



Volume 76, Issue 6

The Mountaineer

The Official Publication of American Legion

Mountaineer Boys State

LEARNING TODAY...

LEADING TOMORROW

www.mountaineerboysstate.org



June 15, 2013

Saturday's Schedule:

6:45 – Reveille and clean quarters

7:50 – IN FORMATION AT DINING HALL

7:55 – FLAG RAISING

8:00 – BREAKFAST

8:30 – 9:15 – Prepare for departure

9:30 – FINAL ASSEMBLY

Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

Mountaineer Boys State has the great fortune of having a replica of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The real Tomb lies in Arlington National Cemetery and is guarded twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week by armed and decorated soldiers. The Tomb is the final resting place of four American soldiers whose lives and identities were lost in four different wars: World War I, World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War.

The first soldier was a Veteran of World War I and was buried on November 11, 1921. The Unknowns of WWII and the Korean War were buried in the Tomb of the Unknown on May 30, 1958. The final Unknown, the soldier who lost his life in Vietnam, was buried on Memorial Day in 1984.

The Tomb itself is highly decorated and crafted in a beautiful way. There are three wreaths on the North panel and three wreaths on the South panel. Each wreath has 38 leaves and 12 berries on them. On the East panel, there are three Greek figures carved representing Peace, Victory, and Valor. And finally, powerful words are written and centered on the West panel. "HERE RESTS IN HONORED GLORY AN AMERICAN SOLDIER KNOWN BUT TO GOD."



Be sure to check out MBS online!

On June 13, the Boys State National Guard preformed a changing of the guard ceremony. They spoke of the Tomb and about the discipline it takes to guard the Tomb. The guard marched proudly in front of the Tomb until he was relieved of duty and the new guard immediately took his place. The reverence of the ceremony was a stillness that all present felt. Hopefully they also felt pride as an American looking upon the Tomb, a symbol of the ultimate sacrifice for this great country.

The Tomb is reflective of not only the men within who gave their lives for our country, but for all men who have fought for our country. The men and women of the American Military look to the Tomb not only as the resting place of honored men, but as four role models. If all men were as brave as those four men, then the world would be a place of greatness.

Jacob Wilkinson



West Fork River Revue Acts

Last night was the 76th annual West Fork River Revue. There was a remarkable amount of talent displayed from the counselors, administration, and fellow citizens.

“It was fun to see the various performances from people in Boys State. I was very amused, and I am proud that these citizens have the guts to perform their talents in front of others,” Ryan Burgess said.

The types of performances included instrumental and vocal groups that performed wonderfully. However, the thing that got people laughing the most was the various odd talents that our citizens had. This amazing consortium of talent helped conclude these remarkable past seven days. We all should be thankful for the mass of talent found in our citizens.

Alex O'Donnell

Braxton Cottage Board of Education

The Braxton County School Board of Education has decided to elect Jan W. Stalnaker as their Superintendent. He will be dealing with the current situation of the county's low test scores.

Breaking News

(Editor's Note)

Any references under "**BREAKING NEWS**" to criminal activities such as arsons, DUIs, kidnapping, etc., or reports of fires or accidents are part of the Mountaineer Boys State training exercises and did not actually occur. If there were actual incidents, parents would be immediately notified.

One Withdrawal, Please

Thursday at around 4:20 two armed men wearing masks entered the bank through the front door and demanded money. When their demands weren't met, they shot twice into the air. This didn't work so they took the bank president as a hostage and put a gun against his head. They demanded to be given \$50,000. The camp counselor Corey Robinson is reported to have screamed like a girl when these actions took place. The men then rushed out the front door, leaving



more money on the floor than they took and headed towards the amphitheater. The total bank robbing lasted for around four minutes, and it took the police around two and a half minutes to arrive on the scene.

Eye witness reports say that there was suspicious behavior at the bench right outside the bank. Reports say that both men were citizens from their yellow shirts and both were averagely built with brown hair. Also they both wore towels over their faces. The one man wore glasses and had long kind-of-curly hair with a blue or gray towel around his face. As for the other man, he wore a pink towel and had short straight brown hair.

Garrett Willis

Finally Found

As Boys State knows, the girl known as Katie was kidnapped and the police were looking for her. The police started their search for her on Thursday at 11:00 AM, but the sudden storm halted any further advances in the case. The police obtained a ransom note after lunch describing that goods were to be dropped off at the council circle. The police force operated with the National Guard to perform a Sting operation that resulted in the police following a suspect back to his cabin. The suspect was Tyler Weiss, which led to the police force moving in and bringing him into custody. After the police questioned him, Tyler was released to the public. The police then obtained a second ransom note after dinner that stated a procedure similar to the first. The police mobilized with the National Guard once more and posted numerous troops in the woods. There were two suspects that showed up; again Tyler Weiss was there to pick up the drop. The police surrounded the two boys and brought Tyler into custody once more, while letting the other one go. They questioned Tyler and obtained information that he was being fed instructions by a staff member. That member pleaded staff immunity. The police later found a note on the staff member's computer giving them consent to search the suspects' room if they had a warrant. The police then searched the room at Jackson's lodge to find the missing girl unharmed. They brought the girl into the police station and she has yet to be released.

Garrett Willis

Honest James



Yesterday evening, we had a man speak to us who did so in a most unusual way; by impersonating a past President. Mr. James Dague has been impersonating Abraham Lincoln for more years than we have been alive, and he has been coming to Boys State nearly as long. He is a truly remarkable man.

In 1983 Mr. Dague was recommended to do an impersonation of Abraham Lincoln at a 4-H talent show. He has been doing this impersonation ever since. Someone described his presentation stating that it almost felt like you were really listening to Mr. Lincoln.

1970 Boone County Staff

These Boone County, WV men were on staff at Boys State in 1970. A few of them are deceased. Three of them were coaches. Pictured are (left to right):

Ed Fincham – coach, athletic staff

Nick Arvon – legislative staff

C.W. Hoffman - coach, athletic staff

Bob Stine – headquarters staff, Administrator until his death in 2002

John Giles – athletic staff

Sam Putinsky – coach, athletic staff



Photo courtesy of Sam Putinsky

LEGION NEWS

The American Legion Riders

Some of the counselors here at the camp may seem like nothing more than ordinary adults to the young men they mentor. However, many of them in their spare time will go to great lengths to ensure the encouragement of both veterans and future citizens of Boys State. Some of those with such passion may join the American Legion Riders, the organization behind the \$1,300 donation presented to ALMBS at the Formal



Review on Wednesday evening, which is a dedicated alliance devoted to preserving and strengthening the American way of life. The Riders are notable for their generous donations to veterans, American Legion branches and programs, and their ability to organize fellow Legionnaires to participate in various motorcycle rides across the state.

The ALR rides annually during an assortment of Memorial Day parades including Clarksburg, Grafton, and Martinsburg, which had a turnout of 23,000 participants. Other than the donation Mountaineer Boys State received, they have perpetuated the operation of a VA bowling alley that had nearly met its end, and later this fall, they intend to raise funds for an Afghan veteran. And like any esteemed and established group they have something of a motto that represents their true philosophy: “Always be safe, keep the rubber side down and the wind in your face.” These are truly words to live (and ride) by.

Owen Bleigh

THE LEVY PASSED IN BARBOUR/WEBSTER COUNTY

On Friday, the Barbour/Webster Board of education had an election to pass a raise in the levy from 4% to 8%. With the increased population, this levy helps greatly with rebuilding the curriculum as well as adding classrooms to the schools to cover these new classes and teachers.

THANKS to everyone who voted to make our county a better place!

Camp News

Ending the R-Word

In our society today, it is far too often that many words and terms are thrown around without a moment's hesitation, nor any consideration into whom it may affect. One of those includes the "R-Word", meaning the term 'retard(ed)'. Spread the



Word to End the Word is a campaign directed towards the youth of our communities, primarily concerned with the raising of both awareness for any derogatory gesture or term regarding the mentally challenged, and creating a hospitable environment with people-first language and a lack of exclusive attitudes. The campaign asks to pledge not to use the R-Word, or any other offensive word for that matter, in order to create a starting point towards supporting communities of inclusion and acceptance for all people. You can also get involved by spreading word of the pledge and sharing your knowledge of this disrespectful phenomenon. Mountaineer Boys State thanks all those with enough courage and integrity to help this cause in any way possible.

Owen Bleigh

MBS: Camper Comments

How do you think that Boys State 2013 has changed your life?

- "It's motivated me to create a school government at my school, and I feel as if many leadership opportunities have opened up for me."

Joshua Legget - Gilmer - Federalist

- "I've learned to appreciate and respect the meaning of the American flag. I am also now inspired to run for real county or even state offices."

John-David Wright - Gilmer - Federalist

- "I've met lifelong friends and have learned proper skills which will help me further along in my life."

Troy Lowther - Monroe - Nationalist

- "This camp has led me to meet cool people that share the same interests as me. Boy's state has also opened my eyes to the real blueprint of government."

Lincoln Barger, Monroe, Nationalist

Athletics

Athletic Events Come To A Close

Athletic events at Mountaineer Boys state have been a success this week here at Mountaineer Boys State. Excluding the canceled games on Thursday all other games were played other than a few team forfeits for lack of players. As of Friday morning, there are two cottage party teams that have been left undefeated. The teams are ironically both parties of the Marion cottage. The Nationalists and Federalists parties of the cabin are both a perfect 5-0. Though this is a very great accomplishment for the cottage winning isn't everything. Cottages have received points all week for just participating in cabin athletic events. These points are added into overall cottage scores to contribute to the Best Cottage Award. Good luck to all cottages, and thank-you for your participation in your athletic events this week!

Anthony Gemando

Barbour/Webster Cottage Wins Tug of War!

The Mountaineer Boys State annual tug of war tournament was held Friday evening in front of the Dining Hall. All ten cottages had their own teams in the contest and six were awarded first round byes. The Kanawha cottage, who was not awarded a bye, made it all the way to the tug of war championship where they would end their run and lose to the Barbour and Webster County cottage. After the victory from Barbour/Webster, the cottage was put to the ultimate test- they had to face all Boys State staff members. As the match began it seemed no one had the edge, but in the end, the staff members came out victorious!

Anthony Gemando

Photos By: Anthony Gemando



From the Editor...

By the time you receive this paper, you will be merely hours away from the end of Boys State 2013. While riding home, no matter how long the drive, you will more than likely reflect on the experiences you had, the people you met, what you enjoyed, and maybe what you didn't. You'll ask yourself what you could do if you were able to start the week over again...a clean slate...Sunday at 9:00 AM. What you might not ponder is how Boys State has changed your life for the better, no matter how you feel about the last six days.

On Sunday, it's safe to say that many people were immediately ready to return home. I confess that I was one of them, shocked to see the types of situations we were being exposed to in the first few hours. It was polarizing to say the least, but I'll gladly admit that the week improved with each passing day, gradually allowing us more freedom and literal control over our own Boys State.

After the first day, I began to listen to the guest speakers more attentively, enthralled by Michael Belmeer's lesson on leadership and sincerely fascinated by the speakers at the assembly following the Formal Review. I also found myself genuinely interested in the Nationalist Party's developing platform at our caucuses. Though I wasn't largely involved in the political side of Boys State, I've enjoyed watching it progress, surprised at how quickly the campaigns of those running for state offices unfolded.

Though I've liked the public events of Boys State, my favorite part, by far, has been working with the journalism staff and experiencing first-hand the frustrating and somewhat difficult responsibilities that accompany the Editor's position. My free time has been devoted solely to editing stories, designing the paper, and making sure that every story that needs to be included is actually included. Though much of this sounds negative, I can say that holding the final prints in my hand has been a rewarding experience that makes the effort put into the daily publications worth it. The real thanks, however, must go out to the great staff that has been tirelessly reporting on all of the events that have occurred this week. Their stories have been well-written, requiring minimal editing and very little censorship (for the most part). And, as the week has progressed, we actually began to have fun while making the paper. The first thing anyone who steps foot into the journalism staff room notices is the relaxed, but productive, environment that we have created. Oh, and we totally got sued, which was rather entertaining.

This is only MY experience with Boys State and I'm well-aware that everyone else's has been entirely different. I'm happy with the way the week has progressed, and I'm uncertain on how I'll feel when I leave Jackson's Mill today. One thing that I'm absolutely sure of, though, is that I won't ponder the different approaches I could have taken at Boys State this week. Instead, I will focus on the areas and skills of mine that have improved and the credit that I must deservingly contribute to my week at Boys State, one that I will surely never forget.

Jared Casto

Boys State 2013

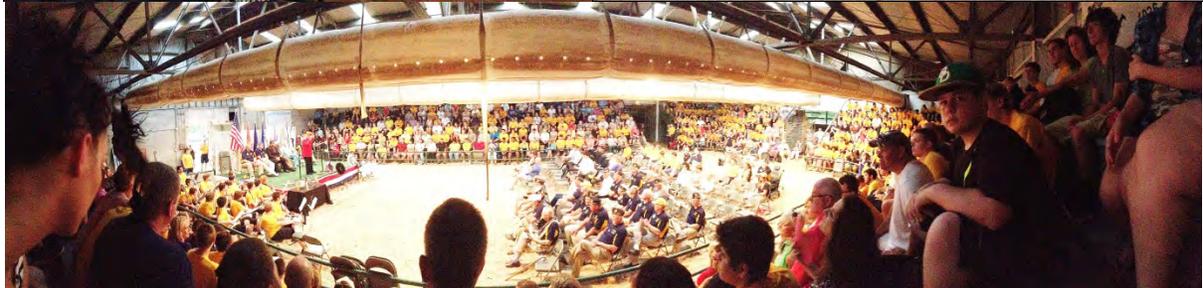




Photo Credits: Ryan Burgess and other various members of the Journalism staff

**Have a Safe
Trip Home,
and Best
Wishes in
Your Future
Endeavors!**