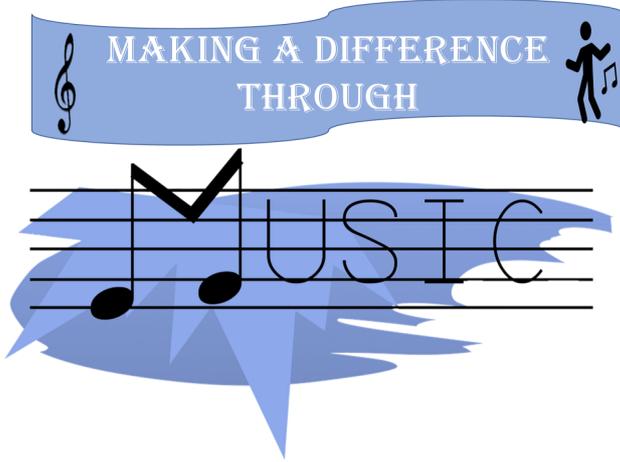




THE KEYSTONE TIMES

Keystone Girls State- Celebrating "76" Years of Service



The First Day At KGS

American Legion Auxiliary Keystone Girls State. The title of the place that 48 girls will be spending a week at to learn, establish friendships, and become leaders. At first the name sounds intimidating, but as soon as you walk in the doors you are welcomed with open arms by many. Within seconds it was exciting to finally be here and I knew that I was going to have fun.

During our first city meeting the fun had already begun, we decorated our name tags to our city team, safari. Bidelman City was going to be great! We were going to ice breakers and learning more about each other. The girls were inviting and made everything more enjoyable. We laughed, we chatted, and overall just became really close in minutes.

Walking around and learning more about the ideals of KGS with the girls made it that much better. Knowing that I had this amazing group of people to experience everything with was uplifting. Even though I was nervous before I came, I knew that all my worries were gone. Getting to know everyone this week, while learning more about our nation's government, was exciting. The roles we were going to play to learn how to make our country better, and create a better future, were leading us to become leaders in this nation.

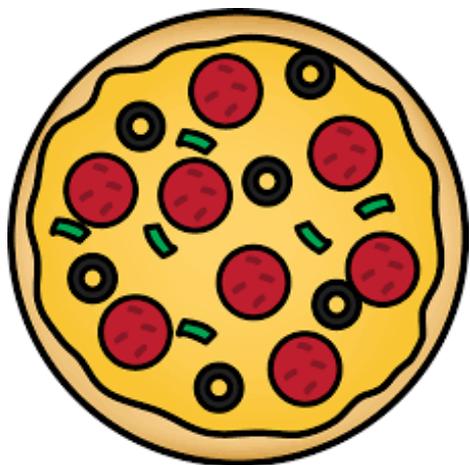
Bidelman Pizza

By: Danielle Fritchman

A new business is blooming here at KGS, a pizza business. The center floor is now offering you a variety of Italian delights for you to eat throughout the week. The lovely ladies of Bidelman City in White County have been working hard to bring this place up for your enjoyment.

Now with so many businesses you may be wondering what sets Bidelman Pizza apart? That is variety, easy ordering, and low prices. The new pizza place offers you not only pizza but cannolis, wings, mozzarella sticks, and even cheesy bread as well. Pizza starts at \$2.50 a slice, cannolis at \$2.50, and mozzarella sticks at \$4.00 for 3.

To place an order you can come see Bidelman's fabulous entrepreneurs, D and Aileigh. You can spot them at meals or come over to the third floor! We are hoping that you place an order and come support our business.





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BREAKING NEWS!

On June 20th, 2022 at approximately 9:49am, Rafferty City's state trooper, Reagan Levant, made her first arrest of the vice dean, Abbey. Abbey unlawfully did not yell "tacos" and her dogs were out when entering our city. These laws came about on June 19th, 2022 in order to represent our city's unity and passion. This ordinance applies to every citizen... NO EXCEPTIONS! As a result, our trooper wrote a citation for her which gave her ten minutes of jail time.

Abbey was permitted to be bailed from the Rafferty City jail under one condition... She had to give Raff City a snack, buy from our Chinese business, or sing the Canadian National Anthem. She refused to sing the national anthem, did not agree to buying from our city business, and did not have the ability to give us a snack due to other duties that had to be performed. CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?! After gathering potential ways to allow her to be bailed from our jail we decided that we will make her bail easier in order to keep our state working together as a whole and functioning properly.

Therefore, our citizens and city officials decided that we would provide her with a snack that our counselor had in her room, donate it to her, and let her give it to us in order to allow for her release from Raff Jail. The snack consisted of a party sized bag of salty pretzels. We plan to share the bag as a group after a long day of hard work. Abbey was finally released from jail and continued along with her journey of announcing new news to other cities within our state. Keep an eye out for Raff City's next juicy update!

Bidelman's First Election

By: Jenny Countryman

Bidelman City started off strong Jun 19, 2022 with the first held City Election. The election went smoothly starting off with the election of the Mayor. The city was split into Nationalists and Federalists in order to choose a candidate from each party. Once a single candidate from each party was selected the whole city voted on one mayor, and the winner of the vote was... Logan! After Logan was elected as Mayor she made her first choice in appointing a City Manager. This was a hard choice for Logan, but in the end the City Manager was appointed as Gretchen!

The City continued in the elections by voting for the City Custodian of Records, the City Councilwoman, and the Keystone State Troopers. Winning these elections as City Custodian of Records was Delaney, winning City Councilwoman were London and Cassy, and winning the State Troopers were Dee and Calley. The next positions to be elected were President of the Chamber of Commerce, the Business Manager, and the Prosecutor. These positions were filled by Dee as the President of Chamber of Commerce, Aileigh as Business Manager, and Gia as Prosecutor.

After a short break from voting the Bidelman City finished the elections by electing positions for the City Public Defender, the Social Media Coordinator, the City Magistrate, the Newspaper Reporter, the Director of Homeland Security, and the Health Commissioner. These positions were filled by Vania as the City Public Defender, Ariana and Calley as the Social Media Coordinators, Dani as the City Magistrate, Sydney as the Newspaper Reporter, Gretchen as the Director of Homeland Security, and Jenny as the Health Commissioner. This was the end of the first election for Bidelman City and it was deemed as very successful for the citizens residing there.

Empowered Women, Empower Women

The Prisoner of War and Missing in Action Soldier table was very meaningful. Today, Carnes City was hit hard by the beautiful representation that was made by the counselors and junior counselors. An anonymous person from Carnes City was very touched because of their relationship with their mother. They said “This meant a lot to me and I was so happy they noticed me and my family”.

Several citizens were affected by deaths in their families. Having missing soldiers and soldiers who have passed talked about today, was an eye opening experience. “I have even more respect now for military families” said another Anonymous person.

This was a very emotional experience for many. “I shed a tear because of it” said Sydney Bennett after the table experience. Carnes City loved having this brought to them by all of the amazing people that they have to look up to this week, and even after this week. All of the women who traveled so far to make it here for the Keystone Girls, and all of their inspiring words that they have guided the girls with so far have meant so much to Carnes City. There is no other way to say it than “Empowered women, empower women”.

Carnes City Elections

Today Carnes City held its first city elections. An overwhelming number of the positions were close races, down to single votes even. One of which being, the mayoral election, in which the city of Carnes proudly elected **Pari Rajesh** as their mayor. Rajesh later went on to appoint Abby Anderson as her right hand, trusty City Manager. Addison Coburn was elected by the City Custodian of Records. **Trinity Meehan** and **Reagan Ward** will be fearlessly leading Carnes as the new City Councilwomen. **Madison Meagher** and were elected to keep our city streets safe and free for law abiding citizens as the Keystone State Troopers. Our new President of the Chamber of Commerce is **Sara Osterhout** and will work to maintain good relations between cities.

We’re excited to introduce our new upcoming beverage and snack business headed by the City Business Manager, **Esther Brown**. She will work to make profit and boost intercity commerce and we’re excited to share our prosperity with the neighboring cities. City Prosecutor is now **Caroline Conrads** who will work to promote justice and ensure our city is proudly represented in the court of law. Working alongside her will be **Elise Britton** as City Public Defender advocating for and ensuring the fair trial of any and all Carnes citizens. Social Media Coordinators are **Emma Moore** and **Lauren Paxton**. Be sure to follow the Carnes City Instagram to keep up on our latest updates. Though there are rumors the job may be back up for grabs soon, **Savera Baloch** is our current City Magistrate. Already hard at work is our new City Newspaper Writer, **Ashley McGrory**. Double trouble alert! **Savera Baloch** is back again as our Director of Homeland Security. And last but certainly not least, our overqualified future MedCorps, **Sydney Bennett** is the new Health Commissioner.

Citizens were flabbergasted with the leadership skills their fellow citizens have brought with them. Red County is full of leaders, advocates, business women, and navigators of the future. We are so excited to see our citizens continue to thrive on a county and state level!

Happy Birthday Dancing Queen

She can dance. She can jive, having the time of her life. Addison Coburn, resident of our beloved Carnes City, rang in her seventeenth year of life in a very special way earlier today. The Keystone staff surprised the newly crowned dancing queen with a birthday surprise of cake and a beautiful rendition of “Happy Birthday.” “Coming to today, I had no idea this would happen. I was so excited and emotional,” says the birthday girl herself, Addison Coburn. She was visibly stunned after witnessing significant members of her state wish her the happiest of birthdays. Coburn was also beside herself when she received a second surprise- a Subway gift card.. Coburn fondly reminisced, “Subway, they have the meats. My family and I often go to Subway and it reminds me of home. I have to thank the KGS staff for their thoughtfulness.”

Although the act was truly touching, not all were as pleased as they seemed. “My birthday was last week and I was kinda jealous that she got the cake and I didn’t,” says an apparent critic from Carnes City who then tossed her hair in contempt. Another said she protested the celebration by refusing to eat cake, although the commenter is notably lactose intolerant. Coburn continued with her birthday excitement by proudly saying, “Haters are going to hate.”

Regardless of mock jealousy, everyone was delighted to celebrate Coburn’s special day with her. The writers of Carnes City all wish Addison Coburn a happy birthday and many more to come. As the famous band ABBA sang, “Seeing the dancing queen, young and sweet, only seventeen,” a perfect description of Addison Coburn.



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Popular vs. Unpopular Opinions: Ice Breakers Megan Adelman

Rafferty City hit the ground running yesterday. As citizens arrived, relationships flourished. During ice breakers we were able to identify commonalities between each other. We all love ice cream, the beach, and of course, we all live in the best state, Pennsylvania. However, ice breakers raised quite a few controversial topics. Vanilla or Chocolate? Kanye or T-Swift? Tie or Slip on Shoes? Match or Mis-match Socks? Depp v. Heard?

Raff City Citizens were very vocal when it came to what foods or desserts were flavored vanilla or chocolate. One citizen said, "Are we talking about cake or ice cream? Because that changes my decision". Another citizen asked the same question but then clarified they were "vanilla all the way". The disagreements came from opinionated citizens who declared chocolate as the almighty flavor. We spent a solid 10 mins dissecting the simple question of chocolate or vanilla because we decided the question was too vague. We realized that the context a question is asked in creates a variety of responses.

Another controversial topic was matching or mismatched socks. As many of us are reaching the tender age of 17-18, we have met the era in which we experience crippling lazz=iness for the most basic tasks- well at least some of us, and that is where the debate begins. Our junior counselor is a big advocate of the value of personal self expression through mismatched socks. Others responded with the sentiment that keeping the socks in pairs is easy as it comes in packages. As we stormed through the pros and cons, a final decision had yet to be made on what is acceptable.

Raff gets the Last Laugh by Megan Vasas

The first meal experience at KGS started off with joy and fun. But things took a turn when a loud bang echoed throughout the dining hall. The obnoxious noise disrupted everyone's eating experience. As it turned out, White County was the source. As our mayor, Cha Cha provided in a testimony to us, "I was startled. Eating my mango in what I thought to be a peaceful dinner with my fellow citizens, it was an unpleasant and truly startling experience when I saw my mango shaking."

Although the disturbance was truly an interruption, the camaraderie of Raff city refused to leave them hanging. In the spirit of KGS we returned the chant. But it was duly noted that Red county did not participate in the festivities. Their actions brought down the energy of the entire program.

Fortunately Raff city came to the rescue yet again during the closing ceremony. As our beloved counselors, Margo and Ester, were called to the stage we cheered and hollered in our support of them. We openly showed our encouragement and care for the counselors we'd met just hours ago, displaying our expeditiousness at creating a family at Girls State, something which we did not see from the other counties, much to our dismay.





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Our Harvard Queen

Today, Eva Rankin showed and told all of the Keystone Girls how to be the best person that they can be. She gave an inspiring speech that gave the Carnes City girls the mindset that they can achieve anything. "She made me think I can be the president", said an Anonymous person from Carnes City. This is the kind of encouragement that the Keystone Girls need in order to get more confident in themselves, and to feel better stepping up.

Eva also explained what Girls Nation is, and what the Keystone Girls can do to be involved in it. Girls Nation is an amazing experience that Eva went to, and she explained how it creates great leadership roles, builds confidence, and gives a lot of experience for political jobs such as government and political positions.

Girls that take the step to apply to Girls Nation will have unlimited opportunities. Girls Nation looks great on applications of all kinds, and gives your look a boost. Eva has shown all of the Keystone Girls, and especially Carnes City that the sky's the limit. She was a great role model for us, and many Anonymous girls in Carnes City have said "We love and miss her already".

Honoring America

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America" The Pledge of Allegiance was heard throughout Shippensburg today as Carnes City led the entire state in the raising of the flag ceremony. Carnes City was honored to be chosen as the first city to lead the morning Flag Raising and proudly flew the colors over the state.



Winner Winner Chicken Dinner

Today, the House of Representatives and the Senate held elections for official administrative offices. Carnes City is proud to report that three of the positions are held by citizens of Carnes! Clerk of the House of Representatives is Caroline Conrad. Clerk of the Senate is Reagan Ward. President Pro Tempore of the Senate is Sydney Bennett.

Caroline Conrad was shocked to hear her position was permanent. "I was surprised, I'll tell you that," stated Conrad. She believed the seat was only for today's session, but nonetheless joyfully accepted the position. Conrad was rivaled by a Raff senator and Carnes' own Pari Rajesh. Caroline won on the principles of her Model UN history and past leadership.

Reagan Ward won her seat after engaging in a tie with a Bidelton senator. Luckily, the Carnes native pulled through and was victorious. "It's unreal. I hope my stellar organization skills come in handy."

Sydney Bennett also achieved her spot after some adversity. She was tied with a Raff senator, but again pulled through. "It was a close race, but I was so glad in the end." Bennett won by explaining her past experiences and principles she would enforce.



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Kim Kardashian??

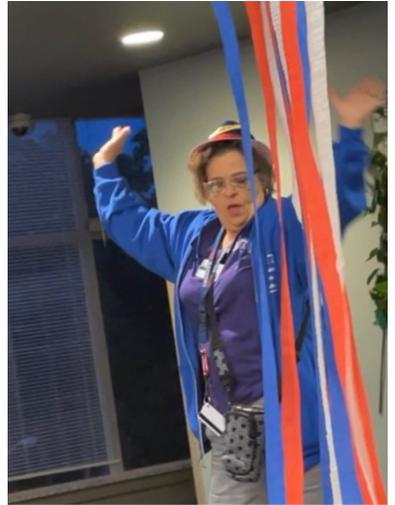
Close...Kim Michael!!

By: Delaney Allen

Kim Michael.

Leader. Photographer. Comedian. Fashionista.

Kim is everyone's favorite (but **DON'T** look at her camera)!



At Keystone Girls State there is an infamous photographer about. She is always on the ball about the photos and especially that you don't look at them. The more you talk to her and listen to her stories the more you laugh and have a good time, but we all know that Kim loves us like her own daughters and would do anything for us.

Bidelman City was participating in the flag raising ceremony the other day. We were shaking in our boots to get it right and Kim, almost like a superhero, was there to save the day. She made us laugh so hard that we forgot all our nerves.

Not only is she funny, but she is stylin'. She wears her American apparel like there is no tomorrow. From head to toe she is absolutely DECKED OUT!!!! Not only is she rockin' but she is crocin'. She has these American crocs that are absolutely amazing and are sure to brighten everyones day. And she wears her light up hat with pride.

Kim listened in on the award winning Bidelman City's city song the other day...and she could just not stop dancing! She was moving her feet and dancing to the beat. All the Bidelman girls could not stop laughing and just loved her. She truly is happiness and makes everyone around her smile.

We all love Kim. We all love her personality. But what we love most about her is her love for the American Legion, our Veterans, her dedication to the girls at KGS, and most of all her love for America. Girls State wouldn't be the same without Kim and her bubbly persona.

WE LOVE YOU KIM!!!!



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More than just a City by Megan Vasas

Everyday at KGS adds more and more! And as the cities begin to fall into place our relations with one another get even more complicated. At the beginning of the week the cities were still establishing themselves, but now that each city has ordinances and positions placed we are starting to branch out. One way this is happening is through our city jails. Due to every city's unique ordinances many laws get broken every day. But some of these offenders are being wrongly accused. Tensions grew between Rafferty and Carnes after some legal misunderstandings which could end in a lawsuit. These strained relations between cities became more evident after some chanting on the way to lunch.

Rafferty city has won Honor city everyday so far and it seems that the other cities have been taking notes. As the cities left for the dining hall a familiar chant fell through the air. It was the same chants that Raff city had been using for the past two days. The citizens of Raff city were shocked. This is what Girls State is all about.



Arrest Fest

By: Danielle Fritchman of Bidelman

City

Bidelman City was plagued with a criminal spree today. Two members of Rafferty society had the audacity to come down and break several of the fairest rules in KGS. Now as the capable state trooper of Bidelman, Calley made a valiant attempt to make an arrest of these criminals, but dear reader, you'll never guess what they did next. They ran!

They ran from the law. They resisted arrest! I can't imagine what overtook these ruffians to flee but they did. Now an escape expedition would be perfectly valid if the punishment would have been severe. But the only threat to their lives was 7 minutes in jail or watching a Jack Sparrow compilation. And frankly, many would willingly watch that compilation without a criminal charge dangling over their head!

In order to rectify the situation the city of Bidelman banded together as they so often do to bring justice back to KGS. Wanted posters were spread throughout the cities to alert everyone of the situation. Don't worry justice was renewed after the Rafferty citizens came and accepted their punishments. While wrought with fun in between poster making and elevator chases, hopefully tomorrow can be a new day, a day of unity, and no one resisting arrest.



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Stepping it Up by Megan Vasas

For days now the girls at KGS have been getting to work. Even before arrival at Shippensburg we knew it was coming. The much anticipated KGS song and dance! Everyone had been getting ready to bust a move in hopes of winning first place and the day had finally come. And it all started with the planning beforehand. All cities were told to make the best dance for KGS and it was up to us to go from there. There were many different approaches that the cities could have taken. Some could have gone with a patriotic, pop, or even country song. Or they could have created a dance with any kind of variation of moves. But we would only know what the others decided when it was show time. So, the process began. Choreography, song writing, and music choice. All agreed upon within the cities. And after that came practice, turning out to be harder than expected since most citizens had other jobs to do. But in the end everyone was able to pull together and get ready.

As time drew closer for the cities to take the stage we all gathered in the main lobby. Many of the cities were already chanting and dancing. The energy was growing and everyone could feel it. Marching to the auditorium brought it up even more. But what got everyone excited more than anything was our state wide dance in the auditorium lobby. Everyone waited for the doors to open but no one could hold back, so as songs such as the cha cha slide and cotton eye joe were sung everyone began to dance along. Although we were about to compete against one another we still came together to enjoy those popular dance songs. But soon the doors would open, and the first city would take the stage.

The first city, Carnes, volunteered to be the first to go. They got in formation and the music started. They performed what they had been working on for days and it did not disappoint. But next came Biddleman. Biddleman's first tune started and almost everyone knew the song. California girls, but with their own twist. All new lyrics that relate exactly to KGS. They were a tough opponent. Finally was Rafferty. We started our song and dance that would leave the crowd awed. But as it ended with a fun dance circle we knew it couldn't compete with Biddleman. The final winner was announced and we all knew who deserved it, Biddleman. They day ended with an encore of their dance and everyone else dancing along in support.





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A Sacrifice for the Common Good

By: Sydney Bennett

As everyone with Keystone State is aware, today General County Elections were held. Everyone was filled with nervous excitement for the results. You could hear a pin drop in Carnes Common Room as Emma, the Senior Counselor and Abby, a Dean, walked into the area. The words that followed were heard throughout the entire city. "So we have a tie." Confusion ensued as everyone looked at the two Counselors with intrigued stares.

The ties were between the City Magistrate Candidates and County Clerk Candidates. A revote was the next proper course of action. However, one person broke the silence. "Can I just give the position to Caroline?" asked Ashley McGrory. McGrory was running for County Clerk against Caroline Conrad, another Carnes City member. McGrory continued, "I think she would be better for the job anyway." Everyone was taken aback, touched by McGrory's honesty and transparency.

Eventually, the decision was made. If McGrory wished to drop out of the race, Caroline would remain the only one on the ballot. Carnes City thanks and honors Ashley McGrory for her concern for the common good of Red County.

Justice Served for Dinner

Unbeknownst to many, lawsuits have been brewing in our beautiful Keystone State. On Monday, three Carnes City citizens traveled to Rafferty City to settle a presumed debate. However, the three were caught before much settling could be done. The Rafferty City State Troopers arrested these Carnes citizens for neglecting to yell "Tacos" when entering their city. The three respected the arrest, but were left questioning were the city ordinances were posted. Luckily, intervention was made on Rafferty's Troopers behalf to free the Carnes incarcerated before paying much retribution. Unfortunately for Rafferty, the Carnes City Defender, Elise Britton, got word of the situation and agreed with the accused to sue Rafferty on the account of wrong conviction and mental distress. Britton stormed upstairs to the fourth floor escorted by a State Trooper and witness demanding retribution. The Rafferty Public Defender prepared for the potential suit accordingly. However, the conflict ended tonight at dinner. A Rafferty representative approached the Carnes City table with an official apology. Carnes graciously accepted, and the conflict dispersed.



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Article Title: The Forgotten Won (ton)

Tuesday, June 21, 2022

Written by: London Edwards from Bidelman City

The Forgotten Won (Ton)

It was a normal night in Bidelman City. Two of our members, Deona and Aileigh, worked tirelessly on our pizza business downstairs. The remaining citizens tackled a less demanding task which consisted of ordering food and working on choreography for our city song. Carnes City, who resides below us, felt the roof shaking as we ran in circles around our Mayor, Logan. Our citizens periodically went down for their food orders as scheduled. An announcement was made, "Chinese food orders can be placed for the next 15 minutes only". Stampedes of citizens flooded the stairwell, while some chose the elevators; a bold move considering the many ordinances in Bidelman City.

One of the many KGS citizens rushing to order Chinese food was our fellow Bidelman citizen, Linda. Rafferty, our rivaling city, places Linda's order. Quietly, Linda returned back to the lounge in Bidelman City and continued to work on the choreography for our talent show. Time passed because we were having a blast memorizing, and creating our song.

All of a sudden, the overhead speakers blared. All of us anticipated a serious announcement about the schedule for the rest of the night. However, to our surprise, the announcement said, "Would Linda from Bidelman City please report downstairs for her wonton soup?". We all bursted into laughter and Linda hurried to retrieve her awaited wonton soup. All is well in Bidelman City now that Linda has her wonton soup.





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Talent Extravaganza

By: Gineva Reese

Rumors have been swirling in Carnes surrounding talk of an exciting new act for the talent show. Sources say a talented trio of young women has organized a truly extraordinary act, sure to blow the minds of all cities. Members of the trio are Reagan, Elise, and Madison.

According to Reagan of room 233, the cities should "Get prepared for a show stopping performance that will leave you **speechless**." Although we in Carnes are absolutely thrilled and pumped to support our fellow city members we have been asked to keep the act itself under wraps. While we are simply vibrating with anticipation to witness the extravaganza,

This innovative appearance will be all the more exhilarating for the surprise and suspense. Citizen Maddison of 231 called it a "Stellar performance." Elise of 228 described it as "definitely speechless." The act is said to be a lot of work, with action, and edge-of-the-seat thrills, sure to leave the audience gasping for breath.

Nearly more exciting than the act itself is the so-called "twist" that has been added in subjunction to the performance. Regardless of the success of the act in the talent show, the performers have talked a big game. Counselor Emma has been quoted saying, "It is rather ironic what a big game the performers have talked for the material of the performance".

Red V. Blue

By: Sydney Bennett

Everyone in Keystone State could hear the screams of both the Nationalists and Federalists tonight. Both sides came to the epic chant battle of the century ready to lose their voices with party spirit. To say the least, spirit was definitely present.

The Federalists brought their A-game shouting out their cheers. The Federalist chairwoman even lost her voice hyping up her team of Blue-minded enthusiasts. She was not alone as many other Feds have reported a loss of vocal cord usage and some discomfort after showing their party pride and cheers. They started the rally boldly with a dramatic entrance, but the fun really began when someone brought out a trash can as a makeshift drum.

The Nationalists, not to be outdone, came to the rally wearing their pride very visibly. Paint was very prevalent among this group of young ladies as it covered their faces, legs, and arms. The Nats also proudly representing their party cheering loudly and showing pride. However, the highlight of the night was a reenactment of the opening scene of "The Lion King" featuring the Nat mascot.

Both sides were loud and proud, showing their excitement for the upcoming primaries and general elections. Carnes City wishes both parties the best of luck and happy voting!

The Capitol Maze Runners

By: Sydney Bennett

The recent Keystone State trip to the Capitol was undeniably fun, without any doubt. Regardless of countless warnings, three citizens of Keystone got lost amid the Capitol maze. Throughout the myriad of confusing passageways and similar hallways, Emma, Sydney of Carnes City and Kyler of Rafferty City took a very wrong turn.

While looking for another Senator office, the three girls found an elevator. They naturally boarded the elevator and selected their desired floor. However, they noticed a sign stating, "Visitors do not exit elevator. An ID is required to re-enter."

Scared for their lives, they quickly entered their previous floor number to retreat to safety. Unfortunately for the trio, the trial was not over yet. After returning to the original floor, the three found they could not exit the elevator area without a key card. Desperate for escape, they pounded on the door praying for a swift rescue. Luckily, a (very cute) knight in shining armor was there to offer aid. He bravely opened the door for the three stranded damsels exuding chivalry. Finally, the trio and their savior parted ways with politeness and gratitude.



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Katy Perry Who?

By: Calley Wolinski

So as many of you know Bidelman City (aka the best) won the city song contest. "Bidelman Gurls" was an adventure with the most amazing gurls. Making it up was the best show of how strong our city's unity and friendship truly is.

We all thought we would forget our lyrics and the dance, like serious doubt. Our chosen song needed a hefty amount of lyrical changes making it harder to memorize the whole song. We also struggled with the business girls knowing all of it since they were busy making us dough to be there while it was happening. The girls were able to pick it up after only like four rounds of practice. Crazy, I know!!! The practice for the dance was chaotic but also fun, everyone had an idea and was contributing to not only the dance but the song as well.

The performance was so exciting and nerve-wracking all at the same time. The moment everyone in the crowd started cheering was so amazing and rewarding. The moment we were called for first place everyone was exhilarated and hyped up. But when both cities were wanting an encore was an unreal feeling and nothing can be used to describe the way all of us were truly experiencing. So thank you to all the cities for being so inspirational and encouraging.



Rally time by Megan Vasas

As state primaries come to an end the more pressing rival is coming to hand. Soon it will just be the Nationalists versus the Federalists. To get the competition going KGS hosted an action-packed rally! The success of the rally, however, all came down to planning. Just the day before, the state parties met and began getting ready for the big event. There were many tasks that needed to be completed including getting all the supplies, making chants, and creating rally posters. Balloons were bought and blown up, posters were decorated, and chants were brainstormed. But that was just part of it.

Once the time came for the rally to almost begin, each party still had the mission of getting all things in order. Girls began with decorating themselves. Stripes ran across their faces and handprints on their legs. Necklaces and headbands were designed and worn. Posters and balloons were not forgotten, all kinds of witty sayings could be read endlessly. It was finally time to begin.

Both parties marched out. The true competition would be on who could out chant the other, and both sides came prepared. Choosing who would go first was done through picking cards. Nationalists won and would take the floor with the first chant. They started off strong but the federalists were quick to return. The parties went back and forth with the best that they had, even adding some drumming into the mix. In the end, both the federalists and the nationalists gave it their all and the rally was a success!



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KGS Hits the Capital by Megan Vasas

The day has come for the KGS citizens to head to the capitol! Citizens had to rise early, but that was a big challenge for Rafferty City. A terrible alarm outage spread throughout the city leaving citizens still asleep minutes before breakfast began. Despite the late start, Raff city was honored to catch a glimpse of where our state government runs. With an hour-long bus ride, KGS citizens were tasked to make the most of the time. State parties had the opportunity to discuss possible platforms and have moderated debates over them. When the buses arrived at the Capital, KGS citizens were in awe of the beauty of Harrisburg. A huge fountain wasn't the only thing that took their breath away. A lengthy stretch of road and fields extended for miles directly down the front of the capital. They couldn't wait to get inside!

Entering the capitol rotunda , the citizens were greeted with extraordinary architecture and paintings. The building was more impressive than they thought, due to the fact that very few girls had actually been to the capital. Soon after arrival, the girls had the respectable privilege to meet the PA governor, Tom Wolf. He had meritorious words for us that many will take to the heart.

Not only did the girls of KGS meet their governor, some also got to meet their representative or even senator. This was a tremendous opportunity for everyone to potentially get an inside look on the work of a true government employee. Although some were able to experience this, others weren't, but that didn't keep them from exploring the many hallways and rooms of the capital. Tours also lead the many visitors into the main rooms that the government officials vote and debate in. As the time at the capital came closer to an end, all the cities gathered outside for a combined KGS picture to remember our time at the capital.





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Keystone Girls State- Celebrating "76" Years of Service

KGS got talent by Megan Vasas

The KGS talent show has been creeping upon the citizens for days now. We all knew it was close but didn't quite realize the urgency of it until our final full day here in Shippensburg. Many girls were still unsure on whether to perform or not. The KGS staff has been asking for talents every day. And those who were doing the show had to get their act together in time around our busy schedule. In the end, some did not know they were going to go up at all. But before the show could start, the candidates for outstanding citizen had to be put in place.

Each city was instructed to write down the girl in their city who was the most exceptional the past week. It was a hard task to choose between the girls who we had all grown so close to. In the end only one could represent our city. And who would be better than mayor Cha Cha. Cheers were echoed through the whole auditorium as the three nominees walked in front of the crowd. Esther, Aileigh, and Cha Cha were tasked with answering one simple question before the final vote commenced: what is the most significant thing that you have learned between Sunday and now? All the nominees took a different approach to answering the question. But once our drumroll came to an end, the name spoken was the most appropriate for the honor. Aileigh! She truly was an outstanding citizen.

The night did not end there. We still had an entire talent show! It started off strong with a wonderful performance from Esther of Carnes city. Here singing and playing was the best of the whole night. On it went through dancing, miming, comedy, and more singing. All the talents were well worth our attention. The final act came, and the lights lowered. At the back of the auditorium was the mentors, counselors, and staff, all dressed up in USA gear and glow sticks. The music started and they danced down the aisle onto the stage, throwing out accessories for all the girls. Everyone joined in singing and dancing.

Rafferty Sued! by Megan Vasas

BREAKING NEWS

For days now the citizens of KGS have been coasting through the week with only small worries of breaking city ordinances. But coming out of nowhere came counselor dean Abbey, suing Raff city. It was a shock to all.. Day one of creating ordinances the city made a collective decision for the first to be 'No dogs out'. It was agreed upon that no one wants to see someone's toes out on the 4th floor and it became top priority for the city. They did not take into account that this rule might cause larger problems. And this is the story.

The Raff city state troopers were active and ready with the ordinance in place. They were waiting for the sound of dogs in the hallway when finally, footsteps came, and as the figure rounded the corner, it was revealed that the DOGS WERE OUT! Scanning upwards the culprit was Abbey. Her bare toes were exposed for all to see and the city would not stand for it. Quickly the troopers shot up to make the arrest. All seemed fair and official, until Thursday morning of KGS, when the beloved mayor ChaCha got served. The city was now being sued and the trial was soon to come.

Dean Abbey had sued Rafferty city for an unjustful arrest and now the city had to defend. The jury was in place and the judge had entered, it was time. Questioning bounced back and forth, at times feeling as though Rafferty city was innocent and at others, not so much. You could feel the tension between the defendant and plaintive. Both sides brought up valid points that challenged what the jury may have started to think. Finally, once the examination of the case was closing, the jury got up and went to make their decision. When they came back everyone sat up in their seats and waited for the verdict. Anxiety grew. The judge spoke up and said... Rafferty city is guilty. The punishment for mayor ChaCha would be buying Abbey a Chinese dinner meal. The case was closed and justice was served.



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Friends for Life

By: Ashley McGrory

Today is hectic with all of the tension between the different parties. People are running around everywhere, getting arrested, and trying to remember all of the ordinances. Carnes City was focused on making sure everyone had their shirt on backwards, singing every word that they say, bowing down to all “Peri’s” in the room, saluting Emma, and many more that are too hard to keep track of.

During all of this crazy time, an Anonymous person came into Carnes City to try and get everyone’s vote. They made the silly mistake of not having their shirt on backwards, not singing, and they did not have a poppy for our Mayor Peri. They were immediately arrested and gave their speech on the way to our laundry room jail. When in the jail, their handcuffs were too tight, and this person kept saying “Has it been long enough yet? Can I leave?” Carnes City has very strict ordinances and so we have to watch our guests very carefully to make sure that we are not letting them get away with anything. Our police officers are always on edge to make sure that people are serving their time, and following the Carnes City rules.

With all of the arrests, posters being put up, and enthusiasm rushing through everyone; people got much closer. Everyone had so much fun with the thrill of arresting people, getting their voters in check, telling everyone their speeches, and helping out in any way that they can. Carnes City has learned a lot throughout the week, we grew as people, and made friends for life. Today was an example of how much we care for each other, and have made friends for life.

The Model Citizen

By: Sydney Bennett

Every year, Keystone State votes to determine the Outstanding Citizen. Often, this award goes to unsung heroes of the city, those who single-handedly keep the city running smoothly without much recognition. Carnes City nominated the one and only Esther Brown, the city business manager, who proudly manages Carnes’s source of income every night. In addition to her tireless work, she lights up the room with her bright personality and ingenious ideas. Bidelmon City nominated Aileigh, a ray of sunshine that brightens your mood and day. Finally, Rafferty nominated Mary Therese also known as “Cha Cha.” No one can deny her infectious spirit and amazing leadership skills.

All three were amazing choices, but naturally there can only be one winner in the state. The well-deserved winner was Aileigh. Her speech was a joy to hear, voicing complements to all, and noting stand-out people of the week.

Carnes City commends these amazing young women’s accomplishments and wishes them all luck in their future. Happy trials!



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Keystone Girls State- Celebrating “76” Years of Service

Talent Show!
By: Elise Britton

Today the citizens and staff of Keystone were astonished by the overwhelming amount of talent that our beloved state encompasses. Many amazing groups performed a variety of different acts ranging from comedy to pitch-perfect musical performances. If there is anything that citizens of Keystone learned today, it is that our community is nothing shy of talented and phenomenal.

We started the night off with a tear-jerking performance from Esther Brown who beautifully performed “Lemonade” by Jeremy Passion. Citizens teared up while waving the bright lights from their flashlights in harmony with her performance. The performance was just one of the attributes that made her city and county proud to call her their own. Carnes City proudly harvested a staggering amount of talent within the show; the most to be exact. Carnes was also represented by the extraordinary Mime performance by Elise Britton, Madison Meagher, and Reagan Ward. They undoubtedly lived up to the hype. After their *breath-taking performances, the one-of-a-kind mime group was quoted saying*

“
! !!!!
!” *The blank posters hung up around campus are finally put into context. Megan and Cha Cha from Rafferty City had the crowd dying in laughter from their tortilla slap act. While I wouldn’t want to be next on stage following their slightly messy act, they definitely had a hilarious and memorable one.*

Despite a night full of wonderful acts, there was nothing like watching our inspiring ladies dance together in unison to “Lean on Me” while the KGS citizens gathered around with joined arms. Though it has only been less than a week since we have known each other, the talent show was an eye opener that we are truly a Keystone Girls State family at heart. With less than 24hrs left in our session together, Carnes City is elated with the opportunity of getting to know one another and sorrowful with the fact that we will be leaving so soon.

Girl’s Grub: A Food Review by a Vegetarian (Jean Park)

The Keystone Girls State is held at Shippensburg University for 5 nights, and six days, including fifteen meals. At home, students are acclimated to their own diets, and Shippensburg University strives to accommodate different dietary restrictions. Because this session takes place in the summertime, only a few sections of the cafeteria are open. While the specials change daily, some foods are kept consistent such as cereal, bagels, pizza, yogurt, and a salad bar. Additionally, the Shippensburg dining services accommodates to gluten-free, vegan, and other dietary needs.

My name is Jean Park and I have been a vegetarian for over a year and a half. In the beginning of my journey, I felt as though I was the only vegetarian in a group setting, so I would have to opt for a salad to not stand out. As I have stayed at numerous hotels, traveled the world, and stayed at other college campuses, I was nervous that I would not find any foods at Shippensburg that I could eat. I brought my own foods and snacks, but to my surprise I found that Shippensburg has a fine vegetarian selection. Overall, Keystone Girls State has numerous vegetarians and people with other dietary needs and Shippensburg strives to be inclusive. I spoke with other students, and together we compiled a list of the best vegetarian friendly meals that have been served.

The best meal, according to students, was the Kung Pao tofu with brown rice and potatoes served for Wednesday night dinner. It was the most flavorful dish, and students were able to have a balanced meal of carbs, protein, veggies, and other nutrients. The best dessert ranked by all students was the Oreo Blondie that was chewy on the inside but with a nice, hard outside layer. This delectable dessert is served at most lunch and dinner meals, and has become a fan favorite. Additionally, many students often choose the orange creamsicle as it reminds them of their childhood, and because they rarely have the chance to eat one outside of Shippensburg. Lastly, we want to thank the Shippensburg dining service staff and faculty who have provided students with all dietary needs a full breakfast, lunch, dinner, and dessert menu every day.



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Fashion Fiasco- 6/23/2022

By: Cassandra Zart of Bidelman City

A moment most people are fearful of is being under dressed and not on time for an important event! This dreaded nightmare happened to the wonderful counselors Kaya Rogers and Ava Groth of Bidelman City. It was the night of Wednesday June 23, 2022, right after a heated rally, essential primary election and a dolled-up photoshoot, when a storm was brewing. Not only a literal one but a stormy event that would take place in Bidelman City.

After an eventful day, we were all relaxed and dressed in our PJs with our Senior Counselor Kaya wearing her purple pumpkin boxer shorts and a T-shirt and our Junior Counselor Ava wearing her multi-colored flower compression shorts with a T-shirt looking great. Then, Kaya wandered downstairs to grab her charger and Ava was chilling with her Citizens. Nothing too out of the norm for a night in Bidelman City. Then...” STAFF PHOTOS IN THE LOBBY!” blared over the PA system.

“What!!!” was the first thing out of Ava’s mouth! “Where’s Kaya?”

“AHHHHHH!!” screamed all the Citizens while Ava was in a panic.

Ava starts **SPRINTING** down the halls knocking down anything in her way!

“Go Go,” shouted the Citizens.

Next thing we witnessed was Kaya bolting through the stairwell and rushing to her dorm. The minutes ticked by and as we anxiously waited for our counselors to get ready. Minutes felt like hours and the storm was not calming down. Finally, out scurried our counselors down the hall fixing their hair. It was a very chaotic moment for the members in Bidelman City. However, we persevered, and our counselors managed to make it down to the photo to flash their wonderful smiles!



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sweet dreams are made of sis
Emily Sennett (evil givena)

Each day were alive we abide by a set of truths; we must wake up, eat food, socialize with others so we don't rip our hair out, and at the end of each day, after a long day of work and exerting all energy from our bodies-our head hits the pillow, slowly starting to drift off...and finally we can dream. For the lucky few however they are able to transcend our human minds, to share consciences, dream out of our bodies and experience the unimaginable. Last night, the entirety of the great city of Bidelman collectively transcended, and shifted from our reality to the dream scape. What did we all dream of you ask? Maybe something normal like peeing our pants before performing our city song or maybe we all looked identical to Kim and we had to find the true Kim in a sea of phonies. But no, we didn't dream those...normal...dreams. We dreamed of a high-stakes sting operation on boys state.

Let me paint you a picture of our dream, you're a seventeen year old boy at boys state...I know sounds more like a nightmare but stick with me here. It's been a long day of being a gross sweaty boy, you've sat through all your city meetings and state legislature. You've shoveled three mediocre Shippensburg dining hall meals into your body, $\frac{2}{3}$ of which consisted of pizza, fries, and cookies, because let's face it, you're a teenage boy and you have no regard for nutrition or taking care of your body in the slightest. You're ready to change out of that awful gray shirt and those tragic khakis. You make your way to your dorm, unlock the door, and get into bed...when all of a sudden you here the slightest hint of a whisper coming from the other side of the room, by the door, and the closets and bathroom...but...your roommate isn't here, he's down stairs finishing up his article for the night. In theory you should be alone, shaking it off you lay back down, but you can't seem to shake off that feeling...that you aren't truly alone. Slowly those whispers you hear become more coherent, you can make out a few words-“god...land...beside...guide...” it's-it's coming across almost sing songy.

Gradually it gets louder and louder. You can hear it more clearly now, “god bless America, land that I love...” someone is singing. Who is singing? Going to investigate, every step is heavy, as you approach the door to the closet you can hear it, god bless America, it's loud. So loud the door is rattling, the door handle is shaking, your hand turns the knob slowly...”GOD BLESS AMERICA LAND THAT I LOVE STAND BESIDE HER-“. A prank. A stupid prank pulled off by the boys in another city, but- you don't recognize ANY of these boys, out of the 100+ boys in attendance you at least know a few from the other cities and counties. But these boys are different, as their singing gets louder it clicks, these are not boys...it's a group of young- girls. GIRLS?!?!?! At boys' state!?!They rip off their wigs and start chanting, “GIRLS GIRLS GIRLS.” as you reach for the front door they crowd around you, but there's more of them out into the hall, chanting, blocking your exit, they flood from the bathroom and under the beds. GIRLS EVERYWHERE!?! This isn't looking good for you, your arms are going to snap from all the punishment push-ups you'll receive by interacting with this many girls, NOOOOOOOOOOOO!!!!!!



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