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BOYS STATE

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PHILLIPS ELECTED GOVERNOR, APPOINTS CABINET

Zavior Phillips, a Jacksonian from Lahiere City, won the governor's seat in the general election held Wednesday at Boys State.

This morning, Phillips announced his cabinet appointments: Stephen Meredith, Agriculture; Dalton Tracy, Children's Services; Trey McAdams, Commerce and Insurance; Jace Terry, Correction; Eric Thompson, Economic and Community Development; Nick Norman, Education; Chase Kelley, Environment and Conservation; Clay Chaffin, Finance and Administration; Patrick Kelly, Financial Institutions; Spencer Lewis, General Services; Trip Johnson, Health; Justin Rhodes, Human Resources; Jeffrey Williams II, Human Services; Irfan Ibrahim, Labor and Workforce Development; James Hale, Mental Health; Charlie Neville, Safety and Homeland Security; Michael Higdon, Tourist Development; Nash Binkley, Transportation; and Jake Smith, Veterans Affairs.

Governor-elect Phillips also announced the following appointments: Braden Trent, adjutant general; Greyson Lampley, Deputy to the Governor; Jack Nichols, Senior Advisor for Legislation & Policy; D'Vontay Banks, Communication Director; Alex Schramkowski, Legal Counsel to the Governor; Brad Sells, Special Assistant to the Governor for Projects; Sam Allender, Senior Advisor to the Governor.

STATE ELECTION RESULTS

Supreme Court

Jacob Beckman, Will Cain, A'sean Cotter, Nathan Longfellow, Mathew Saunders

Court of Appeals

Blake Conwell, Clay Copass, Owen Flomberg, Gabe Furhman, Andrew Harwell, Rex Jarvis, Jonathan Killebrew, Kameron Mehling, Nate Schwindt, Drew Taylor, Ben Tollett

Court of Criminal Appeals

Addison Bond, Donnie Bonee, Ethan Boyd, Joseph Dalton Emmert, Michael Fox, Quintin Jordan, Brannen Kerbo, Jayson McClendon, Tristan Miranda, Aidan Pace, Nickolas Patterson, Hayden Proffitt, Pete Ramsey, Matthew Yarbrough

Fittest Man on Earth Visits Boys State

Rich Froning, three-time CrossFit champion, fielded questions from delegates Wednesday evening. Froning participated in Boys State 11 years ago and returned to give advice on how to avoid being mediocre.

"We've got a problem. People are lazy," said Froning. "Our job as leaders is not let people get away with mediocre. Work hard. Don't be afraid to fail.

"Don't put your identity in anything worldly," he advised. "It will let you down."

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR GOVERNOR

Phillips, from Mufreesboro's Central Magnet School, opened and closed his remarks by impersonating President Obama. "Leaders should refuse to be cocooned in their own affairs," he said. "The best leaders are servants." He spoke of changes he would support, including adding soccer and dodge ball. He also called for better distribution of information about campaign rules and room inspections. He suggested a better use of bulletin boards to improve communication and decrease demerits. "Our cities, counties and state are all fictitious. Boys State is real. Let us leave this thing better than we found it," he said.

Phillips will be inaugurated on Saturday in Tennessee Tech University's Hooper Eblen Center. Tennessee Secretary of State Tre Hargett will be the main speaker. Rafiq Malek is the outgoing 2014 Tennessee Boys' State governor.

Tennessee Tech University is proud to host Tennessee Boys' State for the past 51 years. Tennessee Tech University graduates are among the best prepared in the state for successful careers, according to a study by the Brookings Institute's Metropolitan Policy Program.

TTU is the top-ranked public university in the state; across all of Tennessee's four-year institutions, it is second to Memphis' Rhodes College.

"Our graduates leave Tennessee Tech well prepared to be leaders in their fields and make a difference in their communities and careers," said TTU President Phil Oldham. "Their intelligence and talents are consistently recognized by employers and, increasingly, by various college rankings."

Payscale.com recognized TTU as providing its students the highest return on investment of any public institution. Its alumni, according to the website, also have the highest mid-career salary potential of any public university graduates in the state. SmartAsset ranked the university as one of the top three best-value universities and the top public institution in Tennessee. Washington Monthly has said TTU provides the "best bang for your buck" two years in a row.

Strike up the Boys State Band

The Boys' State Band is a tradition that always amazes parents and delegates alike with its performances. The band gathers early in the week with Eric Harris, TTU's director of bands, and they work together to make beautiful music. Each member receives a certificate of participation to acknowledge his hard, extra work during the week.

Reed Bonee, Wesley Helton, Caleb Masengill, Gabe Cooper, Andrew Stamey, Chandler Thompson, Colby Brandt, Nicklas Patterson, Woody Wilson, Dennis Miller, Jason Chung, Nash Binkley, Spencer Harper, J.B. Shank, Parker Albert, Cameron Sawyer, Robert Crooker, Josh Kennan, Brantley Clendenin, Josh Forbess, Daniel Suarez, Kizer Harris, Kevin Wolgast, Cody Ellis, Wyatt Valentine, Will Anderson, Griffin Gantte, Garrett Edward Moore, Austin Ray Melton, Joshua Isaac George, Alec Yen, Cameron Moore, Alex Arbogast, Tristan Choate, Joseph Wandass IV, John McKissack, Preston Wallace, Brock Rowell, Devin Cullom, Sammy Pero II, Carl Joyner, Lucas Berry, Brady Horstmann, Wynn Martin, Daniel Clegg, Michael Smith, Michael Higdon, Ethan Boyd, Noah McLeod, Henry Craig Henson, Caleb Calfee Weerasekera, Andrew John Verneti

Jacksonians win Wednesday night All-Star Basketball game.