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**Tennessee Technological University, Cookeville, Tennessee**

### **GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATES SPEAK TO DELEGATES**

With elections scheduled Wednesday afternoon, Andre Greppin of Young City, Johnsonian party chairman, nominated Richard Henderson of Roberts City for governor, while Jacksonian Chris Davis nominated Robert Fisher of Kreider City for the office. Each candidate gave a speech to the entire Boys' State assembly.

Fisher, a state champion debater, athlete and student body president from Clarksville, told delegates he had formed a bond with many of them and considered brotherhood as the essence of what holds Boys' State together. "We've shared long days and corny jokes," he said. "We've grown on one another. I seek this office because I want to help and serve you. Foster said if elected he would make the selection process for commissioners as democratic as possible. He also said he was dedicated, hardworking and passionate. "I don't have a slogan or a catch phrase. I just want to be your governor."

Henderson, a four-year ROTC cadet and Raider Challenge team leader at Clarksville's Northwest High School, told delegates he's known as a fun guy. "But I know when to be serious and when to be fun. He explained that he spent a lot of time shaking hands because he was friendly and because he believes it is a necessary part of becoming a leader. "A leader is someone who really needs to get to know his peers. Getting to know people leads to respect and trust." He asked delegates to not vote by party line but to vote for the best candidate.

Candidates were also selected for three other state government races:

#### **Supreme Court**

Jacksonian party: Robert Clark, Patrick Grady, Christopher Griffith, Andrew Jordan, Evan Smith  
Johnsonian party: Ryan Berkley, Jordan Clark, Rain Dartt, Winn Decker, Nathan Fleetwood

#### **Court of Appeals**

Jacksonian party: John Bledsoe, Paul Hanna, Josh Jerles, James McCord, Konstantin Menako, Sean Palfy, Dwayne Raines II, Justin Reed, Hunter Swenson, Noah Towe  
Johnsonian party: Kevin Alana, Jeffery Blanchette, Alexander Cole, Peter Hagemeyer, Peter Horecka, Ryan Nichols, Trent Rogan, Austin Smith, Travis Tackett, Andrew Thornton, Donovan Wolfe

#### **Court of Criminal Appeals**

Jacksonian party: John Cicero, Daniel Faulk, Grayson Hunley, Adam Leiby, Henry Lui, Kwame Nuako, Josh Preslar, Trevor Reish, Shawn Richards, Samuel Snodgrass, Jim Young  
Johnsonian party: Brandon Banks, Nathan Caplan, Forrest Dolvin, Brennon Mobley, Garrett Rackley, Jerry Sullivan, Dalton Teeter, Kenneth Walker, Johnathan Yates

### **ARMED SERVICE PROGRAM OFFERS LOOK AT ROTC OPPORTUNITIES**

On Tuesday, Major Ron Pepin, TTU assistant professor of military science and senior counselor for Levi City, spoke to delegates about education and career opportunities in the armed forces. Major Pepin, who earned a bachelor's degree in international relations at Cincinnati's Xavier University, talked about his experiences all over the globe, including being in Germany during the fall of the Berlin Wall, being stationed in Hawaii and leading military intelligence briefings while monitoring communication from North Korea and China, and being stationed in Germany and Egypt.

Major Pepin told delegates how they could graduate debt free and have pocket money during their college days if they joined ROTC. He emphasized the guaranteed job after graduation paying about \$44,000 per year.

2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Drake Carter, a 2005 Boys' Stater who just graduated from TTU with a nursing degree, showed slides of his experiences and encouraged delegates to join ROTC. He suggested applying in December; acceptance notifications come in January or February. Open enrollment into ROTC is now available. For more information on TTU's ROTC program, call (931) 372-3283 or (800) 365-3574 or visit <http://www2.tntech.edu/armyrotc/>.

### **GOV. PHIL BREDESEN SHARES ADVICE WITH DELEGATES**

Tennessee Gov. Phil Bredesen made his eighth consecutive visit to Boys' State on Tuesday afternoon as he gave advice and took questions from delegates. He began with an observation about how people should learn about important topics and issues.

"So much of the world is working off secondhand knowledge," he said. "There's nothing like firsthand knowledge. If you want to know about Plato, read 'The Republic,' not a Wikipedia entry about Plato. If you want to learn about relationships, get a girlfriend instead of watching a 'Sex in the City' movie. If you want to learn about leadership, lead."

Gov. Bredesen encouraged delegates to become involved during the week, even if it meant losing an election. He said he ran four times and lost three before eventually being elected governor. "Ninety percent of success is showing up," he said.

"Politics is a full-contact sport," he continued. But he encouraged delegates to understand patriotism. "Open your minds to how you define the idea."

And he told delegates to make plans, but to always welcome and embrace change.

"Chance is your friend," he said. "Stay open to change. Most successful people are."

Gov. Bredesen told delegates to find some way to give back to the community and to look at how they could contribute to their schools.

"I can't emphasize enough how important your experience in your school system is," he said. "As years have gone on, I look back and see the important things I learned there, think of the friends and the mistakes. They were all important."

Bredesen took questions from delegates on several different topics.

Q: Does Pre-K education funding have the impact you expected? My school doesn't have enough money to buy books.

A: The impact is tremendous. I've kept whole the formula to fund schools for necessary operating expenses. If they don't have money for books, they should.

Q: How well do you know your appointees, judges, commissioners, etc.?

A: I don't know most. I'm presented with about 200 appointments each month. We research each appointee and I spend more time on the positions that have a high level of impact.

Q: How is flood recovery going in Nashville?

A: I most sympathize with the homeowners and small business owners who lost everything. We are working to get them help. There is well over a \$1 billion in losses in Nashville alone. I'm very proud of how our citizens have worked to help others.

Q: What do you think about the health care bill that came out of Washington?

A: It's a good thing to cover 30 million who do not have coverage. But, it was a disappointment to me. We cannot remotely sustain financially what we have in place now. What we've federally mandated for Medicare is several times the gross national product of the United States. People in this room are the ones who are going to have to address that in the future.

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