

VOLUME 75, ISSUE 6

JUNE 16, 2012

# The Mountaineer

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF AMERICAN LEGION  
MOUNTAINEER BOYS STATE



LEARNING TODAY...  
LEADING TOMORROW  
[www.mountaineerboysstate.org](http://www.mountaineerboysstate.org)



THE DAILY  
BULLETIN

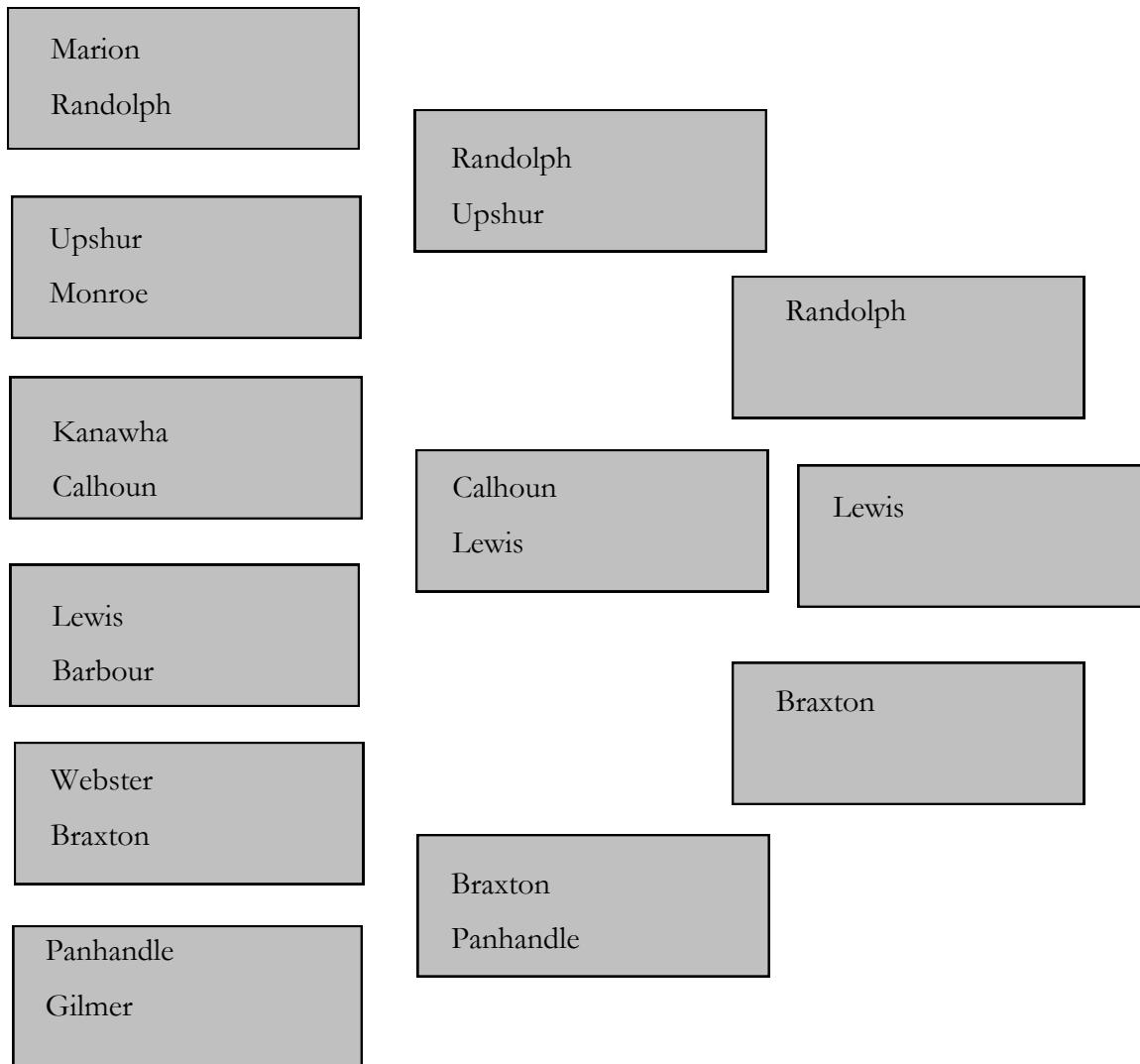
Happy Birthday  
Betty Ann!!



## West Fork River Re-

1. Neil Bolyard, Truman Sayre, Brandon Flower – Song “Fight Mountaineers”
  2. Chris Blankenship/George Kline (Panhandle)– Guitar/Vocal Song
  3. John McGee (Panhandle) – Vocal Song
  4. Alan Ellis (Lewis) – Piano Song
  5. Louis McQuaide (Marion) – Mystical Puzzle solving by the “Imperial Wizard”
  6. Zachary Conner (Marion)– Electric Guitar Solo
  7. Luke Carpenter (Monroe) – Guitar/vocal Song
  8. Willie Poe & Patrick Crogan (Staff) – Piano Vocal Medley
  9. Hashim Peracha (Webster) & Adam Chivers (Barbour) – “DJing & Dancing”
  10. Jared Stroud (Randolph) & Isaac Gutshall (Randolph) – Guitar/vocal Song
  11. Robert Striker & Dustin Starsick (Staff) – ALMBS Ultimate Pong
- Video
12. Logan Jenkins (Marion) & Taylor Ortiz (Lewis)- Guitar/vocal Song
  13. Leslie Hobbs (Staff) – Stretching Exercises
  14. Aaron New (Panhandle) – Electric Guitar solo
  15. Zachary Parrucci (Panhandle) & Brian Thomas (Panhandle)& John Bair (Kanawha) – instrumental
  16. David Jones (Randolph) – Piano song
  17. Logan Jenkins (Marion) – Original song about ALMBS
  18. Jason Ashby (Randolph) – A poem (How do you Live your Dash?)
  19. Austin Vandergrift (Marion) – vocal/SongVideo
  20. Robbie Robinson & friends – “Who am I? & Flag Folding”
  21. Chris Sharps & friends – Song Medley

# TUG OF WAR RESULTS



Final

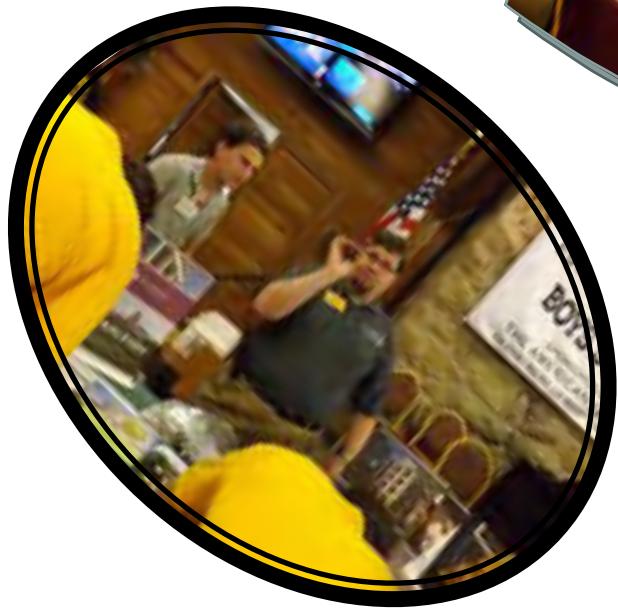
Randolph

Braxton

The Winner is...

Randolph

# COLLEGE CAREER FAIR



# Breaking News

## FIRE!!!! FIRE!!!

At just before ten o'clock on Thursday night a fire was reported on the second floor of Gilmer Cottage. Several citizens were seen dashing about to and fro screaming "Fire!" at the tops of their lungs. Fire chiefs from all over Boy's State were on hand to assist in securing the perimeter, and I managed to get a statement from several men on the ground. Apparently, a certain section of Gilmer Cottage (deemed Area 51) was off limits for reasons unknown. A particular citizen was appointed to guard Area 51, but it was curiosity that caused the fire, in this case, as a lit cigarette fell from the hands of one of the members of the cottage who was involved in a physical altercation with the appointed guard. The guard managed to keep all citizens out of Area 51, but when questioned said, "I don't know anything about that."

The atmosphere in the cottage leading up to the altercation was, "Riotous and chaotic." One citizen went so far as to say the situation surrounding Area 51 was, "pandemonium." All citizens were able to leave the cottage in time, however, in the rush of a fire, one much beloved but less well known citizen was left in the building. Teddy, as he is called, was left on the second floor as the fire raged. We have no official reports on Teddy's status or whereabouts, but our thoughts and prayers are with him and his loved ones in this sorrowful time.\

-Adam Pack, General Manager

## Counselor's Corner

### THE BLUE MEN GROUP

This week, the citizens of the 75<sup>th</sup> Edition of Mountaineer Boys' State have had the privilege of being guided by 42 of the finest men with whom I've had the pleasure of working as counselors. Their diversity is astounding: they range from former citizens returning for the first time to Legionnaires nearly 80 years old (and all ages between). They come from a wide range of professions, cultures, and beliefs but their common belief is in you and in the value of this program. None are paid: each takes vacation or forfeits time from other pursuits to be here. Their compensation is your success.

And what a successful week it has been. You, as citizens, have proven that you have the integrity, poise, and determination to succeed while still being great people. All week, a common theme among the staff has been the cooperative, polite, and respectful nature of the citizens of the 75th Boys' State. You've proven that it is possible to have a good time while also working hard. You've shown exceptional judgment. It's as if fate gave us a special group of young men to lead for this anniversary. We thank you as a group. I thank you for taking such good care of "The Blue Men."

Blue Men, I thank you for accepting what I hope was infrequent, gentle guidance. You needed little. All week you've shown the values of integrity, hard work, and camaraderie that make any unit strong. Your morale has been fantastic despite long days, frequent schedule changes, and minor calamities like exploding power transformers to name just one. It worked because you made it work: we're Boys' State and that's just how we roll. I wish you safe journeys home and look forward to the day when we can convene again. Godspeed, Blue Men, and to the citizens you served so well.

# Breaking News

## MISSING CHILD

Late last night, the aunt of six year old Kate Williams reported her niece missing. At that time, the State Police were actually too busy to respond, so the investigation was taken over by the Department of Natural Resources until about 8:45 this morning. A ransom of \$10,000.00 and two new staff t-shirts was demanded. The whereabouts of the child are still unknown at the time this article was written. The police are looking for an older model gray Mazda. There are currently no suspects in this case, although the police are looking at many

Per-  
sons

## Saturday 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 – Clean quarters and prepare for FINAL IN-SPECTION and departure.**

All luggage and belongings must be removed from the interior of all cottages and deposited on any cottage's covered porch, the Assembly Hall porch or the interior of the West Virginia building.

## Kocsis' Comments

When confronted with a conflict, before letting your hair catch on fire and running around, apply the following steps:

- 1. Remain calm.**
- 2. Attempt to understand where those who you are in conflict with are coming from and what they are truly trying to say/do**
- 3. Apply the D.I.R.M. test by asking, “Does It Really Matter?” If it does matter, advocate for your position. If it doesn’t really matter, let it go. The conflict will be over and you can move on.**

# 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. 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.

Thank you to the newspaper/broadcast Boys State staff for a job well done. You worked very long hours making sure that everyone was informed of the news!



# Carpe Diem



Late Thursday night, just before the Wereth Eleven presentation, Judge Kaul addressed the young men of Mountaineer Boys State in the assembly hall. A man of the law and a gentleman, he agreed to appear once more at Mountaineer Boys State to provide some insight and advice. Taking the podium with poised attention, Mr. Kaul proceeded to mark a page in the chapter of the Men of Tomorrow.

The honored judge spoke about men like Michael Jordan and gave us instances in which he never stopped doing what he did best. Even when his father died and when he was ill, he never quit. That's what I took away from Judge Kaul's speech. I heard him telling us all to move forward without stopping and seize the day and all its opportunity.

## Cottage Report

Bitter sweet is the only way to describe how the citizens of Barbour Cottage are feeling on the last full day of Boys State camp. One citizens stated, "We are all so excited to return home and see all the faces we've missed this past week. But then again we are all going to miss this once in a life time opportunity we've just experienced." That was almost the exact same reply I received from all the Barbour Cottage residents when asked how they felt about the week coming to an end. "This camp is definitely the greatest program I've ever gotten to be a part of. Everything about it has had a positive impact on how I look at life and my future. A day won't go by that I won't think about all the veterans and current soldiers out there serving our country and protecting us. I'm more than happy I got to be a part of Boys State," said another resident. Barbour Cottage has asked that I put in a special thanks to everyone on the staff here at Boys State for giving them such a great opportunity to learn about their country and putting in the hard work to make this program run properly. They would also like to thank the veterans for their service; without them, we wouldn't be here today. Last but not least, thanks go out to all the guest speakers that have come to talk to us and help make this week a great experience.

Barbour Cottage

# "Maestro's in Marion"

Hello and "Good Morning!" to all my fellow mountaineers. My name is Iain Feezle an average guy like yourselves writing hopefully to catch your attention and maybe tell you if you are hopefully reading this about my awesome experience in this, what you and, I would probably call an orchestra of miss fit toys that can yet manage to create a symphony. Marion seems to have luckily chosen some the weirdest, funniest, craziest, and most talented people I've had ever had the pleasure of meeting we have figured out how to work with each other using our talents for different jobs. Just like an orchestra playing different instruments together creating new friendships in the process.

Now all of whom is actually reading this are like where are you going with this and get to the point. The main that I would like to introduce to you is that our cabin is full of talented musician's probably some if not the best musicians in the community. Two of them being my councilors one being **Roy Turner** one that I personally look up when it comes to playing the bass he is what I would call the true bass man! He has a stand up bass and probably the prettiest five string bass I have ever laid eyes on. Another one being **Travis Nichols** with twelve years of experience who can probably play any song you can ask him to play on guitar. So if you want any lessons or just want to have a "**Jam Session**" come on down to Marion and bring your instrument. So that you and I and other cabin members can meet and become friends and maybe even form an orchestra of our own.

"A Fellow Bass Man", Iain Feezle, Marion Cottage

**P.S.-** Word of advice don't argue with  
Travis about music I will even tell you he  
knows his stuff!

## Saturday's Breakfast Menu

Sausage Gravy

Biscuits

Hot and Cold cereal

Bananas and Apples

Orange Juice





# “THE WERETH 11,”

## The Aubrey Stewart Project



## Above and Beyond the Call Of Duty Kip Price

Vice President/Ambassador

(304)366-4139 or [kippricel@gmail.com](mailto:kippricel@gmail.com)

[www.theaubreystewartproject.com](http://www.theaubreystewartproject.com)

Anyone interested in the film, “The Wereth 11,” can either buy or rent it at [amazon.com](http://amazon.com).



## James Aubrey Stewart

CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- On Dec. 7, 1944, Sgt. James Aubrey Stewart wrote a letter to family and friends in the tight-knit Mineral County town of Piedmont, sending Christmas wishes from the mud and cold of Belgium.

"I suppose everyone there is getting ready for Christmas," Stewart, 37, wrote his father. "Well, all I can say, hope you all have a nice one. Wish I could be with you again this year."

Aubrey Stewart, a sergeant with the U.S. Army's 333rd Field Artillery Battalion, would not make it home for Christmas. Ten days later, German soldiers crushed his skull with a rifle butt and left his body with the bodies of 10 other black soldiers. All were tortured and murdered by the German army and left in a Belgian ditch.

Aubrey Stewart didn't have to join the Army. A renowned left-handed pitcher for his hometown baseball team, Stewart volunteered to join a segregated military in which many white officers didn't believe black men belonged.

Stewart was assigned to the 333rd Field Artillery Battalion, an all-black unit sent to Europe following the June 6, 1944 invasion of Normandy and stationed in Belgium. The unit's performance was exemplary, but when Hitler sprang his surprise counterattack on Dec. 16 in what became known as the Battle of the Bulge, Stewart and his unit found themselves 11 miles behind enemy lines.

Outnumbered and overrun, Stewart and 10 of his fellow artillerymen made their way to a Belgian village called Wereth, where a farmer named Mathias Langer hid them in a barn on the outskirts of town. Also in the barn, according to local legend, were several German deserters.

A neighbor sympathetic to the Germans found out about the men and told authorities. Early on Dec. 17, Stewart and the other 10 artillery soldiers surrendered.

Kip Price, who grew up with Stewart's family, said the black soldiers could have told the Germans about the hidden deserters. They could have revealed that Langer had put them up in the barn. But they didn't.

The Germans tortured the 11 men to get them to talk, but no one did. They were beaten with rifle butts, bayoneted and shot, then left in a ditch. Army investigators later found the men had been mutilated; several had their faces slashed, and one man's finger was nearly cut from his hand.

More than 50 years later, Langer's daughter Maria told an American television reporter that the soldiers' silence saved the lives of the family, and possibly the rest of the town.

"[The Germans] could have killed us," said Maria Langer, who was 17 when the men were killed. "They could have done it."

In Belgium, the artillery soldiers became known as the Wereth 11, and are regarded as heroes. Members of Langer's family erected a monument for the fallen men, and tended Stewart's grave. Rick Rhodes, one of Stewart's surviving nephews, went to Belgium and met with the family.

But in the United States, the fate of the 11 men from the 333rd Field Artillery Battalion remained obscure for more than 50 years.

In January 1945, Stewart's parents received a curt and businesslike letter from the War Department confirming that Stewart was missing in action. Not long after they were told he had been killed.

But no one in the Stewart family was told how Stewart and the other 10 soldiers died. Though Army researchers confirmed the men had been massacred and mutilated, officials did not recommend the incident for follow up.

Meanwhile, the massacre of 84 white troops near a town called Malmedy on the same day the Wereth 11 were killed was actively pursued, and the Germans responsible prosecuted for war crimes.

"So many things are swept under the carpet, but it's an important fact that everybody knows what happened," said Harry Stewart Jr., a great-nephew of Aubrey Stewart who is now living in Charleston.

Harry Stewart said the military apparently didn't care about the fate of 11 black soldiers left in the mud and snow.

"The importance wasn't there," he said. "It wasn't relevant to the government at the time, or to the individuals that were able to make the decisions."

Aubrey Stewart's family didn't learn of his fate until 1996, when a television reporter working on a story about the massacre came to Piedmont and talked to Charles Stewart, one of Aubrey Stewart's nephews. Charles Stewart showed a videotape of the article to neighbors Bill and Kip Price.

"Bill had tears in his eyes," recalled T.J. Coleman, a family friend who wrote a book about Aubrey Stewart and the massacre of the Wereth 11. Friends urged Charles Stewart to tell Aubrey's story wherever he could, but Charles Stewart died before he could fulfill the mission.

Coleman, an Air Force veteran, decided to take on the task.

"It became my calling," Coleman said. "God gave me the vision to honor Mr. Aubrey and all the other soldiers."

Coleman wrote a book about Stewart and founded the Aubrey Stewart Project to spread the word about what happened in 1944. The group hopes to restore Stewart's childhood home and set up a museum in town.

But Coleman also wants what happened to Stewart and the other Wereth victims to bring people together, not tear them apart. He said the Langers didn't care that Aubrey Stewart was black.

"There's been enough hate on all sides," Coleman said. "Let us celebrate our membership in but one race, the human race."

On July 18, the town of Piedmont celebrated its first Unity Day, a manifestation of Coleman's vision that something good come out of the deaths of the Wereth 11. Coleman hopes to make the event a national holiday.

"These men were tortured, they were killed, but they never told the Germans that this family helped them.

"We want their families to know what happened to them. We want people to know they had heroes in their families."

**WEST POINT CONTACT** [www.WestPoint.edu/admissions](http://www.WestPoint.edu/admissions)

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# ATHLETIC RESULTS

Wednesday – 4:00PM – 5:15PM					
Kanawha-N	Randolph-N	Panhandle-N	Panhandle-Forfeit	Randolph-1	
Monroe-N	Upshur	Webster	Marion-W	Monroe-2	
Harrison-2	Barbour	Kanawha-F	Calhoun-4	Lewis-N	
Braxton-0	Gilmer	Marion-N	Lewis-3	Braxton-N	

Thursday – 4:00PM – 5:00PM					
Lewis-2	Panhandle-F	Barbour -2	Panhandle-N	Braxton-N	
Gilmer-0	Braxton-F	Calhoun-9	Harrison	Kanawha-N	
Randolph-2	Monroe-F	Marion-1	Marion-W	Monroe-N	
Webster-1	Lewis-N	Kanawha-11	Upshur-Forfeit	Randolph-N	

Thursday – 6:30PM – 7:45PM					
Randolph-2	Marion-N	Braxton-0	Kanawha-7	Marion-F	
Calhoun-1	Gilmer	Randolph-5	Panhandle-3	Harrison	
Kanawha-2	Monroe-F	Lewis-N	Braxton-2	Upshur	
Lewis- 1	Webster	Barbour	Panhandle-11	Monroe-N	

“Josh Weltner”



# Celebration 75th Anniversary

## BoyState



### REFLECTIONS FROM A 2011 BOYS STATOR

The following e-mail message was received by Jacob McCarty, IT Director, on May 14, 2012:

Hello. I hope this message finds you in happy times and good health. This is Andrew Scott, and I was one of your citizens in Monroe Cottage during the 2011 Mountaineer Boys State.

I would like to begin by saying that I had an absolute blast during that week long program, learning not only a lot about the democracy that we live in, but a lot about myself. I am forever grateful for the American Legion for enabling me to have that opportunity. I am furthermore grateful for you and the two other counselors of Monroe Cottage for your professionalism and dedication to us and ensuring that we were safe, productive, and had a good time. I can say with certainty that Mountaineer Boys State is one of the few events that I will always remember from my high school years as having the biggest impact on my development as a person, and for that I cannot thank you enough.

As I said in the preceding paragraph, Mountaineer Boys State taught me a lot about myself. This realization has allowed me to begin the process of change in how I interact with others, and steering me in a direction to be the person that I want to be. Another aspect of this realization was solidifying my plans for the future, particularly my determination to attend the United States Military Academy at West Point. Due to this determination, I received a trio of nominations from Senators Manchin and Rockefeller as well as Representative Capito. Following these, I received my appointment to the USMA class of 2016 in February of this year. I report July 2 to begin the next chapter of my life.

I am not singly crediting Boys State with shaping me as a person, but it was, without a doubt, a large factor. Had it not been for you, and others like you that made the program possible and as exceptional as it was I may not have achieved this, and for that I thank you.

“Andrew Scott”

Have A Safe  
Trip And Best  
Wishes  
In Your Future  
Endeavors!!!!

