



The Mountaineer



LEARNING TODAY...

LEADING TOMORROW

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2009



The Boys State Congress takes a vote in the West Virginia State Capitol. *Photo by Josh Kurnot.*

Boys State Visits Capitol

By Michael Hipelius Reporter (Marion)

After yesterday's morning meal, members of the Boys State Senate, House of Delegates and State elected officials left for Charleston WV to attend a series of conferences about our capitol. Members brought with them articles of proposed legislation that they had drafted or collected from fellow citizens. The two hour drive through West Virginia's forested mountains proved a perfect opportunity for attendees to catch up on some lost sleep.

After arriving at the state capitol building the legislative body was then free to walk about and explore the exquisite architecture of the building. Afterwards members filed over to The House for a brief talk from Richard Thompson, speaker of the house. Members were then instructed to participate in going through a piece of mock legislature. The bill's title was "To make Mothman the official state monster" and was indeed passed.

After the lesson a recess was called for noon meal (AKA lunch). When the organization resumed members were split into their respective legislative bodies to discuss proposed legislation. Members of the Senate debated over bills on topics such as "West Virginia Higher Standards Water Act", "The Promise Scholarship Reformation" and "Cell Phone use on Roadways". Members of the House dealt with other issues such as "Tax Breaks for Green Energy Businesses", "Mandatory Offered ACT/SAT Prep Classes" and "Homestead Tax exemption for Senior Citizens".

Even though only one Bill regarding child safety on firearms was passed, both bodies were able to work diligently and effectively in the matter that our State government does on a daily basis.

Overall with the guidance of our mentors, our governing officials here at Boys State were able to retain information concerning West Virginia state legislature. Due to its effectiveness, it is obvious that this trip should remain in the Boys State program. Members give their thanks to all who put this together.

Secretary of Military Affairs Speaks to Boys State

By Ryan Turner

Secretary of Military Affairs, James Spears, comes to Mountaineer Boys State for the evening assembly. I got the chance to interview him and received some more knowledge that I am going to share with you.

I started by asking him what brings him to Boys State. “I attended Boys State as a citizen in 1971 and always held it as a positive memory,” says Spears. “This is my second time speaking here and I quickly agreed both times because I believe in its principles.”

He also released to me that he has been the Secretary of Military Affairs for about five years now. After that, I asked for any words of wisdom for the citizens of this year’s Boys State and Mr. Spears left me with this: “Don’t take it lightly. You’ll never know when what you were taught here is something in which you will be involved in the future.”



Thursday’s Assembly: Lots of Speakers

By Alex Bolano



Yesterday night the Mountaineer Boy’s State citizens sat through a lovely presentation full of wonderful and talented speakers and state officials. Also included in the speeches were many American Legion members. Various topics were discussed in the speeches such as the importance of voting, decision making, patriotism, and many more. Mountaineer Boy’s State has always been known for the elite caliber of its speakers and tonight was no exception. As always, the citizens received a message of importance to their daily lives and on decisions to continue on to a bright future. As

the week comes to a close we can only hope that their messages of loyalty, hard work, and perseverance sink in and leave an impression on the citizens.

Judge Maxwell Addresses Boys State

By Marcus Constantino

Mountaineer Boys State was honored to have Honorable Robert E. Maxwell, Senior U.S. District Judge from Elkins, West Virginia, at Thursday evening’s assembly. Judge Maxwell, along with other American Legion members from the Elkins area, has visited Boys State annually for many years. “We have received a very gracious invitation (to address Boys State). This is representing the interests of the American Legion. Most of the gentlemen here are from the American Legion.”

When asked why he comes to speak to Mountaineer Boys State citizens every year, Judge Maxwell replied “The purpose is to see these outstanding students who are going into adult life, and we feel that we can help them become great adult citizens and adult leaders to the best interest of their adult neighbors... We’re here for a positive reason and that’s to help and benefit the citizens... What we do is hopefully a positive contribution to every citizen of West Virginia.”

Judge Maxwell had very simple advice for Boys State. “Be sincere, work hard, and contribute to the welfare of every member.”

Hoppy Kercheval Broadcasts Live from Boys State

By Marcus Constantino

Boys State citizens have been relatively isolated from the outside world this week, but that all changed when Hoppy Kercheval, host of Talkline on the West Virginia MetroNews radio network, broadcast his show live from the Assembly Hall here at Mountaineer Boys State on Thursday. The show is heard across the state on twenty radio stations (and one station in Virginia) and can also be heard around the world online. Mr. Kercheval cited two reasons for bringing his show to Boys State. –The first reason I came is because it is great fun, and the second reason is that West Virginia is very proud of the young men at Boys State and it is a great opportunity for the people of West Virginia to meet them.”

In two different sessions, Nationalists and Federalists faced off against each other in a trivia game. Each party had four representatives (and a cheerleader) who would attempt to answer trivia questions about West Virginia history asked by Mr. Kercheval. Each group of team leaders had the option of answering the question for five points or summoning another member of their party to answer the question for a possible two points. In the first session, the Federalists were able to pull off a victory, despite a late comeback by the Nationalist party. However, the Nationalists from the 11AM session brought their game and walked away with an overwhelming nine-point victory.

Mr. Kercheval interviewed several campers after the trivia fiasco. JT Duffield of Randolph County admitted that he didn’t want to be here at Boys State at first, but –My ‘wow’ moment was about two days ago.” Michael T. Cummings agreed with Duffield, –It’s been awesome. I’ve loved it so far. I was the same as (Duffield) was, but now I don’t want to leave.”



Hoppy Kercheval broadcasting live from the Assembly Hall. Photo by Christopher Ho.

The Charismatic Choir Director

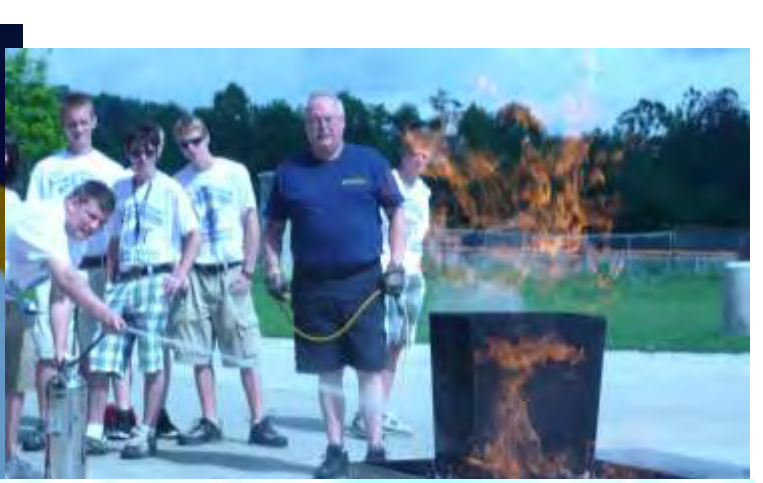
By Kevin Knotts - Barbour

A common theme that has been present throughout the years at Mountaineer Boys State has been the choir that sings beautiful pieces. A large amount of credit for this music should go to the choir director himself, Mr. Chris Sharps. Chris was a Boys State citizen back in 1999, and was the camp pianist when he was here. The next year in 2000, Chris came back and became the choir director for the program. He prepares by getting people who are interested, and he begins with just melody first, but by the 2nd night at dinner there is usually harmony



The choir director himself, Chris Sharps. Photo by Christopher Ho.

being added to the pieces. He believes that this year’s group is one of the most talented that he has had to work with. He enjoys directing the band so much because of the opportunity to give students a chance to utilize talent that otherwise would not be used. He enjoys Boys State because of the impact that it has on young lives. The song –Men of Tomorrow” is the official theme song of Mountaineer Boys State, and it holds a strong tradition in the program. This is a common thread of unity among the program participants, and it raises pride in the camp and state of West Virginia. This choir is a great part of the Boys State program, so next time you get the chance, thank Mr. Chris Sharps for the wonderful job that he is doing.



Fire Marshal L
Ross Martin

Marion

Fire Chiefs

Anthony Montgomery
James Lilly
William Chicchirichi
Beau Newl on
George Mal low
Jacob Haukl and
Cory Yarrington
Tyler Gage

Monroe
Randol ph
Kanawha
Braxton
Barbour
Gil mer/Cal houn
Lewis
Monongal ia/

On June 18, 2009, the MBS Fire Marshall and Fire Chiefs attended a course on fire safety presented by the West Virginia University Fire Service Extension. There they were taught the different types of fires, scenarios, and how to extinguish different fires with the appropriate extinguisher. Their instructor for the day was Murrey Loflin, and they were accompanied by Rick Anderson, Gary Wolf, and Greek of MBS.

The following was submitted by Mark Byers who was an MBS citizen in 1980 and a counselor for 20+ years following that. The story was sent to him by a friend of his who was an Army helicopter pilot in Vietnam.

Wednesday, June 17, 2009
Glad To Be Alive Day!
By Ralph Chappell

June 17th each year I take time to contemplate yet another year of tromping around God's own green Earth and think back to events on that day in 1970. Each of us has that special day that reminds us of how Fate, Luck, and the laws of probability figure in our lives. Ernie Gann, in his book "Fate is the Hunter", discussed this at length. In order to be an Aviator, one must know Gann!

The events of that day in 1970 were most interesting and proved to be as intense as any before or since. I managed to get shot down twice in one day which for a Chinook pilot was a real trick. We had taken the war into Cambodia in pursuit of the logistical and headquarters bases for the North Vietnamese Army in that area. It was the start of Monsoon season which provided us with lots of bad weather, rain, and low cloud. The usual routine was takeoff just before Dawn, fly up to our operating areas on the border and fly until dark or just after. We were supporting the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment and the 1st Air Cav Division units in an area north of Tay Ninh and south of Bu Prang.

The first bit of fun that day happened while we were engaged in moving an artillery unit to a site just north of Katum. The weather had deteriorated a bit and we were forced to fly lower than we liked but had to continue the move as the choice was to finish the move or return the unit to its original location. We could not stop the movement in midstream as the unit being moved would not be able to defend itself or accomplish its mission if split into two parts.

We were hauling a sling load of 105mm howitzer projectiles and several boxes of fuses for the shells when we flew over an NVA unit of some sort and took hits from a 7.62 mm machine gun. The rounds started hitting us in the nose of the aircraft and worked their way aft with some hitting the sling load of ammo and fuses. Evidently, the fuses exploded which caused a lot of fire, smoke, and fumes to enter the aircraft. The explosion caused the aircraft to nose over and begin diving towards the ground which was not far away due to our reduced altitude. Both the Flight Engineer and I hit the cargo release to jettison the load and the other pilot and I both hauled back on the cyclic to stop the dive and by doing so over controlled slightly. We went from seeing nothing but trees in the windscreen to seeing nothing but gray clouds. I got the aircraft under control, realized we had lost power from one of the engines and had a flight control hydraulic failure. Fortunately, Katum airstrip at the base of the Special Forces camp was close by and we made an emergency landing there. Alas, as we were landing we got tangled up in the barbed wire perimeter fencing and dragged up several hundred yards of barbed wire, trip flares, and claymore landmines. The infantry guys who had just finished putting that stuff together were not very amused at having to do it all over I guess.

Enjoying my adrenaline high.....read that as having a drug induced fit on stupidity....I walked over to a Cav Gunship team....an OH-6 Loach and two AH-1 Cobra's....and announced I would show them where some bad guys were that had just shot my aircraft up. They agreed that would be good sport and I climbed into the Loach and off we went with the two Cobra's tagging along behind. As we made our second or third orbit at tree top level in the area where the shooting had taken place, my adrenalin induced fit of stupidity faded to the point I comprehended the error of my ways. Luckily, the Cav guys could not spend long doing this ad hoc bit of flying and returned me to my aircraft. One does not have to be insane to be a Loach pilot but brother it sure helps!

(Continued from previous page)

We replaced the hydraulic line that had been damaged, topped of the reservoir with fresh fluid, cranked up the good engine and burned off enough fuel that we could do a single engine takeoff and flew the aircraft back to our base at Phu Loi.

While we were there we encountered two other crews who had taken hits and had returned for some needed repairs. One crew had a very narrow escape.....a round had severed one of the two hydraulic input lines on an aft rotor head servo....and creased the other. That was a million to one shot and if it had severed the second line the crew would have died without a doubt.

Lucky days can be shared it seems!

We swapped aircraft and took off for our afternoon mission staging out of a Special Forces camp known as Bu Dop. We flew a couple of flights that were pretty short and then shut down as the weather had gotten really bad....low cloud, rain, and poor visibility. We were waiting around in the hopes the weather would improve before we had to head home.

While we were setting there, a 1st Cav fellow asked me if I could fly three loads for him as his aircraft had departed for home at Phouc Vinh due to the inclement weather. He was in tears and explained he had guys that were almost out of ammo, food, and water. I inspected his three loads and they were as described them....bullets, C-rations, and jerry cans of water. As there was always some rivalry between the Cav and real aviation units like ours I offered to fly for the guy.

We hooked up the first load and headed north into Cambodia to the LZ where the Cav troops were. Due to the weather and the destination being a mountain ridge, we climbed into the murk and contacted the Ground Controlled Radar (GCA) controller at Bu Dop and got navigation vectors to the LZ. We were in almost solid cloud and at times could see straight down through small holes and see the jungle.

About halfway there we got hit by a .51 caliber AA Machine gun. The round made one heck of a "Bang" when it hit....especially being so close to me. The round came into the aircraft on my right side, angling up from the rear edge of the chin bubble, striking the pedal under my left foot removing the pedal, and exited out the left side of the chin bubble. My first impression was of thinking "What the Hell happened?" My left leg was jammed back under the seat, the aircraft had taken a huge jump, and almost instantly I was sitting in a fire. The round evidently severed some hydraulic lines when it removed the pedal.

At this point....things got a bit intense. We were in cloud, on fire in the cockpit, and somewhere over Cambodia in a mountainous area occupied by thousands of bad guys. We had a quick Chinese Parliament over the intercom and determined we were still flying, had flight controls, no longer had the slingload, and decided to find a place to put the aircraft down. We could not do so and finally elected to climb back up and try to return to Bu Dop.

The fire finally burned itself out, we got picked up by the kind folks of Bu Dop GCA, did a radar controlled approach to the runway and landed safely. I was treated for burns and a shrapnel wound to my leg and was evacc'ed to Bien Hoa Field Hospital. Later I was transferred to Camp Zama Army hospital in Japan and finally to Fort Bragg.

That is why I consider June 17th, my lucky day!

Captain Ralph Chappell, US Army (Retired)"

Thank you to all of the armed forces who
have made this country safe for so long.
We truly appreciate all you do.



About the National Guard

By Brent Bailey- Editor

The National Guard is our nation's oldest military, established December 13th, 1636. It consists of both men with non-prior and prior service. Its members are citizen soldiers, with full time jobs, families, and communities. According to Staff Sergeant Clay Edwards, also known as "Big Dog," the National Guard has "two missions: the state mission, we fall under Commander in Chief Governor Joe Manchin in the event of any natural disaster, in West Virginia typically floods or fires, and also work with state and federal drug enforcement agencies. The second mission, federal, we fall under the president and in the event of war we deploy." Edwards has served in Iraq and Kuwait, put in over 300 combat/convoy missions as recovery support and rear security in support of troops on our front lines, as well as aiding with several floods in southern West Virginia and Hurricane Katrina. He also noted the benefits of being a National Guard member: all guard members' tuition at any state university is paid, the Montgomery GI Bill pays guard members \$320 a month with a kicker that pays \$200, drill pay is \$200 dollars a month, student loans are repaid up to \$50,000 and enlistment bonuses can be up to \$20,000.

The Boys State National Guard members are being given weapons training with the M16 A2, security detail training, natural disaster training, and crowd control duties. They do physical training (PT), designed to build "camaraderie, cohesion, and motivate the troops." Edwards and the other National Guard members were "asked to come here to let these young men know the role of the National Guard," and though a great deal of what they've done, according to Edwards, is "improvising," the training and leadership they have provided seems anything but.

Awards

Sergeant Majors Award

Jake Stafford

Cabin Awards

Kyle Fields - Barbour
 Zachary Eaton - Braxton
 Eric Hall - Calhoun
 Stephen Baldwin - Gilmer
 William Brubaker - Kanawha
 Alex Panger - Lewis
 John Childers - Marion

Jacob Davis - Monroe
 Matthew Frederick - Panhandle
 David Tennant - Randolph
 Scott McClure - Upshur
 Kaylon Minor - Monongalia
 Brandon Bartlet - Webster



The National Guard marching to the evening meal
 Photo by Christopher Ho

National Guard Responds to Chemical Spill

By Marcus Constantino

At approximately 3 PM on Thursday, a golf cart flipped over near the Agriculture Hall of Fame. "We wrecked," confessed SFC Garton with the Army National Guard. "We were doing stunts, showing off." "It has hazardous material on it. It's a chemical spill," added SGT Tulanowski.

The Boys State National Guard was called in to investigate and clean the chemical spill. They followed the correct procedures for taking care of hazardous spills. "They sent in a security team. They dropped back and found out what the spill was. They set up a deacon, and then removed the spill," explained SFC Garton. Sergeant Jacob Davis E-5 of the Boys State National Guard was satisfied with his squad's performance. "It all went well. Except for a couple little things, all-in-all we did well."



**THIS SCENARIO WAS
 PERFORMED
 IN A CONTROLLED
 ENVIRONMENT
 USING MOCK
 FIREARMS**

Far Right: The National Guard rushes into action to check out the chemical spill at MBS.

Right: The National guard investigating the situation.

Pictures by: Christopher Ho



Friday 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, County, State governments, Courts, Boards of Education organized and working (See Thursday A.M. schedule)
 Bank and Newspaper staffs organized and working
 State Police, Conservation Officers, and National Guard organized and working and meeting with Advisors for further instruction
 12:05 - 12:20 All Citizens in Cottages for Inspection preparation.
 12:25 - IN FORMATION AT DINING HALL
 12:30 - LUNCH
 1:00 - 3:00 - College/Career Fair at Assembly Hall. Final exam at WV Building. All delegates will attend per this schedule:
 1:00 - 2:00 - Panhandle, Gilmer, Braxton, Barbour, Randolph, Monroe, Webster - Assembly Hall
 1:00 - 2:00 - Lewis, Upshur, Kanawha, Marion, Calhoun, Monongalia - WV Building
 2:00 - 3:00 - Panhandle, Gilmer, Braxton, Barbour, Randolph, Monroe, Webster - WV Building
 2:00 - 3:00 - Lewis, Upshur, Kanawha, Marion, Calhoun, Monongalia - Assembly Hall
 3:00 - 5:00 - City, County, State governments, Courts organized and working
 Bank and Newspaper staffs organized and working
 State Police, Conservation Officers and National Guard, organized and working, participate in training exercises, available for court appearances
 4:00 - 5:00 - Final Talent Show Auditions in WV BUILDING
 Band Practice in Assembly Hall
 Athletics and Swimming
 5:20 - IN FORMATION AT DINING HALL (ALL GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES OFFICIALLY END - Work Product Packets Turned In)
 5:25 - Flag Lowering
 5:30 - DINNER
 6:30 - 7:45 – Athletics and Swimming, Band Practice
 8:00 - THE WEST FORK RIVER REVUE
 AFTER ASSEMBLY – CITIZENS PROCEED DIRECTLY TO COTTAGES IN FORMATION FOR refreshments, cottage meetings and devotions.
 Midnight – ALL citizens in bed and LIGHTS OUT. NO ACTIVITY permitted. Electronic communication device use policy strictly enforced. Violators subject to disciplinary action and reduction in cottage inspection scores

Menu

<i>Breakfast</i>	<i>Lunch</i>	<i>Dinner</i>
French Toast	Hamburgers	Lasagna
Bacon	French Fries	Green Beans
Hot and Cold Cereal	Corn	Garlic Bread
Bananas	Salad	Salad
Apple Juice	Popsicles	Yellow Cake
Milk	Lemonade	Iced Tea

The Mountaineer Boys State Museum

The Mountaineer Boys State Museum will be open today from 9am to noon and again from 3pm to 4pm. Please take a moment to check it out located on the back side of Monongalia/Harrison Cottage.

REMINDER!



Don't forget that you can Register to vote by picking up an application in MBS Headquarters which is located in the Dorsey Center.

**THE MOUNTAINEER MILITARY MUSEUM
(in the historic WESTON COLORED SCHOOL)
345 CENTER AVENUE, WESTON, WEST VIRGINIA
26452**

IN SPONSORSHIP WITH



**AMERICAN LEGION POST #4
SUMMER HOURS (beginning Memorial Day Weekend)
FRIDAY AND SATURDAY 10:00 A.M.—5:00 P.M.
or by appointment (304)472-3943**

**WINTER HOURS (beginning October 1)
SATURDAY ONLY 10:00 A.M.—5:00 P.M.
or by appointment (304) 472-3943**

College/Career Day

By Joe St Clair

This afternoon between 1:00 and 3:00 P.M., some representatives from colleges and universities all over West Virginia will gather here at Jackson's Mill for Mountaineer Boys State College/Career Fair. This year, a representative will be coming all the way from Indiana.

The following are schools that will be represented.

Alderson-Broadus College
Bethany College
Concord University
Bridgewater College of VA
Fairmont State University
Glennville State College
Marshall University
Mountain State University
Federal Bureau of Investigation
WV State Police
US Marshall
Salem International University
University of Charleston
Wabash College
West Liberty State University
West Virginia University
West Virginia Wesleyan College
Wheeling Jesuit University
West Virginia University Institute of Technology

This College/Career Fair is a great opportunity for Boys State citizens to gear up and look on to what they want to do with their futures. All citizens will attend the fair according to the following schedule.

College and Career Day begins at 1pm, but refer to your MBS Manual for your cottage's scheduled time.

The Honorable Judge Fred Fox Comes to Boys State

By Ryan Turner

Circuit Court Judge, Fred Fox, arrived at Mountaineer Boys State for the annual inauguration. Fox has been a circuit court judge for thirty-eight years, excluding one as a justice on the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals. After he swore in all of the new officials, he talked to the newspaper. When asked what brings him to Mountaineer Boys State, his answer was “I come every year to swear in the new officials.”



He also revealed that he was not a citizen of Boys State himself, but he did leave with a few words of wisdom: “Enjoy it. It will be the most memorable week of your life.”

Please Return the Green and White Flash Drives by Friday Evening



Notice from State Fire Marshall

Ross Martin

Keep all fire exits clear!
This will be enforced by fire chiefs.



Chiefs inspection and essay is due by noon today!

Athletic Schedule

Friday - 4:00^{PM} - 5:00^{PM}

Tug of War - All Cabins - Grass Field in Front of Marion Cottage

Yum yum

Friday - 6:00^{PM} - 7:45^{PM}

1st Game	Marion—F Upshur	Calhoun Monroe—N	Braxton—F Marion—N	Monroe—F Randolph—N	Gilmer Randolph—F
2nd Game	Braxton—N Kanawha—N	Lewis—F Panhandle—N	Monongalia Panhandle—F	Lewis—N Kanawha—F	Webster Barbour

Cottage Articles

Marion Mud-Sliding

By Michael Hipelius

Following Wednesday's assembly, many citizens enjoyed rewarding and well-deserved free time. The citizens at Marion, however, made the most of it. As the assembly ended, a large storm was on its way. A large mass of dark clouds provided a steady and heavy rainfall. A group of Marion citizens saw this as an opportunity to slide down the grassy hill behind their cottage. Using garbage bags from unoccupied cots and a bar of soap they formed the 2009 Boys State Man Luge. With their attire, a body suit of garbage bags, they were all set to go.

As fun and games continued however, it drew the attention of the cabin counselors. At first they approved of it, but upon reexamination decided the activity was dangerous. The counselors were not trying to squash the creative minds behind the idea, but were looking out for the safety of the citizens here at Boys State, and advise that no citizen attempt this again.

With the 2009 Boys State Man Luge retired, Marion citizens are not disheartened. Just wait to see what other safe ideas we have next!



The Marion Mud-Sliders. *Photo by Christopher Ho.*

Randolph as the Jury

By David Tennant

On Thursday, Randolph participated in its second trial, acting as the jury this time. I was one of the jury members for the case. This was the first that I had ever been sworn in for a trial, but my fellow jurors and cabin mates had already had been sworn in at the previous trial. The prosecuting attorney relied too greatly on state troopers and, each trooper's information was short with very weak evidence. While I was listening to the trial, I wasn't sure that the defendant (Seth) was truly guilty of robbing the plaintiff (Austin) of his property.

When the jury and I went into our recess, we all believed Seth wasn't guilty and didn't take any of the plaintiff's possessions. We had confidence that the defendant's friend was the true culprit. We were delayed in getting out of recess, because the judge was socializing with the citizens in the courtroom.

We Made It

By JT Duffield

I've heard from all of my friends that the first few days of Boys State were bad but the rest was really fun. To tell you the truth, guys, I did not want to be here at all, and there was nothing about this place that was appealing to me.

Guys, we made it past the first few days. We can say that we got through it unlike a few past members. You guys have heard it all week: "You are the cream of the crop," but guys we really are now that we made it. It's just smooth sailing from here. So, Boys State 2009, "We Made It."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Anyone who wishes to write to the Mountaineer Boys State Blog, ask your counselor how you can submit your blogs through your cottage's laptop computer. The opportunity to write to this blog only exists while you are here at Boys State, so don't pass it up.
- Elkins City Council of Randolph County cabin came together Wednesday to resolve numerous city issues including housing reform.
- The West Fork River Revue is today. More auditions will be held today—look at the schedule.
- All prosecuting attorneys need to meet in the front of Calhoun Cottage after breakfast.

Sons of the American Legion

The Sons of the American Legion was created in 1932 as an organization within the American Legion. The S.A.L. is made up of boys and men of all ages whose parents or grandparents served in the United States military and became eligible for membership in the American Legion. Together, members of The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of the American Legion make up what is known as The Legion Family. All three organizations place high importance on preserving our American traditions and values, improving the quality of life for our nation's children, caring for veterans and their families, and perhaps most importantly, teaching the fundamentals of good citizenship.

Membership Eligibility

All male descendants, adopted sons and stepsons of members of The American Legion, and such male descendants of veterans who died in service during World War I, World War II, and Korean War, the Vietnam War, Lebanon, Grenada, Panama, and the Persian Gulf War, during the delimiting periods set forth in Article IV, Section 1, of the National Constitution of The American Legion, or who died subsequent to their honorable discharge from such service, shall be eligible for membership in the Sons of The American Legion.

[application attached to printed paper here]

For more information contact:

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