chicken breast, mashed potato with gravy, vegetable.

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melon?

Following dinner, the free time was much appreciated as an opportunity to talk and meet more people also some began the first organized campaigning.

Next on our agenda was the first of many meetings we were to have throughout the week. A little refresher lesson on proper flag etiquette was done first, followed directly by a practice of this lesson. The meeting was an enlightening experience as to how powerful many people feel about the experience received at Boys State. All of the speakers did a great job and had very moving and touching things to say. If you take time to think about what all of the people had to say, you real-

ize that this really could be a wonderful, eye opening adventure in your life.



Two Boys State counselors dive into the corn dogs and lasagna.

***Ice Cream Treats are provided to
Minnesota American Legion Boys State
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Turmoil surrounds disputed Iranian election

By Leif Lusty, Austin

Turmoil is the word of the day across Iran as thousands took to the streets in protest of the re-election of extremist president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad with a supposed 63 percent of the vote, which strongly differs from pre-election analysis which showed many Iranians having strong support for Ahmadinejad's opponent, Mir Hossein Moussavi.

The opposition leader has denounced the election results as rigged, and many supporters of his campaign for government reformation in Iran have taken to the streets en masse to protest. Riot police have been present and have at times had to repress riots as citizens of Iran are fighting back against a regime that has been historically repressive. President Ahmadinejad has also left the safety of Moussavi in doubt, with rumors circulating that he has been placed under house arrest. Despite this, he has requested that the election results be nullified in order to investigate whether they are legitimate or not. World leaders and political analysts share the skepticism of the Iranian people over the election results, with United States Vice President Joe Biden among them.

However, many supporters of Ahmadinejad are also taking to the streets, hunting down various Mousavi supporters. This clash of opposite political minds shows a deep divide in the Iranian population between Muslim conservatives and reformists that wish to see religion take a smaller role in their government. The government itself has blocked off social networking sites in Iran, such as Facebook and Twitter, in an attempt to keep any information on the situation from leaking out to the global community.

Ahmadinejad has been known as a radical leader of Iran, who often has backed conservative domestic policies, has a questionable human rights record, and has drawn international criticism for his push to create a nuclear program that has the potential to put a nuclear bomb in the possession of Iran. Moussavi has openly accused him of "defiling this country" by shaping their image to the world as a "Backward" country that is seen as "A threat to the world." The exact results stated Ahmadinejad took 62.63 percent of the vote, Moussavi receiving 33.75 percent, and a third candidate receiving 3.62 percent.

Early struggles motivate Supreme Court nominee

By Scott Challeen, Hibbing

"Yes we can!" Those three inspiring words were frequently echoed during the Obama presidential campaign, and those words perhaps describe none better than President Barack Obama's first nominee to the Supreme Court, Judge Sonia Sotomayor. The White House has expressed its goal to have Sotomayor on the bench by October, replacing Justice David Souter, who recently announced his retirement from the Court. If Sotomayor is confirmed by the Senate, she will become the first Hispanic Justice on the U.S. Supreme Court, another historic landmark in our country's history since the election of the first African-American President on November 4, 2008. President Obama announced Sotomayor's nomination on May 26, 2009.

Sonia Maria Sotomayor was born on June 25, 1954 in the Bronx, New York, to Puerto Rican parents who had moved to New York City during World War II. At age 8, Sotomayor was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes. At age 9, her father died of a heart attack. She, along with her younger brother, was raised by her mother. As a child, Sotomayor was inspired by the Nancy Drew character, and had dreamed of becoming a detective. As a child she was also frequently told, "No you can't," which, ironically, is quite the opposite of Obama's campaign message. Type 1 diabetes served as a ceiling of her dreams, but she was determined to succeed. She chose the path of a legal career, and has followed that dream ever since she made up her mind at the age of ten. Sotomayor graduated as valedictorian

of her class, and went on to Princeton, graduating summa cum laude, and went on to Yale Law School.

She was appointed as a district judge in 1992 by President George H.W. Bush, and her seat was elevated by President Bill Clinton. She currently serves as the Circuit Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the 2nd Circuit. Her appointment history, along with the moderate-liberal views she holds, give her a degree of bipartisan support, which is why it is speculated that she will have little to no trouble being confirmed by the Senate. The majority of criticism she has received from Republicans has been from the far right, such as Rush

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Boys State snapshot

Editor's Note: Each day during Boys State, our reporters will randomly select a participant for a snapshot profile.

Name: Ike Pohlman
Hometown: Lakefield
Boys State City: St. Peter
Why I am attending Boys State:
 To expand my knowledge about government
Favorite movie: *Boondock Saints*
What's on my iPod: lots of stuff
Favorite school subject: History
People would be surprised to know that I ... live on an elk ranch



Counselor Shawn Murphy placed a wreath in honor of Flag Day Sunday.

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Limbaugh and Newt Gingrich. In the 2008 elections, Republicans lost by a wide margin, and also significantly lost ground in the Hispanic vote. Needless to say, the party does not want to alienate the Hispanic vote, and a vote against Sotomayor by the Republican Party in the Senate may do just that. It will be interesting to see how Senate Republicans will vote when it

The sports report

By Caleb Krusemark, Austin, and Chase Keimig, Stillwater

Lakers Win Series

After being criticized for being weak in last year's NBA Finals, the Lakers finished the task at hand in 2009, destroying the Orlando Magic in Sunday's Game 5 99-86 to pick up the franchise's 15th title.

College World Series

Arizona State defeated North Carolina 5-2.

Cubs hand Twins loss 3-2

Sunday, the Twins gave away their chance to sweep the series with the Chicago Cubs.

Scoring Summary:

Twins-2nd: Punto reached on bunt single to first, Gomez scored.
 6th: Gomez homered to center.

Cubs- 2nd: Theriot hit sacrifice fly to right, Lee scored. 4th: G Soto doubled to deep right center, Bradley scored. 9th: Theriot singled to right, Lee scored, Soto to third, M Fontenot to second.

Know your stuff

Editor's Note: This section will provide you with questions to help prepare you for the test on Minnesota government and flag etiquette.

1. In which year did Minnesota add a home rule amendment to the constitution?
 - A. 1885
 - B. 1891
 - C. 1901
 - D. 1896
2. Which of the following is NOT a power granted to the Minnesota House of Representatives?
 - A. May initiate impeachment proceedings against any civil officer
 - B. May declare war
 - C. May determine its own rules of procedure
 - D. May punish its own members for disorderly conduct
3. The Lieutenant Governor was the presiding officer of the Senate until which year?
 - A. 1984
 - B. 1975
 - C. 1973
 - D. 1901
4. How many counties are in Minnesota?
 - A. 25
 - B. 49
 - C. 67
 - D. 87

Poetry Submissions Accepted

This week at Boys State will be trying something with the news paper: poetry submissions. Poetry is great vehicle of self expression. The success of the poetry submissions is depend-

ent on the contributions of you, the reader. We welcome poetry submissions from anyone. If you would like to contribute, please drop off your poetry in the computer lab in Commons East.