

# THE STATESMAN

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## Brindisi, Griffo stimulate conversation during morning assemblies

By Max Berryman, #0210

With the Boys' State morning assemblies ending this Tuesday, Anthony Brindisi, a representative for New York's 22nd Congressional District, and Joseph Griffo, a New York senator representing the 47th district, were the beginning of the end of the speakers who spoke to the citizens of Boys' State.

Brindisi spoke about his own call to service. He discussed his passion for pushing a better and safer community and advocates for more benefits for our veterans. Brindisi clarified by further discussing issues such as mental health treatment and paid benefits that Brindisi fights to push into Congress. A large issue that even Brindisi calls a "crisis" is the high veteran suicide rate that he cites to be over 22 deaths per day.

Brindisi also takes pride in his ability of being fair and supporting a bipartisanship. Many of his bills that have been passed are co-signed by a republican counterpart. Brindisi himself is on the Problem Solvers Caucus, a group of 48 members, consisting of 24 Republicans and 24 Democrats. The goal of this caucus is to maintain the dwindling bipartisanship in Washington D.C. and to get problems resolved.

Griffo focused his presentation on interacting with the boys. With



Photo by Eric Yen, #0364

shouts, cheers, and boos coming from many of the counties, Griffo opted towards throwing out many controversial and important laws to the boys such as legal age to consume alcohol, legalization of recreation marijuana, and placing bets on sports to engage feedback and conversation among the boys. The speech became intertwined with the boys' reactions and led to many citizens reaffirming or questioning their own beliefs. The two key points to take away from his speech were his messages urging the boys to get involved and interested

in the American Legion Boys' State program.

Griffo and Brindisi both ended their respective presentations by taking questions from the boys regarding the speakers' own personal experiences in the U.S. government. As always, the boys carried on the tradition of pressuring those that spoke to put on the honorable Boys' State t-shirt, unlocking the climax of cheers from the boys. The boys' enthusiasm rolled over to Monday night when the boys begged to sing the Alma Mater for a third time.

# Day Six

By Riley Johanson, #0532

This is it. Day six has arrived. All Boys' Staters have been waiting for this moment. The last day has been joked about and dreamed about since the first buses unloaded on Thursday morning. Now, the citizens, staff, and Marines, who have attended this year's Boys' State have completed their participation in the program. The last five days have been challenging for all those who resided at Morrisville's campus this week. For some, it was enjoyable. For others, it was a major chore. But for all, it was an experience that will impact their lives forever.

Every citizen of Boys' State has learned to march in formation, make their beds to Marine standards and eat meals in record time during the last several days. Friendships were formed as boys exchanged stories, jokes and worked together to fulfill their Boys' State responsibilities. Dramatic elections provided an interesting look into the workings of politics as citizens crafted a democratic government in their own way. Climatic sports games gave an outlet for athletic fun each afternoon when cities competed with one another for bragging rights. Long, grueling waiting periods taught each Boys' Stater patience, while the Marines taught discipline. Each attendee of this program shares the memories of electing Governor Nathaniel Wang into office and learning to scream the National



Cartoon by James Young, #1084

## Weather Tuesday, July 2

**High:** 95° | **Low:** 75°

**Humidity:** 67% | **UV Index:** 0/10

**Sunrise:** 5:47 a.m. | **Sunset:** 8:37 p.m.

**Today:** Generally sunny despite a few afternoon clouds. A stray shower or thunderstorm is possible. Winds WSW at 5 to 10 mph.

**Tonight:** Partly cloudy. A stray shower or thunderstorm is possible. Winds WNW at 5 to 10 mph

Anthem and Alma Mater each morning.

Boys' State was surely not easy. There were many times when boys simply wanted to sleep or go home

to escape the taxing activities of the program, but everyone reading this persevered to the very end. Boys' State citizens should be proud of their accomplishment.

**Want to contact Mr. O'Brien or Russ Gugino? Email them!**

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# 9/11 Never Forget

By Will Sylvia, #0455

The year 2019 marks several important occasions for the American Legion and the United States of America. Located in the STUAC building, directly in the entrance, the 9/11 exhibit, headed by John Hyland, City Councilor of Miller, rested in the lobby for all Boys' State citizens to see. This year, the September 11th attack on the World Trade Center will mark its 18th anniversary in the fall.

The exhibit serves as a grim reminder that we must never forget what happened that day, the bravery of the first responders, and the lives of so many who passed away. Rivets and bolts taken straight from one of the towers, the pieces of steel from the 1 World Trade Center, and the rail from the train car crushed underneath the rubble of the towers, break the hearts of the generation who did not personally experience that day. Every citizen should take the time to visit this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

Hyland's description of his experience on the infamous day



Photo by Emmanuel Agbavitor, #1009

was chilling. He spoke about the deadlock traffic in the Bronx on his way to work. A co-worker told him about a plane hitting the tower, but he didn't believe him. The radio wasn't working, so he couldn't confirm the rumor. When he went to the East Side, he saw one of the towers on fire. The next day, Hyland went back with a camera and took pictures of the city. He stressed how disgustingly thick the air was.

Hyland recalled when the towers

were built, watching the construction workers scramble up and down the buildings on ropes. He reminisced of when a King Kong movie was filmed there and how the massive ape created a lasting image in his mind. Hyland's most important message was to always remember and never forget.

"Even though they've built over it, people should never forget it," Hyland said.

## They Said We Couldn't Last Without Phones

By Craig Haas, #0462

Today is the last day of Boys' State. It is the day that our phones are rightfully returned to us. Our parents doubted that we could last more than one day without them, and many counselors did as well. While many are happy about getting their phones back, I honestly have mixed feelings about it.

Yes, I will be able to contact my friends again, have up-to-date news, and be able to take pictures and videos of funny things again, but nothing compares to the way I was able to communicate with fellow citizens without phones.

For the first time in years, I was actually able to have conversations without my friends staring at their phones and build strong relationships

in less than a week. I was relieved of all of the stress that results from social media and cell phones off my back, and I had meaningful and enjoyable conversations with my friends. I think everyone needs to re-examine this week and come to realize how relaxing and how pleasant life was without these addictive devices in our pockets.

# What Change Do the People Want?

By Grant Allen, #0982

Today, the Senate and the Assembly voted on a number of legislations aiming to improve Boys' State and perhaps even New York State as a whole.

The most supported topics revolved around the legalization of recreational marijuana with a five percent tax, nuclear energy and mandatory vaccination. Ironically, a bill focused on A.I. related issues, Governor Nathaniel Wang's campaign focus, received little support in the assembly.

It's interesting to note that mandatory vaccination gained the most widespread appeal with the Senate and Assembly. This shows that many of our generation not only feel strongly about the issues caused by antivaxx parents but also demonstrate what the people want. Citizens are tired of being forced to respond to the problems caused by ignorant people who refuse to accept scientific proof.

The most important thing, arguably, to come out of the assembly meeting was the rejection of the A.I. Bill encouraged by Governor Wang himself. The assembly voted down the bill by a noticeable margin. To me, it sounds to be benign legislation. Perhaps the Assemblymen felt as though passing the legislation would incentivize more rapid automation of jobs, or perhaps the bill was simply poorly written. Regardless of the reasons, Governor Wang is likely reeling from this sizeable defeat as he moves into his final day as Governor at Boys' State.



*Photos above by Erik Adolfsson, #0106*



*Special photo of Les Crossett (Crossett) by Boys' State Video Department*

# SPORTS

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## Highlights from Wimbledon Day One

By Gage Kilborne, #0874

The well-known tennis tournament commenced yesterday in the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club. The tournament lasts over a week, showcasing some of the best tennis players around the globe, and is the biggest tournament in sports history, featuring 128 players of both men and women on the field. Additionally, the tournament has a doubles category.

The men's singles category had multiple surprising upsets from many elite athletes. The defending champion and No. 1 overall seed, Novak Djokovic, started his run to defend the title strong as he took out his opponent Phillip Kohlschreiber in three straight sets. The seventh seed, Stefano Tsitsipas, lost in the first round, shocking many of the fan who believed Tsitsipas could have claimed the championship title this year. The sixth seed, Alexander

Zverev, lost to Jiri Vesely in four sets in another upset.

The women's singles bracket had a few upsets as well. Yulia Putintseva beat the second seed, Naomi Osaka, in two sets. Osaka was predicted to be a fan favorite for the title this year. Venus Williams lost to 15-year-old Cori Gauff. This is only the beginning of the Wimbledon Tennis Tournament and the unpredictable upsets to come.

## NBA Offseason Update: Thompson, Russell and Whitesides

By LJ LaFiura, #0723

The NBA offseason continues. In the past few hours, teams, players, and agents have been wheeling and dealing to get a piece of this remarkable migration of professional players. Fans have seen many significant moves in the past few hours alone, including one that may open the door for another NBA all-star.

Earlier today, Klay Thompson has agreed to re-sign with the Warriors off of a five-year \$190 million contract. Thompson has spent his entire career with Stephen Curry and the Warriors, accumulating an average of 20 points a game and shooting 42 percent from behind the

three-point line. Thompson plans on taking a year to recover from an ACL injury, which he suffered in the final game of the NBA Finals. He played with the injury for a quarter and scored 30 points.

Former Brooklyn Net D'Angelo Russell has found himself a new home: the Golden State Warriors. Russell was a former Laker draft pick who failed to develop as quickly as the organization had hoped. He was traded to the Nets in order to make room for Lonzo Ball. After an injury plagued his first year, Russell came out of the shadows and became one of the NBA's most improved players, averaging 21 points and seven assists. He will resign and be a part of a sign-and-trade agreement

for Kevin Durant. He will serve as the replacement for Thompson.

Miami has decided to get into the fray as well. Yesterday, the Miami Heat agreed to send their rebounding champion and center Hassan Whiteside to Portland in exchange for Maurice Harkless and Meyers Leonard. The former project player has become a dominant force in the paint, averaging 11 rebounds and three blocks. The Trailblazers received a starter whose contract will run out shortly, replacing their starter Jusuf Nurkic who is recovering from a leg injury. However, the Miami Heat views this as a money move in order to acquire free agent Jimmy Butler through a sign-and-trade agreement with the 76ers.



## Championship Results

**Softball Championship:**  
Morrill: 6 | Casey: 17

**Basketball Championship:**  
Peter: 20 | Coleman: 14

**Soccer Championship:**  
Carpenter: 7 | Coleman: 3

## Casey takes down Miller 5-2

By LJ LaFiura, #0723

In the state quarterfinal, Casey showed that they were the more skilled and experienced team. They took down Miller 5-2.

Dan Navas was the MVP in this game. He started the game off with two goals for Casey. He followed up with another sharp shot to the bottom left corner for his fourth goal of the game.

"I'm really good at slipping them in the goal," Navas said.

Attacking with confidence, Casey pulled their goalie, Mitch Skellie, onto the field. Miller scored two goals in the half and held on to win the game. They played again at four o'clock against Coleman where they lost 4-3.

"We played well. This was much better than our past few games," Skellie said.

## Late goal pushes Coleman past Casey

By LJ LaFiura, #0723

After every pass, every shot and every save, it was one goal that decided the results of the game as a Coleman goal in the 27th minute pushed the team past Casey, leading 4-3 and advancing Coleman into the state finals.

After eighteen minutes of play, Coleman found themselves down 3-2 against a skilled and hardened Casey team.

"We played well. There was a lot

of communication and the passing was good," Bryan Shaw from Coleman said.

Casey started off strong in the first half. Theo Viggioni-Cole scored two goals in the first half before Coleman tied it up. But Casey had a hard time offensively in the beginning of the second half and were outscored later in the half.

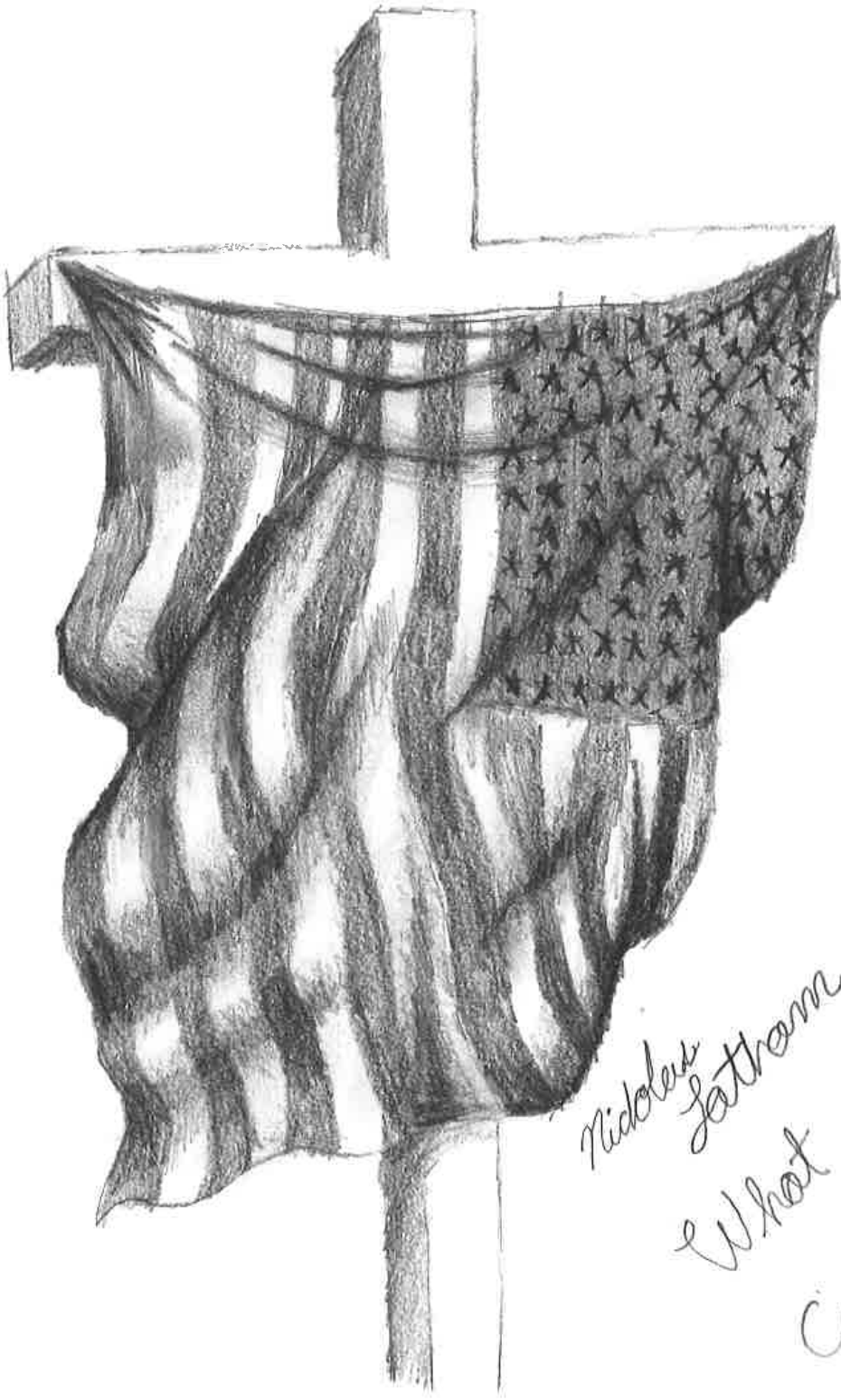
"We saw a lot of holes, but they were too tight," said Theo Viggioni-Cole.



*Photos above by Eric Yen, #0364*



*Photos above by Eric Yen, #0364*



Nicklas  
Latham

What you do for your  
country will always  
be remembered.