

FRIDAY

NEWSPAPER

ARTICLES

HRINYA CITY

House Takes Action Against Gang Violence

Grace Dougherty

Yesterday, the House passed a bill that encouraged the creation of after school programs for elementary school children. Bill sponsor Angela Campbell asserted that the creation of these extra curricular activities will put young children on the path to continued positive involvement in their communities and discourage involvement in gangs. The bill seeks to create an environment where children in underprivileged situations can meet with older mentors and foster their interests and talents.

As the bill was debated, some representatives took issue with the omission of provisions for transportation and the lack of cause to become involved. Though these issues were both raised, only one amendment was proposed. An amendment to move the program to middle school was proposed by a representative from Beister City. The representative argued that involvement in gangs does not occur until later in life than elementary school. The amendment failed due to counterargument during debate which explained that the goal of the bill was to teach the very young members of society about what positive involvement looks like.

The bill ultimately passed, showing that the House is committed to combating gang violence in Keystone's city.

The Hrinya Hawk Takes to the Streets

Grace Dougherty

Today, Hrinya City Council Woman Kelly Meinert sponsored an ordinance that reads: "There shall be one citizen of Hrinya City who, in times of crisis or law enforcement indolence, who may take the enforcement of the law into their own hands and act as a vigilante."

The ordinance will create a vigilante in Hrinya and stipulates that this enforcer be referred to as the Hrinya Hawk. The ordinance also makes the chosen Hrinya Hawk conceal her identity at all costs. It also protects the Hrinya Hawk from any criminal charges for actions taken in the name of her role.

Residents eagerly await the arrival of the Hrinya Hawk on the streets of their crime-ridden city. Hrinya resident Kristyn Kleinhenz shared her thoughts on the new ordinance: "I think it's a great idea and it will keep us safe. All those villains out there, you never know what will come about. It's good to know someone has your back."

Others believe that the police are already doing their best to curb crime in a more orderly manner. Kristyn, however, disagrees. She explains: "The police cannot do their job on their own. What about the super villains? The police can't fly, it's as simple as that."

The residents of Keystone are eagerly awaiting the results of this new law and some are beginning to wonder if their city needs a strong vigilante as well.

Lieutenant Governor Prosecuted in County Trial

Grace Dougherty

The trial in Red County unfolded on Thursday, with County District Attorney Ivy Snyder, Public Defender Kaity Meeh, and County Magistrate Lisa Bakhodirova making up the court. The defendant was Melanie Sporn, who is now Lieutenant Governor of Keystone Girls State. The county prosecuted Melanie, a resident of Hrinya for violating several of Peterson City's ordinances on Monday.

The prosecution built a case based on the several eyewitness accounts of Melanie's alleged actions. The county charged her with violating Peterson's ordinance forbidding non-residents to wear shoes and prohibiting those who are not troopers from running. Annabella Anderson, the arresting officer and County Sheriff, testified to what occurred:

"I heard someone asking for an officer to help arrest someone," Annabella said, "She just bolted the other way. She was trying to get away from me." Annabella also identified those in the county who had watched the alleged crime occur. One such witness was Caleigh Fink, who testified next.

"First I heard footsteps pounding, then I heard loud voices," she testified, "I saw Melanie arrested and put in jail with her shoes on." Overall, the prosecution built a case that included several eyewitness accounts of Melanie breaking both the no-shoes rule and the no-running rule.

The defense, however, asserted that Melanie only broke Peterson's ordinance to be courteous, and that her arrest was unnecessarily physical. Jasmine Elsify testified for the defense, saying: "I was sitting in my lounge and suddenly Mel came in and said she had been arrested in Peterson for not taking off her shoes because she didn't want to because her feet smelled. Then she showed me the marks on her arm from the handcuffs."

Jasmine also described Melanie as "upset and distressed" after the arrest, and testified that a picture of the red marks left by the handcuffs during the arrest exists. The defendant herself then testified, corroborating Jasmine's account.

"I was walking and told everyone I wouldn't take my shoes off because my feet smelled bad, and then there's this person who comes running at me and I fell down and handcuffs were put on me very roughly," Melanie said.

When asked if the ordinances were clearly posted, Melanie said that while they were written, she could not see them because she was not wearing her contacts, meaning that they were not technically posted clearly for all people.

In the end, the jury of Melanie's peers found her guilty of both counts of violating the law. Melanie was sentenced to washing her feet by the County Magistrate.

Senate 5-20-19
Olivia Castilla

After heavy campaigning from both the Nationalists and Federalists, the senators from each of the cities came together in order to pass bills on the Senate floor.

The PO decided that instead of having debate over the amendments, we should instead just vote on the amendment to save time. And save time we did; we passed 5 bills in the Senate that will be very beneficial to Keystone's quality of living. The benefits included in these bills relate to foster care, infrastructure, eco-friendly bikes, and cleaning up amusement parks and concerts in order to attract tourists.

These new changes to our state are going to be a great benefit to our citizens' opportunities to have more money, get diplomas, and become more populous. A grand total of 3 people observed the Senate floor today through live-streaming, all of which were the delegates' parents.

Talent Show Takes Off
Grace Dougherty

Last night, the Keystone Girls State showcased the myriad of talents possessed by its members. From White County's performance of the Cotton Eye Joe to the beautiful voices of Caillie and Erin, the show was a celebration of the empowered young woman here at Girls State. Many acts entertained the citizens of Girls State with funny spectacles. Lisa Bakhodirova of Hrinya City participated in one of the funniest acts of the night: above ground synchronized swimming.

Lisa decided to participate in order to enhance her experience here at Girls State. "Since the program is coming to an end, I wanted to have all the fun I could!" Lisa explained that Caleigh Fink, Annabella Rioc, and Amelia Fisher also participated in the unique act. "During the break before my speech my friends from another city said how fun their act would be and asked if I wanted to join and I said "heck yeah!" Lisa said. The talent show was a welcome break from stress for Lisa, who was campaigning for Supreme Court Justice at the time.

What is above ground synchronized swimming? Well, the hilarious act consisted of a sheet held across the stage, which the "swimmers" stood behind as they acted out swimming and diving. Lisa reports that the girls saw the idea on YouTube and felt they had to make it their own and bring the distinctive performance to all of us here at Girls State.

Overall, the talent show and the other city activities serve to strengthen the sense of community amid program participants. In their city groups, girls work together to form a micro-society within the more complex simulated state government. Lisa described this phenomenon by saying, "By working with my amazing city and running for positions you meet new people and get really close to them." She feels that the talent show truly exhibited the new relationships she has forged with other citizens:

"Even though I knew those girls for a short time, we just enjoyed ourselves and communicated to have fun and get to know each other"

PETERSON CITY

Peterson City Yoga

6/21/19

Amelia and Caleigh's Article

While other cities may be going for a run or catching a couple of extra minutes of sleep the Peterson City crew is up and having a yoga class. They meet at 6 am and do some light and relaxing yoga before the city lines up, counts, and walks to breakfast. Caitlin Fay, Caleigh Fink, and Anabella Rios, the three girls who started the yoga sessions, found that they felt significantly more relaxed. Caleigh Fink expressed to the press in a private interview that she felt so refreshed and ready for the day.

The Peterson City girls yogi followed a YouTube video, provided by Caitlin, and directed the class through numerous poses. These included downward dog, child's pose, and plank pose. It only took about twenty minutes, but it made quite the difference. In fact, if every citizen from every city participated in morning yoga, it wouldn't be unreasonable to think that the overall mood of Girls State would improve drastically.

Yoga is shown to have many benefits, both physically and mentally. It really helps you find your zen. Namastay. It also improves flexibility, but you also might be exposed for not being able to touch your toes. Anyway, it's really great that Peterson city found a way to get active and awake to start the day off right.

REINHARD

CITY

Keystone Girls State Talent Show Invaded

Madison Girard

Last night the Keystone Girls State Talent Show was invaded by the counselors of Keystone Boys State. The Talent Show was a success as our citizens of KGS took the stage and demonstrated talents such as magic, singing, dancing, lip syncing, and surprisingly synchronized swimming on land. As counselors, mentors and staff took the stage together to sing and dance to High School Musical and show off their basketball skills. Then the counselors of Keystone Boys State rushed the stage and started dancing and singing along with them. Then afterwards they showed the citizens of Keystone Girls State their “special” act as they graced us with “Africa” by Toto. Reinhard had three acts in the talent show including Carene’s beautiful piano solo, a city wide act of a Tic Toc dance of Na Na Na which opened this year’s Talent show. Then the entire White County came together as a whole and danced the Cotton Eyed Joe which escalated into the entire State joining, turning into a dance fest. Reinhard would like to congratulate all of the girls.

Counselor KBS Scandal

Delaney Keefer

Counselor Clarke, from Reinhard city was seen shaking hands with a BOY from KBS on Monday. It was later discovered that Counselor Mercedes was texting and sending pictures back and forth with a boy from KBS.

Multiple witnesses say that Clarke was in line waiting for food when she was seen talking with a boy from KBS. They were shocked. There are countless rules in the KGS handbook FORBIDDING girls to interact with guys from KBS, not to mention Reinhard’s ordinance against it. Those watching thought that it couldn’t get any worse, but they were wrong. All of a sudden Clarke began to SHAKE HANDS with the boy from KBS. Clarke is constantly preaching to the girls in her city about not flirting with the boys from KBS, so when they found out what she had done, they felt as though they had been completely deceived. “I trusted Clarke so much, and to find out that she’s a hypocrite broke my trust, not to mention ruin the image of her that I had.” said Kalissa from Reinhard city.

“Mercedes was snap chatting a boy from KBS on Monday” Clarke said. Mercedes clearly knows the rules, but she broke them anyways. When asked, Mercedes stated “I was snapping a boy from KBS on Monday, but I quickly lost interest when he didn’t text me back quickly.”

Clarke and Mercedes both served hard time for these crimes violating the KGS guidelines and the Reinhard City specific ordinance that states citizens are not allowed to interact with KBS because of the risk of cooties. Hopefully no further serious violations will occur.

KRUMRINE

CITY

Unknown Title
Madison Niebish

On Thursday, June 20th was the first time the House of Representatives ran the legislative meetings on their own. Everybody was so engaged and present, it was truly an incredible thing to see. On day one of the house, the majority of the representatives were lost and confused, not knowing what was going on. I can say I was beyond help on the first day but as the days went on everybody was helping each other get through. Fast forward to today-- it is sincerely amazing to see the growth of every single person. Girls State has really helped every single person grow as a person and looking at the house is a perfect example of this.

This week at Girls State has been almost a life-changing experience. The week has taught me about the government, inspired me to want to be more involved, and introduced me to friends who I know that I will have by my side for the rest of my life. When I first arrived I had no clue what I got myself into. The first day I was not too excited, but the second everyone started talking and asking the basic question, "Where are you from?" I loosened up. At Krumrine City, it was like we already knew each other before we met each other. After hearing about everything all of the amazing women that run Girls State do has inspired me to get more involved with my community. Finally the government. I can say I knew absolutely nothing about the government but now I can proudly say that I know at least something about the government, all thanks to Keystone Girls State. So, thank you to Girls State for giving me the opportunity to grow myself as a person, this experience is something I don't expect to forget soon.

Unknown Title
Abbey Glavin

Today in the House, Krumrine passed another bill. This one talks about having internships beginning the second half of ones senior year in high school. As a rising senior, I would love to take advantage of these opportunities myself. My school offers opportunities like these and it is how we attract many of our students. Many students have no idea what they would like to study when they are in college, nor what they want to do when they finish school. These internships would help them discover new interests and spark excitement about the real world. Even for those who know exactly what they want to do, it is an obvious bonus. They can continue to be excited about their futures. It would also benefit the entire city because these passionate students would gain even more knowledge on their subject of interest, creating citizens that are well educated. It is a win-win all around!

Unknown Title

Laura Finnel

Throughout this week, all of the cities have bonded immensely. But Krumrine specifically has bonded the most, in my opinion. The citizens of Krumrine are all so close and always here for each other. We stay up so late every night just to talk about life and laugh until our stomachs hurt. We never pass up an opportunity to sit together at meals, in the dorms, or in the House or Senate. But when it comes to work, we always get it done on time and as a team. In fact, we have been Honor City two out of three times this week! Miranda from Krumrine always says, "I love us as a group. We were all meant to be in Krumrine!!" We are all so proud to be a part of this city, and that will never leave our hearts!

It's sad to say that today, Friday the 21st, is our last full day as a city. We all don't even want to speak about leaving each other because we live all over the state. Knowing that this might be the last time we all see each other is really upsetting. Amber said, "I'm honestly going to miss you guys so much, why can't this be for all of summer??" Even though this is almost over,

we will always keep in contact. Also, we won't lose contact with our amazing counselors as well. They've helped us so much in this past week and we thank them everyday because of it. Thank you Girls State for the memories!

Unknown Title

Abbey Glavin

I am so proud to be from Krumrine City. We really got the best of everything. We have the best mentor (love you Sandi!), the best counselors, and of course the best citizens. I have met so many amazing people, especially within my city and I continue to be inspired every day. These young women are strong, powerful, and independent women. Everyone has so many ambitions and has so much passion for what they want to do with their futures.

As a city, we got super close right away. We all bonded with what sports we play, our hopes for the future, and just being our goofy selves. In the beginning when Melissa got up on stage and said, "These girls will be your friends for a lifetime," I was thinking to myself, "yeah, okay sure... like that's gonna happen." But now that I'm here and spending all of this time with these girls, all of the late nights, the laughs, and the jokes, I know exactly what she was talking about. We even got up on stage to do an acapella act, something that would have never happened if we had not all been so accepting and fun. These girls are so easy to relate to. I think it's hard to find a group of teenage girls that are so accepting and are just willing to laugh with each other and have a good time. I am so glad that I came to Keystone Girls State to meet all of these wonderful people.

Unknown Title

Lily Wilson

I knew when I came to Keystone Girls State that there would be a gathering of girls from all over the state of Pennsylvania. What I did not know, however, was that all of these girls coming together would be such a success, and give me the opportunity to meet so many wonderful people.

This whole week I have been blessed to be able to bond with girls from Philadelphia, Erie, Lancaster, Scranton, and more. Girls from places that I have never even heard of. We have all been able to discover that we have so much in common. We have become so close that I almost forgot that we were from such different places and communities.

It finally hit me last night at the Talent Show when I heard counselors and citizens yelling the Philadelphia Eagles chant. June Park, a fellow citizen of Krumrine City, said, "It's what we chant at Eagles games! It's a Philadelphia thing!" I had no idea what it was from because I am a Yinzer, not a Philadelphian! I thought it was something from the internet that I did not know! Then I finally realized what it was, I was taken aback. I had forgotten that all of us girls were not just Keystone Girls State citizens, but girls from all over Pennsylvania. It also made me a little melancholy, because it made real the fact that very soon, I would be leaving these girls to go back to our little corners of the universe.

Krumrine Represented in State Office

By Sammi Mapps

Yesterday, Thursday June 20th, the State of Keystone held its state officer election. Krumrine had three candidates running for the position of Supreme Court Justice, all coincidentally from the Federalist Party. The way of voting was quite unconventional considering the irregular conditions we were under, due to inclement weather. The lights were out in the whole dorm, so each city had to go downstairs to the lounge one by one to vote on the four computers provided.

A little while after voting, we heard the long anticipated results over the loudspeaker. Both Alyssa and Anna received the position as Justices. Furthermore, Anna got the role of not only Justice, but Chief Justice. In pure excitement from the news, Anna looked over at Alyssa and remarked, "we're 'just'i together!" It was a moment of pride for all of Krumrine city and we are more than happy to support them in their endeavors. Today they had the state office meeting to help in drafting the 100 Day Plan. Anna and Alyssa also look forward for the mock trial taking place later in the evening tonight. They pride themselves on being unbiased and fair to whoever is on trial. Now we hope for two of our girls to be selected for Girls Nation this July. At this point, we have three people in the running to be the Pennsylvania senators and they could not be more excited for the opportunity they have been afforded to even be considered for such a prestigious honor.

My experience as the “Park” in Park v. White County
June Park

Coming to Keystone Girls State, I never imagined being on trial as the defense for a high-profile county court case. But on Thursday, June 21, I found myself in my blue dress suit and green crocs in front of the entire White County with my future on the line. I was arrested for breaking Reinhard’s ordinance of running in the hallways on Monday, June 17 while trying to make it in time for the voting of the primary county elections.

My defense attorney was the brilliant Meg and she worked eagerly to defend my honor and vindicate me of such horrendous accusations and instead bring to light my experience of voter suppression. Despite voting being a fundamental right in our democracy, it is a fact that voter suppression occurs throughout our nation. As a result, my fight was against voter suppression.

When I was called to the witness chair, I was sweating profusely because I realized that if I was not able to clear my name, my case of voter suppression would not be taken seriously and this horrendous cycle of voter suppression would continue. My fight in the courtroom was not just about me, but for all citizens in White County who might face voter suppression. On the stand, I had to fight my tears back. My defense attorney, Meg made a strong argument citing U.S. Code 594 that anyone who intimidates a voter will be fined or imprisoned and the 15th Amendment that makes voting a right regardless of race. I had the support of witness and counselor Liz who clarified the gravity of this action of voter suppression by the Reinhard citizens.

District attorney, Anna, grilled me on the stand but I stood firm by my beliefs in the fundamental right to vote. Although the audience watching may have laughed, I refused to laugh because this was my life, honor, and legacy on the line.

After a long deliberation, the jury walked back with the verdict and my heart sunk when the honorable county magistrate, Sam, read the verdict, “The jury has come to the conclusion after a very extremely detailed debate that we just couldn’t decide who was truly guilty. Half of us thought June was guilty and deserved absolutely no mercy, while the other half said ‘eh, whatever.’ So we debated some more. After a boatload of back and forth, all of us as a jury, a group of talented, diverse, and empowered young women, came to the final conclusion that the ‘sexy jaw’n’ aka June is indeed completely and utterly without a single doubt in our minds, is 1000%, drum roll please.... **GUILTY!!!**”

I was once again put in handcuffs and had to serve my eight minutes in county jail. On the way back to my city, I *speedwalked* as fast as possible back to make a statement. I will continue my fight here at Keystone Girls State.

The Debate Over Non-Debatable Technical Questions

By: Lily Wilson

The debate over non-debatable technical questions is as old as the KGS Legislature. Technically, the definition of one such question is a query concerning certain facts, statistics, or logistical parts of a bill. It is supposed to be a statement that does not spark debate, hence its name.

In the past few sessions in the House of Representatives, the Delegates have proven to find this task of creating stimulating, non-debatable technical questions quite challenging, according to the Speaker and the Clerk. Although it is inspiring to see the dedication that they possess for the bills that they are presented with, the Delegates must stop all of these debatable questions!

When asked about the issue, Speaker of the House, Mikayla Tillery, had this to say, "I am very happy with the progress that is being made here. However, the questions are not non-debatable enough. They should not be open-ended questions, but rather questions about facts or statistics. It is almost as if they are filibustering." Clerk Maura Campbell added, "The questions they are asking should be used as con speeches instead."

Keystone Girls State is a learning experience, even though a number of the girls are considerably more prepared for the legislative section of the week. The delegates put many hours into both the House and Senate sessions. Girls from all over Pennsylvania have come together to work and learn, all while giving up their summer vacations. Hopefully, in time the Delegates of Keystone State's House of Representatives will start asking the right questions.

Trash the Act? By Gwenn Strasser

In the House on Monday afternoon, a bill named the Trash Fine Act was passed. This bill stated that all those found to be littering would have a \$250 fine imposed on them. Even though this bill seems like a wonderful way to discourage littering at first glance, it poses several significant problems. A question that was brought up in the House was, "How will lower income families substantiate the fines if they're simply misinformed?" The answer presented was that court cases would determine if the defendant was guilty of littering or not, and they would somehow educate people on what recyclables go where. However, flaws are present. How do we know for certain if the defendant is guilty without invading their right to privacy? Who would educate people on recyclables? Would there be a pamphlet on the differences? Who would enforce trash vs. litter? Are people going to pick through the bins and see who's put the plastic in the cardboard container? If one looks at the statistics about pollution, she would realize very quickly that individuals are not the problem when it comes to littering. According to Scientific American, as of 2013, just 100 corporations are responsible for 71% of pollution all over the world. If these corporations were given a \$250 fine for littering, they wouldn't even feel the blow that a lower income family might feel. This bill would work best if the fine fluctuated with the amount of litter, but again, who would enforce these laws and determine the prices? This bill does solve the problem of pollution to some extent, but it's only looking at a small part of the issue.

HEALD CITY

Batman, Geter, or Both?

6.21.19

Written by: Hannah H & Alyssa Irvin

Whenever in a room for an extended period of time, one should carefully analyze their peers to determine who in the crowd is most likely to secretly be Batman. Of course this is a ludicrous and arbitrary personality category as no one could ever be Bruce Wayne. After careful consideration and five days of observation, my expert analysis is that Esther Geter wins this award. My rationalizations are as follows: the woman is omniscient, she's often absent, and she brilliantly feigns inattentive behavior. She is definitely most likely to be Batman.

It is with the powerful sound of her laughter that we all came to know and love. She drew us in with her hilarious commentary, and proceeded to make us feel like we belonged at Keystone Girls State more and more each day. With a quick wink of her eye, we knew she was a special mentor. Not like the others. But why? How? She calls everyone "puddin'" and "darling" and listens to all of our opinions and thoughts from her comfortable spot on the green chair underneath the television on the wall. It is in that very chair she watches us sing and dance to our city song (while trying to sing along, of course) and do our work. It is also in that very chair that she falls asleep multiple times a day in order to regain her strength through hour-long power naps -- only to be awakened by the ringing of her cell phone. We try other methods, but that catchy automated tune is the only thing that can wake her.

We learned her quirks and personality traits, and we have come to love them all. From her black walking cane to her silver and gleaming hair, she has become the bright sun in our lives. Esther Geter is one of the main highlights of KGS.

Batman is a different story. A powerful man who became the Dark Knight to protect the city of Gotham from crime and violence, Batman has many of the daring qualities and qualifications to be deemed a brilliant superhero. We know him, we love him, we recognize him for the gadgets and infamous Batmobile. We can't get over amazingly relatable parodies such as "Bat Dad" on social media or the serious, deep voice he constantly finds himself imitating. From the pages of comic books (oh, sorry, *graphic novels*) to the big screen, we have grown up with Batman and all of the wonderful things he has brought to the youth, as well as the old-timers, that enjoy his story so much.

To a normal outsider, these two figures, may not seem to be comparable in many ways. They are not very similar to each other.

This is where you would be wrong.

Esther Geter is a woman like no other. In other words, if you were to look around and determine who is most likely able to fill the shoes of Bruce Wayne and saw Esther Geter, you would immediately think “Her. That woman is Batman”. We have seen, time and time again, that she possesses all the qualities that Batman is recognized for. While she doesn’t reveal a deep, dark, ominous voice around her KGS girls, she does reveal a powerful, strong, hearty laugh that could shake a room to its foundation. While she doesn’t have the physique of the strong and burly hero, she carries her cane at all times in case she need to discipline a criminal, and tricks you into thinking she uses it to walk (yes, you’ve been fooled). And while she is never seen clad in spandex or bright-colored capes and sneaking out at night, she is always in comfortable, movable clothing in order to chase criminals and take down thugs. We have also noticed that she is constantly taking naps in her designated chair during the day. Why is this important? Well think about it this way. Why would someone who is so full of energy be so tired? The answer... she has been out all night fighting crime and putting criminals behind bars, and we all believed that she was just leaving to go to bed early. We didn’t think twice about her mid-day snoozes. Until now.

But, when it comes to conclusions, it is never safe to jump. Sure, Esther Geter is probably Batman (as supported through our careful expertly crafted observations). But can we do anything about it? Nope. Do we really need (or *want*) to do anything about her hidden identity? Nope. Esther Geter is Esther Geter -- the amazing and supportive women we all met on day one. The woman who showed us all her moves during the talent show when all of the mentors were singing *How Much is that Doggy in the Window*. The woman we will truly miss when we leave. Esther Geter -- Batman or not -- is wonderful.

And it’s as simple as that.

Empowered Performers

6.21.19

Written by: Jillian Maher

Thursday night, our Keystone Girls' State held the talent show to showcase our talented young women. It was an exciting event for both the performers and the hyped crowd who were eager to support their friends. Now on Friday morning, I had the opportunity to ask the girls in Heald City a few questions about their acts.

First, Makenzie and Grace. Two energetic young women who lip-synced and danced to Burnin' up by the Jonas Brothers answered a few questions. Upon asked about their experience, they both agreed that it was a thrill to be up on the stage in which they had been motivated to do so by the Jonas Brothers making a comeback this year. Mackenzie then stated that her favorite part was when Kasey, their fellow performer, left the stage mid-act; Grace expressed that her favorite part of it all was the absolute thrill of knee-sliding across the stage and getting to hit the "red dress" high note of the song. The audience enjoyed their act, from their hyped dancing to the nostalgic playing of a song from the days of childhood.

Up next was our own Heald mayor Kelsey. She wanted to sing in order to push herself out of her comfort zone and to prove to herself that she can do something that made her so nervous. Her favorite part was when the audience put up their phone flashlights during her song. The sea of light in love for her performance settled her nerves and she confidently and beautifully finished her song. Kelsey expressed that she felt supported the whole way through the song and was closer with everyone afterwards. The crowd surely enjoyed her amazing act where we could see her grow in confidence through her time on stage.

Sam, an empowered young woman, aimed to empower the fellow young women around her. She recited the poem Phenomenal Woman, which details the things about a woman that makes us so amazing, strong, and influential. Her motivation was that she loves the poem and she said that reciting poems helps her "understand poems and feel them in her soul". She also said she wanted to recite Phenomenal Woman for all the phenomenal women of Girls State. Her favorite part was when she finished the poem with having the audience say the last line "that's me". She loved encouraging and empowering the crowd.

Next, Caillie of our great city sang for her talent. She loves to sing and knew that us girls would like her song "My Grand Plan" because we could all relate to it; she knew it would be fun to share. Throughout the song, there are several strong lyrics that empower women, and Caillie's favorite part was singing those parts and hearing the audience snap in agreement and support. Overall, it was a pleasure for her to be up on the stage to perform in front of a supportive group of girls where she did not feel judged.

Over the duration of the show, it hosted an incredible amount of talent from throughout all the cities of Girls' State. But here in Heald City we knew it was extra special to see our friends on stage, all of whom we have bonded with so close here on the fourth floor. We watched them expel their insecurities, get on stage, and rock it.

New Friends and Faces I feel Like I've Known for a Lifetime

6.21.19

Written by: Kelsey Reimer

I'm not sure who will be reading this article, but I hope that the citizens of my city eventually do. After a long night on Sunday, by the time Monday came around I felt like I could easily talk to and have fun with all the girls in my city for the rest of the week. So far, I've become pretty close with the girls in my city, specifically Hannah, Regina, Grace, and Ashley. While I only met them the day before, I can say that I'm extremely appreciative of how kind, inviting, and helpful all of these girls are. I can't wait to sit in the House of Representatives with Mackenzie everyday, to see Abby in the morning when we wake up and are fully drained of energy, to chat with Regina while she works for hours on ordinances, to see all of Grace's cute Heald City instagram posts, and to take frequent trips to get cake and fill water bottles with Hannah. At this point, I can't even imagine saying goodbye to such a great group of girls and I hope I can represent them well as their mayor. LET'S GO HEALD CITY :)

Today it is Friday and I have even more to say today than I did on Monday. The friends I have made at Keystone Girls State are super supportive and I haven't felt this empowered in a long time. Last night, we had a talent show where I sang my first ever solo in front of a crowd larger than my choir class. The support I received from not only my city, but all the other girls in the program was absolutely incredible. I can't believe that I have to leave this group of amazing young women tomorrow afternoon. Through all the support that I have received, I have learned to be even more confident in myself these past few days. I can absolutely say that this experience has solidified my belief that I have so much more to offer the world than I could have ever imagined. I now know that my voice is just as important as the "smartest" or "best" person in the room because of this experience. By living with so many powerful girls and mentors this past week, I have discovered that empowerment can change a person's whole outlook on life and the way in which they carry themselves. Right now, I am sitting in my city meeting watching the girls around me discuss the new bills they hope to pass in the House or Senate today, the interviews that they want to complete to aid their articles, and suggesting possible ordinances to put in place in our city. I am so surprised by the amount of effort every girl has poured into this program and I am extremely proud to be the Mayor of Heald City.

To whoever is reading this article, whether it is a girl in Heald City, a girl in Blue County, a girl in the state of Keystone, a counselor, a mentor, or any member of the American Legion Auxiliary, I want to say thank you from the bottom of my heart for either being a part of this amazing week or for offering young girls the chance to come to a place that will provide them with a forever life-altering experience.

State Party Organization Experience

6.18.19

Written By: Abby Martin & Lucy Winn

Shortly after the flag raising ceremony this morning, we split up into our Nationalists and Federalists parties. It was amazing to see all of the young women who are as passionate about the nationalist party as we are. We took our seats and elected our party spokeswomen and chairwomen. We personally feel that the girls we chose are fantastic candidates who will lead our party to success.

Then we separated into our committees. We joined the hype team because we knew that our loud personalities and voices would be a useful addition to the rally. Our group efficiently collaborated and came up with some amazing chants for tomorrow. We were thoroughly impressed with how our chants turned out and we really believe that they will make us bond even more as a party. The five chants we have (so far!) are all about getting us together as one, and we're so pumped to show them to the rest of the Nationalists at the capitol. We will definitely create some more on the way home, and have them ready and perfected for the rally against the Federalists.

Once dinner was finished the Nationalists reconvened to talk about the state primary elections and meet the candidates. Right at the beginning of the meeting, one of the mentors came in and gave us our Nationalist mascot, the lion. We thought that it was absolutely adorable. We really loved all of the candidates and found it so interesting to hear about all of the activities and organizations that they are apart of. This is mainly because our schools themselves do not have clubs or organizations for law or history or debate, like so many of these girls are a part of. They all seemed like great and qualified candidates and we're very excited to work with them. I really hope that the girls who are running from our city win because we know that everyone in Heald city wants to support and help our city candidates rise to the top and reach their full potential.

I also enjoyed listening to all the girls campaigning as well. They were all really friendly and I enjoyed listening to them talk and just seeing how passionate they are about law and politics. It is not every day that you get to be a part of such an amazing group of young women who not only have distinct plans for their future, but are doing everything they can to guide themselves in the right direction -- starting with campaigning for leadership positions at Keystone Girls State.

A Representative's View on Renewable Energy; Is it Enough to Spark Change?

6.21.19

Written by: Alyssa Irvin

We see it everywhere. In our home towns, in our cities, in our country, in our neighboring continents. It is not an unfamiliar concept or a taboo topic. In fact, there are hundreds of dedicated scientists, activists, and citizens contributing vast amounts of their time and energy into finding a solution to this incredibly prevalent issue: climate change.

Now you are beginning to remember, right? As the news was playing on the television last week, you distantly heard that the ocean temperatures are continuing to rise with the absorption of more and more heat. Or maybe you are familiar with the pictures of arctic animals standing with a disposition of hopeless defeat as they wander on a thin, small sheet of ice. That area used to be a large chunk ice-filled land, you know. Or maybe, better yet, you recall scrolling through social media to come across a promotion for a middle-aged women's home-started environmental website that featured a special labeled "*Tips and Tricks to Reduce Your Carbon Footprint*". Some of these are mostly likely helping you recall your encounters with climate change awareness. But awareness is sometimes not enough. Sometimes, there needs to be a push for action. And no one has expressed this opinion in a more enthusiastic and understanding way than Doylestown Representative Wendy Ullman.

Climate change is happening whether we acknowledge it or not. It is here whether we invited it to be or not. The changing temperatures and cracking earth are not issues that our citizens can wish away; this is exactly why change needs to happen at this moment before it has passed. Before there is nothing left for mankind to do except try to pick up the pieces of a world destroyed by humans. I, along with other girls here at KGS, believe that educating the children of the next generation is absolutely vital in the mission of creating a healthier planet. And one area of interest we can start with is clean energy infrastructure. In meeting with advocates from the PennEnvironment association during our visit to the Pennsylvania Capitol, Ullman was able to not only listen and use what these advocates were suggesting, but she also ensured that she was aware of the problem and ready to start doing something about it.

I was able to attend a meeting that Ullman held with roughly ten advocates from PennEnvironment on Wednesday, June 19th. She gathered everyone outside of her office to accommodate for the large group (which also included three girls from KGS, one of them being myself) and promptly began the conversation. One by one, she listened to the person's name, hometown, and concerns about the environment. It was no surprise that for every concern announced, Ullman sympathized with the interest in the issue and finding a solution. She clearly and passionately expressed her views on the specific topics brought to the surface by each of the advocates, and provided them with information about what she has done to contribute to the

solution of this problem and what she plans on accomplishing. One recurring topic was the Tohickon Creek.

This is a main focus of Representative Ullman. The Tohickon Creek, located in Bucks county, is a tributary of the Delaware River, is facing some unfortunate and serious problems. With rising temperatures in bodies of water across the planet, this creek has experienced that warm increase. This not only affects the bed of the creek itself, but all of the organisms that comprise of its ecosystem. It is from the side effects of man and climate change that these unfortunate truths are occurring.

Ullman deliberated over her opinions and thoughts on how we could all be a part of the solution to this issue. It was important that she showed her knowledge on the subject, and she effectively did so by explaining the problems she saw with this creek that many others overlooked. She ensured the environmental advocates that she had plans to attract attention to the issue, and wanted to spread the word about what was happening as fast as possible. Because, like many of the representatives from PennEnvironment, Ullman truly and full-heartedly believes that people need a push to get an action started; She explains how nothing is going to change if we continue to stand by and watch it happen while simultaneously believing someone else will pick up our slack.

We have the lighter, and we have the fuse. All we need to do is create the friction between them to spark the reaction. To start the change.

The discussion really heightened when Ullman proceeded to ask *us*, the girls from KGS, what we thought about climate change and what citizens should be doing to solve it. While we all looked at each other for a moment, Caliegh Fink took a step forward and formulated a response in a few seconds. She talked about how groups like PennEnvironmental should be coming to our cities -- our schools, our places of work, our neighborhoods -- and educating the public and students about these issues. She explained how today many students are not aware of these issues because it can be considered a "taboo subject", sadly meaning that we are not educated to the extent of which we need to be in order to enact change. She also included the comment that many students are looking for service and volunteering opportunities, so visiting schools to talk about their association and spread awareness would be an effective way to accomplish their goal and gain volunteers to help their organization. Ullman and the others were impressed with her knowledge and contribution, and ensured us that they would definitely be taking her comments into consideration.

With youth like Caliegh Fink, passionate fighters like the PennEnvironment group, and intelligent pursuers like Wendy Ullman, Pennsylvania has a chance to make real change. Yes, climate change is a major problem that *seems* impossible to reverse, but why not try? If enough people have the will-power, we will be able to find an ultimate solution that, while maybe not

reversing the problem completely, helps us help the planet. The ideas and concerns are in the hands of the older generation (with leaders like Wendy Ullman), and as soon as they are passed onto us, we need to run with them. It is people like Representative and Ullman that are able to kickstart those ideas, but soon enough we will need to carry it on for her. So prepare and get ready, because change is on its way.

BEISTER CITY

Unknown Title

Unknown Author

On the foggy Wednesday morning of June 19th, Girls states citizens across Keystone woke up bright and early to the sound of their blaring alarms at 5:30 am. This morning the citizens of KGS were headed to the Pennsylvania capitol in Harrisburg to experience the inner workings of their state government. The day began as every previous day had. After breakfast, the platforms of both the Nationalist and Federalist Party divides into four buses and headed to the capital. Silence filled most of the buses, as sleeping citizens occupied most of the seats, tired from the packed days before. When all citizens arrived at the capital, a photo was captured on the steps of the rotunda followed by the loud and proud voices of KGS singing the national anthem. It was not long until the citizens dispersed. Some headed to their pre-scheduled meetings with their representatives and others wandered the halls of the capital admiring its unique architecture and visited the buildings coffee and gift shop. Throughout the next few hours citizens continued following through with meetings and tours, all prepared to reconvene with all of KGS on the stairs of the rotunda once again to take a photo with the esteemed governor of Pennsylvania, Tom Wolfe at 12:45. As we lined up for the picture, the governor made his way to the front. As quickly as he appeared, he was gone back to his office. Following the photo, we all split into groups to get our lunches before meeting by the fountain in the front of the building to await the return of the buses to bring us back to Shippensburg. As we headed back onto the buses, both the Federalists and Nationalists began practicing the cheers for the rally later that night before state conventions. Forty minutes later all of KGS arrived back at Shippensburg to begin the rest of the day's activities.

Unknown Title

Unknown Author

Thursday and Friday were our key days in making strives towards completing our Beister City song and dance. So the thing is, upon arrival on Sunday half of our group immediately got to business writing the song while the other half began composing the poster. Something we decided to do as a group was only compose a portion of our song and fill in the rest as our memories together accumulated. Our song is to the karaoke of Miley Cyrus's party in the U.S.A. One of my favorite lines in the song is: I hopped off the bus at KGS with my dreams and my fancy pants. This line personally makes me nostalgic of when our counselor Maddie introduced herself and her fancy pants on the very first day and recognized other people and their fancy pants. The special part of the song is the fact that each city is able to choose words that perhaps only they genuinely know. For example, at the end of our song we chant West Point. While others might not understand the reference it is more so an inside joke that does not genuinely have an explanation rather it became an ordinance that represented Beister city's fierceness. In addition, what I love about our song is the level of excitement we display; for example, our excitement demonstrates the level of closeness we have forged throughout one week. I am usually not comfortable dancing and being goofy on stage; however, in this experience I was thriving on the ladies excitement and we were each building each others level of energy up progressively. It is immensely special to put on a production with girls you literally met less than a week ago yet have no reservations and be your full, goofy self.

In composing our dance we made sure that we were all very familiar with the words, for the moves followed the words. The dance begins with only five members of our city in the center, but it grows to the whole city dancing together. Another one of our favorite parts is when we shuffle into a circle and then individual girls rush to the center and showcase a fun, quirky move. We began making the dance late into the night on Thursday and finished our dance on Friday, and we could not be more ecstatic to show our funky moves and have a blast together for one of the last times.