



The Mountaineer

*The Official Publication of American Legion Mountaineer
Boys' State*



Volume 70
Issue 2

**LEARNING TODAY...
LEADING TOMORROW**

Tuesday,
June 12th,
2007

PRIMARY ELECTION

2007

The votes have been counted...

**FEDERALIST
CANDIDATES**

**NATIONALIST
CANDIDATES**

GOVERNOR

Tanner Moore

Todd "Zach" Zackwieja

SECRETARY OF STATE

Chad "Vargs" Vargo

Andrew Simmons

AUDITOR

Jimmy "Slim Jim" Boggess

Matt Law

TREASURER

Johnny "Cash" Bailey

John Hunter

COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE

Harley Staggers

Joel Jones

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Michael "Mike Beezy the Snowman" Barnes

Michael C. Kotson

SUPREME COURT JUSTICES

Eddie "The Law Machine" Peters

Colin "Bag Pipes" Henning

Nate Romano

Alex "Buck" Zurbach

Kent "The Peacekeeper" Hess

Chantz Brummage

Greg "Riggo" Riggs

Elliot V. Iannello

Jacob Marshall

Jonathan Mauler

Boys State: the proud and patriotic



Political parties, caucuses, elections—Mountaineer American Legion Boys State is all about the political process. The primary objective of the program is to instruct the nearly three hundred sixty boys in political matters of the “Boys State.” With all the speakers, presentations, marching, and political process other elements are emphasized at Boys State?

According to Doug “Mama” Robinson the political process also instills a sense pride and patriotism. “There is a hidden, underlying patriotism picked up and learned through political process,” states Robinson. The MIA/POW ceremony, retreat and raising of the flag, and the sense of pride taken in marching, are all contributors to the Patriotism instilled by the program.

Most boys at the program already have some understanding of the democratic process, but at boys state they are shown in more detail “just what the cost of freedom really is,” Doug says. “Freedom is never free,” the age old saying looms in our minds. Because of the price that so many paid, we the people have the freedom to carry out our democratic process, to partake in our privileges, and to perform our duties as citizens.

By Eric Walker

Nationalist Caucus produces promise

Is a caucus a well planned meeting or a free for all pep rally? Counselor Hancock, who is the advisor for the Nationalist Party, most likely felt like the leader of a mob instead of for a political event. The West Virginia Building was electrified by the cheers of the loyal Nationalist citizens putting their voices to sacrifice to support their favorite candidates. Following suit, the candidates did the best they could to swing the intensity in their favor.

The citizens of Boys State have finally seen and met the men who are going to be leading the leaders of tomorrow. Not only was the caucus full of joy, but it was also serious when the attention was shifted to the political platforms. Not only are the Nationalists loud and loyal, they also put their hearts behind their views on issues and are not afraid to tell you about it. Soon, they will be learning how to win elections and learning how to run the government. Your government.

By David Smith

Federalist Caucus shows party unity

During the Federalist Caucus there was a diverse range of candidates. There were numerous candidates with the stereotyped slogan, “Vote for me, because I’m honest and fair.” Then there were the extremist—candidates that ranted, raved, led songs, and performed demonstrations.

The Federalist Party had several radical planks to their platform including gambling, legal drinking ages, and environmental issues. Although radical, these planks were all endowed with sound reason.

Those citizens that attended the Federal Caucus gave prime support to their parties. When good points and speeches were made applause and cheers filled Academy Hall.

All aspects of the caucus were positive. The support, candidates, and chairmen of each county were all optimistic. Only one question remains: Could the Federalist Party be on its way to an “iron-fisted takeover?”

By Eric Walker

Secretary of State Betty Ireland visits Boys State citizens



As cabins lined up and prepared for another march to the dinner hall, a mysterious woman dressed in a pink suit pulled up in front of the dining hall. The Federalists seemed to sweat for the possibility of a secret weapon from the opposing party was very possible. Who was this mysterious woman? Soon the panic subsided as this unknown visitor was identified as none other but Secretary of State, Betty Ireland.

This teacher turned business woman is well known for many feats, one of the earliest being CEO of Jackson and Kelley Solutions, LLC. She also is known for founding the Vandalia Rotary Club of Charleston and her past position on Charleston City Council just to mention a few.

Best known for her current state position, Secretary Ireland was the first woman elected to the executive branch of West Virginia and the first Republican since 1972. Although she makes it look easy, Secretary Ireland won her position after a heated campaign against Ken Hechler in 2004. Luckily, the State definitely received the benefit of the doubt and is proud to claim their Secretary of State.

As dinner came to a close, Secretary Ireland took the podium with her strong compassion for voting registration, especially when it comes to the youth of West Virginia. Although some may have felt it was out of place in a hall full of men, the misrepresentation of women in the government was also addressed. The Secretary finished with compassion in her voice and the problems of West Virginia in her heart. Her platform involved three concepts: Justice, Freedom, and Democracy. Elaborations on these platforms and other facts about the Secretary and her office, visit WVSOS.com.

By Joe Michael Fusco
Assistant Editor

ELECT
RYAN HOSFELT

Attorney General

"I want to represent YOU"

AJ WARNE

The Chairman of the Federalist Party



Congratulates all candidates on their Primary Election and Wishes them the best in the General Election.

2007 BOYS' STATE NATIONAL GUARD

National Guard advisors, Sergeant Parks from Clarksburg, Sergeant First Class Curtis from Weston, and Technical Sergeant Joe Hartwell of Virginia Air National Guard proudly announce the new members of the Boys' State National Guard.

Tyler Rodriguez and Andrew Butcher—Gilmer
Elliott Ianello—Braxton
Tyler Witt—Upshur
Michael Cuevas and Andrew Garrett—Randolph
Russell Miller—Marion
Robert Severt and Evan Dunbar—Panhandle
Jacob Ruddle, Caleb Burgett, and Michael Kuzma—Kanawha
Muhammad Khan—Calhoun
James Drain—Lewis
Scott Bills—Monongalia

Announcing the 2007 Mountaineer Newspaper Staff

Editor—Tyler Meadows
Assoc. Editor—Joe Fusco
Reporters—Eric Walker
David Smith
Corey Woomer

Photographers— Daniel Turner
ERay Haynie
Production Staff—Russell Akerly
Dakota Sabe
John Groves

Monday's Athletic Results

BARBOUR MONONGALIA	LEWIS—F RANDOLPH-N	BRAXTON—F MONROE-N	CALHOUN MONROE— F	GILMER PANHANDLE-N
KANAWHA PANHANDLE-F		LEWIS-F UPSHUR	MARION-N RANDOLPH-F	MARION-F WEBSTER
GILMER PANHANDLE— N	LEWIS—F RANDOLPH-F	BARBOUR MONROE-F	BRAXTON MONROE— N	CALHOUN PANHANDLE-F
MARION—F WEBSTER		KANAWHA RANDOLPH-N	LEWIS-N UPSHUR	MARION— N MONONGALIA

Yum!

MENU

Yum!

BREAKFAST

Eggs
Biscuits
Sausage Gravy
Cold Cereal
Hot Cereal
Fruit-Bananas
Orange Juice
Milk

LUNCH

Chicken Tenders
French Fries
Applesauce
Apples and Oranges
Salad
Rice Krispie Treats
Lemonade

DINNER

Roast Beef
Mashed Potatoes w/gravy
Green Beans
Rolls
Salad
Chocolate Cake
Iced Tea

‘Bagpipes’ bring unique flavor to Boys State



Being a few inches taller and sporting the long curly hair and infamous beard is not enough the only unique features of Calhoun cabins' Colin Henning. Henning, who is running for Supreme Court Justice, does not try as many people do to be different. His unique interests and personality do enough to set him apart from the teenagers of this day and age.

Henning is the resident Bagpipes player at the mountaineer Boys State. Going under the nickname "Smokin' Pipes," he has inadvertently made himself a celebrity with his musical talents. The Elkins native said he pursues his "bagpipe-dream" because of an incident where he saw the instrument being played at the annual Forest Festival. Eight months ago his ambitions got the best of him and he currently plays for the Boys State citizens.

He excels at his instrument, but the uniqueness does not stop there; it merely begins. Henning also partakes in Fencing, and this reporter can mention firsthand that when approached, he was in a deep trance while reading a Harry Potter book...written in Spanish.

Colin Henning, the resident William Wallace of the American Legion Mountaineer Boys State is a constant source of entertainment, and his bagpipes can be heard ringing throughout the campus.

By David Smith

Daily Schedule

6:00 a.m. Reveille and Clean Quarters
 7:15 In Formation at Dining Hall.
 7:20 FLAG RAISING
 7:25 BREAKFAST

GROUP ARRANGEMENT BY COUNTIES FOR INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS

GROUP 1 - PANHANDLE, RANDOLPH
 GROUP 2 - MARION, KANAWHA, BRAXTON
 GROUP 3 - UPSHUR, MONONGALIA, LEWIS, MONROE
 GROUP 4 - CALHOUN, GILMER, WEBSTER, BARBOUR

	8:25-9:00	9:10-9:45	9:55-10:30	10:40 - 11:15	11:25-12:00
GROUP 1	Driver Safety	County Government	Legal Procedure	Americanism	Campaign Time
GROUP 2	County Government	Legal Procedure	Americanism	Driver Safety	Campaign Time
GROUP 3	Legal Procedure	Americanism	Driver Safety	County Government	Campaign Time
GROUP 4	Americanism	Driver Safety	County Government	Legal Procedure	Campaign Time

GROUP MEETING LOCATIONS:

Driver Safety	West Virginia Building
County Government	Jackson Lodge Basement.
Legal Procedure	Assembly Hall
Americanism	EEC

12:05 In formation at Dining Hall
 12:15 Lunch- Commissioner of Agriculture, Gus Douglas

1:15 - 2:00 BOARD OF EDUCATION—ALL elected Board of Education members will meet with Advisors in the WV Building.
 COURT TRIAL PROCEDURE INSTRUCTION at Assembly Hall. Each cottage will send a minimum of two representatives to receive specialized instruction on upcoming court trials.
 Bank and Newspaper staffs organized and working.
 State Police, Conservation Officers, and National Guard meet with Advisors at EEC #5.

2:10 - 3:10 Party Caucuses- Federalists in Assembly Hall.
 Nationalists in WV Building

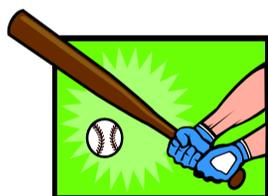
3:15 - 4:15 Formal Review practice (Senior Counselors, right guides, Color Guard, State Police, Conservation Officers, National Guard Advisors meet at flagpole)
 State Police and Conservation Officers meet in the EEC Building #5
 Newspaper Staff and Bank organized and working
 Athletics and Swimming

4:00 Band practice
 4:30 FORMAL REVIEW PRACTICE (ALL COUNTIES PROMPTLY ASSEMBLY IN FORMATION AT DINING HALL)
 5:15 In Formation at Dining Hall
 5:30 Dinner— State Treasurer, John Perdue

6:15 - 7:15 State Police administer Driver's Exams and Motor Vehicle Inspections in cottages
 Hunter Safety Exams administered by Conservation Officers in cottages
 Newspaper and Bank staffs organized and working
 Band practice
 Swimming

7:30 - 9:00 ASSEMBLY— Each party allotted 25 minutes to present candidates.
 Candidate debate (Questions to be asked by staff)
 **After Assembly — General Election. All citizens proceed directly to their cottages to vote.
 State Election results available at GHQ.
 **After Voting — Bank and Newspaper Staffs organized and working. Driver's exams and motor vehicles inspections conducted in cottages by State Police.
 Hunter Safety exams administered by Conservation Officers in cottages.
 NEWS CONFERENCE AT GHQ TO ANNOUNCE STATE ELECTION RESULTS upon their tabulation

11:00 Devotions (As time permits) at Kanawha, Panhandle, and Webster cottages
 11:30 All evening activities end.
 11:40 All citizens will be in respective cottages. Individual cottage activities (meetings, devotions, etc.) left to discretion of individual cottage counselors.
 12 Midnight ALL CITIZENS IN BED AND LIGHTS OUT. **Violators subject to disciplinary action and reduction in cottage inspection scores.**



Athletic Schedule Tuesday, June 12, 2007 3:15—4:15

Area 1
 VOLLEYBALL
 BESIDE BRAXTON

Area 2
 VOLLEYBALL
 BESIDE SOFTBALL

Area 3
 FRISBEE
 BEHIND CHAPEL

Area 4
 SOFTBALL
 GRASSFIELD

Area 5
 BASKETBALL
 BEHIND GILMER

MARION- N
 LEWIS- N

GILMER
 PANHANDLE- N

BARBOUR
 UPSHUR

CALHOUN
 PANHANDLE- F

MARION- F
 MONROE- N

KANWHA
 MONROE

RANDOLPH- F
 WEBSTER

LEWIS- F
 MONOGALIA

BRAXTON
 RANDOLPH- N

THE HAUNTED COTTAGE

By Mark Byers

Most of the Citizens of the 70th Mountaineer Boys' State don't know there's a haunted cottage at Jackson's Mill. They pass it frequently with never a thought of the sleeping, spiritual giant within. It sits there like a faded Buddhist statue on a green lawn, surrounded by a forest of giant, gnarled trees. It hasn't been in disuse long enough to develop any sort of "haunted house" quality to the casual observer, but to those of us who have been here a while, it has a distinct aura.

It's not haunted in the classic sense: the windows aren't broken, no chains rattle in the attic, and no ghostly apparitions emerge from the stairs. It doesn't appear to have any magical qualities: it doesn't cause broken clocks to suddenly start. For some of us, however, it speaks – it tells stories – and while there are no ghostly apparitions visible to the naked eye, whenever we walk past they appear in the eyes of our memories as if they were palpable beings.

Today when I was walking past that cottage, one of those palpable mind images appeared to me. It was the figure of a man. He was clad in a bright yellow shirt with the Mountaineer Boys' State Logo on the chest. He sat serenely in a rocking chair on the front porch, one leg crossed on his knee, with a satisfied, half-smile on his face, silently taking in all the frenetic activity. His dancing eyes took in every detail and they scanned back and forth behind the squared-off glasses resting on his tanned face. From time to time he'd smile, accentuating the lines at the corners of his eyes. His image was a calm spot on a frequently stormy sea. I nodded to him at the top of my ascent and he nodded and smiled his placid smile in return.

As I climbed the steps and stood upon the wide porch of the cottage, it began to speak. It spoke in voices of many hues: it laughed and hollered and pontificated and raged. The voices were old and young. The conversations ranged from the absolutely insightful to the sublimely ridiculous and all shades between. It told old jokes and bad puns. It told stories triumphant... and tragic. The porch was polar, as if some line of psychic demarcation ran its length: the left side, where the smiling man sat, was reserved and introspective and the right side was raucous and lively. It laughed and it wept and after a time, I with it.

I entered the cottage by a familiar front door and found a room bereft of furniture, activity, or life... until the ghostly visages and voices came alive once again. Thundering footsteps followed a banging screen door as hordes of young men rushed to stare at papers on the walls – papers dictating their fates. They left elated and they left disappointed. Ghostly trophies lined the mantelpiece, some new and some old, and I could not help but feel that they were saving space for others, yet to be named, but sure to come. The room spoke of hushed prayers and long meetings, greetings exchanged by old friends and strangers, and of the tinny, off-key notes of an old piano. I smelled popcorn.

As if drawn by some irresistible force, I opened one of the back doors to the big room and was greeted with a spiritual cacophony of sound and fervent activity from the anterooms beyond. Apparitions ran to and fro clutching sheaves of papers as if they were the Magna Charta. The sound of machines – typewriters and printing machines and copiers and phones – assailed my ears. A stocky young man with dark hair and a devilish air seemed to be the Major Domo of the place and he moved about dispensing direction and rapier wit with equal aplomb. I heard old men quietly singing innumerable names deep into the night to the tune of the shuffle of paper.

Then there was the woman: she seemed at once to be a grandmother, a mother, a sister, and a best friend simultaneously to everyone in the room. Her curly hair and glasses framed a ready smile as she rushed around trying to make some sense of the din. She appeared to be fueled by coffee and the other women looked to her with a sense of love and admiration. I smelled pizza and giant Italian sandwiches on thick bread and sweat and I felt enormously tired, as if I were the victim of a college all-nighter working on a paper. Suddenly, I felt as if I had an overwhelming obligation to be somewhere else – as if many people awaited me – so I traversed the big room, now vacant, and crossed the front porch.

The rocking chair sat motionless and empty and as I descended the stairs, I was left with an overwhelming sense of loss. I walked into the street and turned to look back at the cottage. It was as silent and dark and mundane as before, giving no hint of the spirits within. I turned and went back to my own cottage, leaving the spirits to haunt the collective memories of those who also know it for what it once was. As I walked away, however, I thought I saw the rocking chair move ever so slightly... and I felt the fatherly hand of the occupant gently steering me in the direction in which I needed to go.

Epilogue: For the citizens, who cannot possibly understand and want a partial explanation, go into Harrison Cottage and look on the wall to your left, just past the door to Room 10. There you'll see a picture on a plaque. The picture is of the man from the rocking chair. Read the inscription. For the staff, you need no further explanation.

