



# The Mountaineer

The Official Publication of American Legion Mountaineer Boys State



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LEARNING TODAY...

LEADING TOMORROW

June 18th,  
2009

## 2009 Mountaineer Boys State Government Sworn In



Cody Steffick is sworn in by the Honorable Fred Fox.

*By Alex Bolano*

Today excitement hit a new level as Cody Steffick, native of Marion cabin and Hurricane, West Virginia, was inaugurated as the 72<sup>nd</sup> governor of Mountaineer Boys State along with the rest of the state officials. Judge Fred Fox took the honor of inaugurating our new Supreme Justices, Commissioner of Agriculture, Treasurer, Auditor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, Speaker of the House, and Governor. As each official took his oath of office the crowd was silent in utter reverence and their words echoed around the room, filling the gaps of the room and the minds of the citizens. Following the oaths was a powerful address from Cody Steffick. Governor Steffick made the following statement during his speech, "Today we are no longer Nationalist or Federalists, we are one Boys State!" His ideas of bipartisan leadership and cooperation were vital in his campaign, which solicited over 86% of the votes. Now as the week continues, we can see firsthand the work of our new governor and continue in the positive direction that his fantastic leadership and political prowess has pointed us in.

## An Interview with Cody Steffick

By Alex Bolano

Yesterday, I had the good fortune to sit down and chat with Cody Steffick, the new governor of Mountaineer Boys State. A very friendly fellow, Cody gave me some answers as to his campaign and ideas as the new governor.

**MBS: So, Cody, did you want to be governor as soon as you got here?**

Cody: Well, it wasn't actually a thought out decision. I walked into this program, not knowing what to expect, and suddenly thought, "Hey! I should run for governor!" However, every passing minute has shown me how much I love leading people, made me realize that I made the correct decision and strengthened my resolve to become governor and lead the fine young men of Mountaineer Boys State.



Cody Steffick makes a point a Tuesday night's debate. Photo by Caleb Pancione

**MBS: What is your goal as governor?**

Cody: Well, obviously to lead the state in a dignified manner and unify the citizens. No longer do I want a divided society. Federalist; Nationalist; it does not matter anymore. We are all here for one reason, to lead and run a unified government. That is my plan as governor.

**MBS: What are your ideas for appointing officers?**

Cody: A lot of people have come up to me asking for a position; however, I can't just appoint everyone who wants a position. I plan to gather a list of people for appointments and evaluate their credentials and make a well educated and correct decision.

**MBS: Well thanks for your time, Cody; I believe you will do a fine job as the new governor.**

Cody: Thanks for this interview and I hope you don't make me look too bad in the paper \*laughs\* I know that with hard work and determination, we can be as good a Boys State as there has ever been.

## Natalie Tennant Visits Boys State

by Brent Bailey- Editor

Wednesday night, Boys State enjoyed a unique experience. Natalie Tennant, West Virginia's Secretary of State, the first female mountaineer, and a former broadcast journalist spoke to citizens and their families at the evening assembly. Tennant's enthusiasm was matched by a fatigued but excited Boys State. Tennant, like previous speakers, emphasized the unique qualities of Boys Staters, and explained the unique qualities that she brings to the office of Secretary of State: a farm girl, born and raised in Marion County, her boundless enthusiasm allowed her to become the WVU mountaineer, and she kept her head up high despite a great deal of opposition. Then, after a stint as a TV journalist, she ran for Secretary of State in 2004- and lost. However, instead of hanging her head and giving up, she ran again in 2008 and won. She left the citizens of Boys State with one very important message: success and failure are not final. This may be Boys State, but this woman is the equal of any Citizen here.



Natalie Tennant at the assembly. Photo by Josh Kurnot

# Cottage News

## Marion; Home of the Governor Elect

By Michael Hipelius - Marion

During Tuesday's assembly and debate we were all exposed to a number of great candidates. From governor to Supreme Court justices all seemed prepared and well versed in their party's platform. "I was incredibly nervous" says Cody Steffick the morning after election results. "I was unsure if I could convey my party's standings clearly and precisely, I had never debated before in my life." Many cabin-mates of Steffick were shocked at this remark and were amazed at his natural talent. After the press conference news spread fast and Marion citizens were roused from bed. There was not one citizen from Marion who did not offer wholehearted congratulations to our new governor. After all, we are Marion; home of the governor elect.

## The Gilmer Fiasco

By JT Duffield - Gilmer

I'm sure you all know about how Gilmer broke one our showers and then because of that we almost flooded our cabin. But what you might not know is that the shower was already faulty. Everyone in my cabin was blaming Nicholas, but when we looked at it we realized that the stuff holding the pipes together was rotting away. So Nicholas was actually not the incredible hulk we thought him to be.

Our entire floor hallway was flooded. We, as a cabin, had to mop up the floor and keep the still protruding water from leaking into the other rooms. We were lucky enough to stop the water from getting into the rooms.

## Interview with a Counselor

By Ryan Turner - Lewis

I had the opportunity to choose a counselor and interview them about their own experiences here at Boys State and why they decided to return as a counselor. The following conversation is with one of Lewis County's counselors, Joey Batten.

### **Mountaineer Boys State: How many years have you been a counselor?**

Joey Batten: This is my third year.

### **MBS: What position/job did you hold while attending Boys State?**

JB: I was County Commissioner and Defense Attorney.

### **MBS: What made you come back to be a counselor?**

JB: I appreciated everything that I got out of the Boys State program and I wanted to take the opportunity to invest in West Virginia's future leaders.

### **MBS: Finally, what do you like about being a counselor?**

JB: I like all of the people that I work with and I like making an impact on the citizens and helping them develop into productive members of society.

## House of Delegates: Day One

By Cody Wilson

The first meeting for the House of Delegates took place at 0900 on the 17th of June.

The delegates from both the Nationalist and Federalist parties' first priority of business was to elect a Speaker of the House. Patrick Garcia was unanimously elected to lead the House. Cody Wilson was elected the House Clerk, and Caleb Pancione was elected both the Door Keeper and Sergeant of Arms.

Patrick then split the rest of the House into three committees: Education, Judiciary, and Finance. Cody Delf became the chairman of the Education Committee with Zach Lonergan, Ethan Douglas, Tony Marino, Tyler Hall, Zach Rohrberry, and Kabir Barker beneath him. Jordan Damron became the chairman of the Judiciary Committee with John Bonnell, Evan Hazelett, Andrew Wade, Ryan Carney, Michael Demarco, Michael Hipelius, Quinn Grey, and Ben McCarthy beneath him. Also, Jeffrey Sloan became chairman of the Finance Committee with Matthew Farrell, Drew Goodman, Ryan Baisden, Neal Madhavan. Pat Dewyer, John Bicnick, Stephen Satowski, and Caleb Pancione beneath him.

Kabir Barker was elected Majority Party Chairman of the Nationalists with Matthew Farrell as the Party Whip. Zach Lonergan was elected chairman of the Minority Party Chairman for the Federalists, with Andrew Wade as the Party Whip. The entire House of Delegates and Senate will travel to Charleston June 18 to enact their own Boys State "Legislative" Day.





State Auditor  
Glen Gainer III

## Thursday Speakers

Dinner - Auditor Glen Gainer III  
 Assembly - Fed. Dist. Judge Robert Maxwell;  
 Secretary of Military Affairs James Spears

## Wednesday's Athletic Results

### Area 1 Volleyball

Game 1— Kanawha (N)  
 Game 2— Monongalia

### Area 2 Volleyball

Game 1— Gilmer (Barbour forfeit)  
 Game 2— Randolph (N)

### Area 3 Ultimate Frisbee

Game 1— Panhandle  
 Game 2— Kanawha

### Area 5 Basketball

Game 1— Monroe  
 Game 2— Lewis (N)



## Athletic Schedule

Thursday  
4:00-5:00 PM

| Area 1<br>Volleyball<br>Sand Court | Area 2<br>Volleyball<br>Hard Court | Area 3<br>Frisbee<br>Behind Chapel | Area 4<br>Softball<br>Grass Field | Area 5<br>Basketball<br>Behind Gilmer |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <i>Lewis-F<br/>Gilmer</i>          | <i>Panhandle-F<br/>Braxton-F</i>   | <i>Barbour<br/>Calhoun</i>         | <i>Panhandle-N<br/>Monongalia</i> | <i>Braxton-N<br/>Kanawha-N</i>        |
| <i>Randolph-F<br/>Webster</i>      | <i>Monroe-F<br/>Webster</i>        | <i>Marion-F<br/>Kanawha-F</i>      | <i>Marion-N<br/>Upshur</i>        | <i>Monroe-N<br/>Randolph-N</i>        |

Thursday  
6:30-7:45 PM

| Area 1<br>Volleyball<br>Sand Court | Area 2<br>Volleyball<br>Hard Court | Area 3<br>Frisbee<br>Behind Chapel | Area 4<br>Softball<br>Grass Field | Area 5<br>Basketball<br>Behind Gilmer |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <i>Randolph-N<br/>Calhoun</i>      | <i>Marion-N<br/>Gilmer</i>         | <i>Braxton-N<br/>Randolph-F</i>    | <i>Kanawha-N<br/>Panhandle-F</i>  | <i>Marion-F<br/>Monongalia</i>        |
| <i>Kanawha-F<br/>Lewis-F</i>       | <i>Monroe-F<br/>Webster</i>        | <i>Lewis-N<br/>Barbour</i>         | <i>Braxton-F<br/>Panhandle-N</i>  | <i>Upshur<br/>Monroe-N</i>            |

## 2009 Formal Review

By Marcus Constantino

On Sunday, when outstanding students from around the great state of West Virginia arrived upon the grounds of Jackson's Mill to participate in Mountaineer Boys State, one of the first things they learned was how to march. Each cottage assembled in three lines and learned the most basic of military marching commands. For three days, cottage counselors and National Guard members have honed their citizens' marching skills for Wednesday's Formal Review.

The Formal Review showcases the abundant talent and unity that Boys State has. Parents, friends and dignitaries from across West Virginia gathered here at Jackson's Mill to see the best the state has to offer. Citizens marched on and off the field to the beat of the Mountaineer Boys State Band, who has done an incredible job with only three days of practice. Everyone stood in attention during the pledge of allegiance, and then promptly marched by all of the parents and dignitaries. This year's formal review was a great demonstration of unity and patriotism.



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# BREAKING NEWS!!

By Alex Bolano

Last night at 9:41, right outside of the Mountaineer Boys State Newspaper room, Jacob Cutright was arrested for driving under the influence. State Trooper Zack Lantz made the daring arrest after Mr. Cutright made a dangerous swerve and flew off the road. When asked about the accident, Mr. Cutright replied, "F M DRUNK!!" More news will be released as the investigation continues.





**Andretti = Fast**



**Sampson = Strong**



**Commissioner of Agriculture**

**Thank you for all your support!**

**I couldn't of done it without you guys!**

**We Are America**



**We Are Mountaineers**



**We Are Boys State = the Elite**





Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515-4802

STHELLEY MOORE CAPITO  
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Congresswoman  
West Virginia  
10th District  
2009-2011  
www.house.gov/capito

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June 17, 2009

Citizens of Mountaineer Boys' State:

Congratulations on being selected to represent your peers during this year's Mountaineer Boys' State. You are all accomplished young men and this is yet another achievement. I regret that I cannot be with you today, but my Congressional duties require me to be in Washington, D.C.

Mountaineer Boys' State fosters public service aspirations for many of our state's next generation of leaders. It holds a special place for my family as both of my sons attended Mountaineer Boys' State and my father and I have both had the honor of addressing Boys' State Citizens personally.

The lessons in government, politics, and leadership that Boys' State provides will undoubtedly benefit you throughout your entire life. You will find there are ample opportunities for young people to make an impact on West Virginia's future, and by attending Mountaineer Boys' State you are helping move our state in the right direction.

As you embark on your senior year of high school and matriculate to colleges and universities across the state, I would encourage you to consider the benefits of returning to your communities and entering into public service. My time in the State Legislature and the United States Congress has been immensely rewarding. West Virginia is a wonderful place and I have met some of the most remarkable Mountaineers during my service. Our best days are ahead of us as a state, and as leaders of your generation, you can be part of that.

I wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors and hope that you enjoy the rest of your week.

Sincerely,  
  
Shelley Moore Capito  
Member of Congress

STHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

# Thank You!

**Judge Fox for aiding in the inauguration,  
Natalie Tennant for speaking at Assembly,  
And Abraham Lincoln for traveling such a long  
distance to speak to Boys State.**





## Thursday Schedule

- 6:45 - Reveille and clean quarters
- 7:50 - IN FORMATION AT DINING HALL
- 7:55 - FLAG RAISING
- 8:00 - BREAKFAST
- 9:00 - 12:00 – City and County Officials meet at the following locations for specialized instruction
  - Circuit Clerks—Meet in Gazebo
  - County Commission – West Virginia Building
  - City Government – Old Picnic Pavilion (across from pool)
  - Assessor – Kanawha Center
  - County Clerk – EEC #6 (bottom right)
  - ALL CITIZENS needing full time employment meet with Employment Opportunity Director and Advisors on Barbour Right Porch to receive employment assignments.
  - Governor & Board of Public Works meet in Jackson Lodge meeting rooms.
  - Senate & House in session in Jackson Lodge Basement
  - Supreme Court in session at Flameway Hall
  - County School Superintendents and Boards of Education meet in Southeastern Learning Center
  - Bank and Newspaper staffs organized and working
  - State Police, Conservation Officers and National Guard meet in EEC #5
  - City and County Governments organized and working in cottages after initial meetings.
  - Fire Training Academy for Fire Chiefs - Details will be provided by Staff Fire Marshal
  - Magistrate and Circuit Courts organized and working in cottages
- STATEWIDE RADIO BROADCAST - Assembly Hall; proceed as follows;
  - Boys State Band present at Assembly Hall
- 9:45 - 10:45 - Governor, Board of Public Works, National Guard, Bank Personnel, Panhandle, Gilmer, Braxton, Barbour, Calhoun, Webster
- 10:45 - 11:45 - House of Delegates, Senate, State Police, Conservation Officers, Newspaper Staff, Lewis, Upshur, Kanawha, Marion, Monongalia, Randolph, Monroe
- 12:05 - 12:20 - ALL Citizens in Cottages for Inspection preparation.
- 12:25 - IN FORMATION AT DINING HALL
- 12:30 - LUNCH
- 1:30 – Circuit Courts in session with legal advisors present. ALL CITIZENS IN ATTENDANCE
- AFTER CIRCUIT COURT TRIALS – State, County, and City governments organized and working (see morning schedule for locations)
  - Bank and Newspaper staffs organized and working
  - State Police, Conservation Officers, National Guard organized and working and meeting with Advisors for further instruction in EEC.
- 4:00 - 5:00 – Athletics and Swimming
- 5:20 - IN FORMATION AT DINING HALL
- 5:25 - Flag Lowering
- 5:30 - DINNER

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# Menu

| Breakfast           | Lunch                             | Dinner                   |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Pancake Wraps/Syrup | Tacos & Shells                    | Ham                      |
| Hot and Cold Cereal | Peas and Carrots                  | Mashed Potatoes w/ Gravy |
| Apples              | Pears & Cottage Cheese            | Italian Blend Vegetables |
| Orange Juice        | Shredded Lettuce & Diced Tomatoes | Rolls                    |
|                     | Sour Cream & Salsa                | Salad                    |
|                     | Cheddar Cheese                    | Vanilla Pudding          |
|                     | Brownies                          | Iced Tea                 |
|                     | Lemonade                          |                          |