

The MOUNTAINEER

"All the news you want to hear...All the announcements you have to"
Publication of the American Legion Mountaineer Boys' State

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JACKSON'S MILL, WV 26452

June 12, 2003

MBS Inauguration 2003



Finally, we have all taken part in the honorary Formal Review. This event was executed with frightening precision and housed an overall sentiment of pride and devotion to the program. The true colors of the principles behind the program shone brightly under yesterday evening's sun. All members of the staff, especially the cottage counselors, should be congratulated on this remarkable accomplishment. Boys' State citizens also deserve a round of applause for their flawless participation in the event.

Governor Bob Wise spoke to the citizens of Mountaineer Boys' State prior to the Inauguration ceremony. He understands the true importance behind Boys' State and is the first to realize that this program aids in the development of the essential qualities of leadership and allegiance to one's country and government. Participating in Mountaineer Boys' State was a very rewarding experience for Governor Wise. The experience he had at Mountaineer Boys' State has proven to be invaluable to him; it has carried with him all throughout his political career.

Citizens of Boys' State should take it from the word of our governor that the time they spend at the camp will last with them a lifetime. Whether or not you decide to pursue a political career in the future, the experience you have here will undoubtedly be beneficial to you in some way. According to Governor Wise, the opportunity to learn about government is one of the best investments you can make. The Boys' State program offers every young man the opportunity to expand his knowledge on governmental procedures. In relation to government, knowledge is power.

SCHEDULE

THE AMERICAN LEGION MOUNTAINEER BOYS' STATE, INC.

THURSDAY – JUNE 12, 2003

6:30 REVEILLE AND CLEAN QUARTERS

7:15 IN FORMATION at Dining Hall.

7:25 BREAKFAST

8:25-9:30 – All County officials meet in West Virginia Building for specialized instruction.

All City officials meet in Assembly Hall for specialized instruction.

8:25-12:00 – Governor & Board of Public Works meet in Jackson Lodge meeting rooms.

Senate & House in session at South Eastern Learning Center.

Supreme Court in session at Flameway Hall.

County School Superintendents and Boards of Education meet in Kanawha Center.

Bank and newspaper staffs organized and working.

9:30-12:00 – City and County Governments organized and working in Cottages.

Magistrate and Circuit Courts organized and working in Cottages.

12:05 – IN FORMATION AT DINING HALL

12:15 – LUNCH

1:00 – Circuit Courts in session with legal advisors present. **ALL CITIZENS IN ATTENDANCE.**

AFTER CIRCUIT COURT TRIALS – State, County, and City governments organized and working

Bank and newspaper staffs organized and working.

5:15 – IN FORMATION AT DINING HALL

5:30 – DINNER

Talent show participants meet with Mark Byers immediately after dinner on the dining hall porch.

6:30-7:30 – Athletics and Band Practice

Bank and newspaper staffs organized and working.

Fire Training Academy (Fire Marshall will provide schedule)

Talent Show participants meet with Talent Show Coordinator at Assembly Hall

8:00 – ASSEMBLY

AFTER ASSEMBLY – Bank and newspaper staffs organized and working.

11:00 – Devotions in Panhandle 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.

12:00 (MIDNIGHT) — ALL citizens in bed and LIGHTS OUT. Violators subject to disciplinary action and reduction in cottage inspection score.

WEDNESDAY'S ATHLETICS CANCELLED DUE TO RAIN.

THURSDAY'S ATHLETIC SCHEDULE

AREA 1
VOLLEYBALL
BESIDE BRAXTON

WEBSTER
BARBOUR

UPSHUR
BRAXTON - N

AREA 2
VOLLEYBALL
BESIDE SOFTBALL

PANHANDLE - N
CALHOUN

RANDOLPH - N
GILMER

AREA 3
FRISBEE
BEHIND CHAPEL

MONROE - F
KANAWHA - N

LEWIS - N
RANDOLPH - F

AREA 4
SOFTBALL
GRASSFIELD

MONONGALIA
MONROE - N

KANAWHA - F
MARION - F

AREA 5
BASKETBALL
BEHIND GILMER

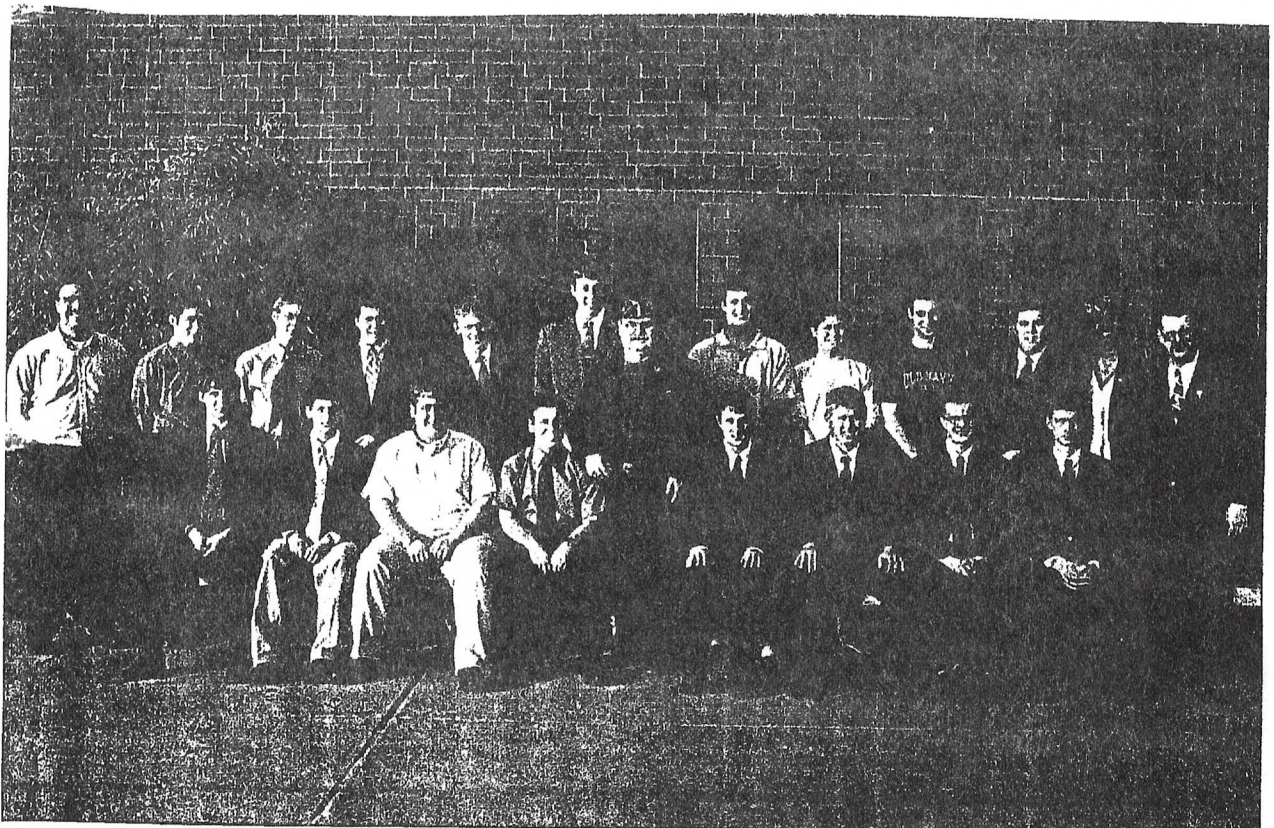
PANHANDLE - F
MARION - N

LEWIS - F
BRAXTON - F

INSPECTION SCORES - WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11, 2003

BARBOUR	94	MONONGALIA	91
BRAXTON	91	MONROE	100
CALHOUN	94	PANHANDLE	88
GILMER	97	RANDOLPH	100
KANAWHA	71	UPSHUR	91
LEWIS	91	WEBSTER	94
MARION	75		

NORTHERN PANHANDLE STUDENTS ATTEND MOUNTAINEER BOYS' STATE



Northern Panhandle high school students participated in this year's Boys' State. The students are sponsored by the American legion Post 1, Ohio Valley Auxiliary Post 89, civic clubs, fraternal organizations, schools, booster groups and parent organizations.

GOVERNOR BOB WISE SPEAKS TO THE CITIZENS OF BOYS' STATE

Governor Bob Wise spoke to the citizens of Mountaineer Boys' State prior to the Inauguration. Governor Wise informed the citizens that their attendance at Boys' State will be valuable and memorable. Thank you, Governor Wise!!!



Historical Tours at Jackson's Mill

Shane Mullen

Having Boy's State at Jackson's Mill certainly has its advantages. While the park is beautiful, well maintained, and offers a variety of activities for citizens, it also has another side. This place is steeped in history, as all citizens of Boy's State were able to see for themselves yesterday.

The town of Jackson's Mill is the site of General Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson's boyhood home. Jackson moved to the site to live with his uncle at age five, and had many fond memories of the area. Citizens were able to catch a glimpse into the history of the camp on historical tours that took place yesterday morning. On the tour, fellow Boys' Staters were able to see Gen. Jackson's home site, the fully functional Blaker Mill, the McWhorter cabin, architecture from the early 1800s, and the famous Jackson's Mill itself. Although no longer operational, Jackson's Mill served as a symbol of the tradition and honor that our Boy's State program upholds to this day.

Citizens interested in learning more about the history of Jackson's Mill can take a more extensive tour during their free time from about noon until five each day. The tour allows citizens to actually enter Jackson's Mill, as well as the McWhorter cabin, and view a plethora of artifacts from the 1800s. After the tour, a gift shop is open where Boy's Staters can purchase Jackson's Mill souvenirs and Civil War merchandise.

It is imperative for our fellow Boy's State citizens to realize the kind of tradition and historical importance of our camp at Jackson's Mill. It is a significant part of our state's past, which is why we are here in the first place. The tours that are available to citizens are a wonderful way for Boy's Staters to become more involved with the program.

The Formal Review

Citizens of MBS participated in the Formal Review on Wednesday, June 11, 2003. Distinguished guests of the American Legion, parents, families, and friends were in attendance.



COURT TRIAL RESULTS

Wednesday, June 11, 2003

Braxton	99
Gilmer	98
Marion	99

Monongalia	95
Randolph	96
Upshur	99

After you get home, check out Boys State on The Web
boysstate.casto-harris.com

Attention

All Staff Members are reminded to turn in their staff information sheets to headquarters ASAP!

Email Addresses

> Don't forget to turn in those e-mail addresses, so that we can put a list together. Addresses should be submitted to Betty Ann at Headquarters. Thanks!

Elections problems this year to be smoothed out for next year

Elections have proved to be a consistent problem throughout the week. When we arrived, it was touted that we would be the first in the nation to have electronic voting. It turned out that we didn't, at least for our primaries. Boys' State Administrator Steve Sluss explains, "Due to the number of candidates reaching near 1700 people, it just wasn't possible." The election officials at Casto & Harris informed us that this number is equivalent to that of a major city such as San Francisco, and normally this number of candidates would take a month to enter in their computer system. Another problem Casto & Harris faced was that normally one person was only allowed to run for one office.

For the general elections, it was decided to use the I votron system for state offices, senators, and delegates. All other elections were completed on paper. Although the results were not posted until sometime close to 12:30 A.M., the results were easy to tally with the use of the computer system. Sluss tells why it took so long to post them, "The length of time was due largely in part to the size of some cabins. Once we realized the delay we arranged for some to receive extra machines to make it go faster."

The election problems we experienced here at Boys' State are no reflection on the I votron machine or on Spencer, WV based Casto & Harris. Boys' State wished to thank the Secretary of State and Casto & Harris for arranging this style of elections at no cost.

In the future, Boys' State plans to try a combination of paper and touch screen voting. Also, all of our data was shipped to Dallas, TX to be analyzed by their tech support to create a solution and benefit everyone. Hopefully this will make elections smoother and easier for years to come.

Caridi speaks to citizens at lunch

Last night Boys' State had an important guest. Tony Caridi, voice of the WVU Mountaineers since 1997, came to speak with our citizens in the Dining Hall about a number of issues. Caridi, a graduate of Syracuse and resident of West Virginia for nineteen years, offered words of wisdom to our fellow Boys' State citizens. He stressed the importance of students continuing to learn over one's lifetime and of manifesting one's talents in useful ways.

The bulk of Caridi's speech was an extensive question and answer session dealing with WVU sports. He spoke of WVU's plans for football, discussed the major cuts in sports programs over the last year (five sports were cut), addressed the money constraints due to more demanding conferences, and even entertained citizens with a sample of his phenomenal commentating.

Davis a force behind MBS

James Davis is a force behind one of West Virginia's most celebrated institution. Since 1975, this U.S. Marine Corps veteran has been a prime mover with the American Legion Mountaineer Boys' State and the American Legion.

"I was only 19 in the Marine Corps serving a term in Vietnam. One day, I got a care package from the American Legion."

It was a gift Davis would never forget. He later joined the American Legion at Post 46, in his hometown of Benwood, W. Va.

"I'm a tool and dye maker by trade—but a Legionnaire by choice," Davis explained.

Davis has been apart of the American Legion in West Virginia for the past 28 years. He has served on the Post Level as Post Sergeant of Arms, Post Vice Commander, and Post Commander. Davis then went on to serve on the State Level as Sergeant of Arms for seven years, Vice Commander for one year, and now is currently serving as WV State Commander.

"I began acting as the State Commander on July 14, 2002," Davis said. "Unfortunately, the Commander position is only a one year term, so in about four weeks, my time will be up. However, my role in the American Legion won't stop. I am on the National Education Committee which oversees the Samsung Scholarship and look forward to continuing to help with Boys' State."

The WV American Legion began the 2nd Boys' State program in the country in 1936 to offer guidance to youth about how law and government work. Davis got involved with Boys' State five years ago.

"I love Boys' State and I think it's a wonderful program," Davis said. "The friendships and ties citizens make with each other, the devotion of the staff, and the unity of the camp overall is just great. It seems that Boys' State gets better and better."

In the future, however, Davis is looking forward to making some improvements at Boys' State.

"We're looking for better and brighter ideas for Boys' State," he explained. "All the changes come from the citizens. One new idea for next year is a cheaper concession stand."

But the American Legion is not only involved with Boys' State. One of the biggest scholarship programs the Legion sponsors is the State Oratorical Contest.

"The contest takes place on three levels," explained Davis, "local, sectional, and state—each level giving away anywhere from \$100 - \$300 scholarships. On the national level, however, winners can receive \$14,000, all the way up to \$20,000 scholarships."

The American Legion also sponsors American Legion Baseball, supports the Special Olympics and Boy Scouts, and puts out the "Need a Lift" book, which is college financial aid handbook sent to every high school in the nation. Another way the American Legion provides college aid is through the Samsung Scholarship.

"Samsung is a Korean owned corporation," David said. "They realized what Korean veterans did for the country of Korea and called the American Legion up wanting to give them five million dollars to use as scholarships for the descendants of American veterans, without any restrictions of how to use them."

The American Legion decided to establish a set of rules to give one citizen from both Boys' and Girls' State \$1,000 in each of the 50 states. Out of the 100 citizens that receive the scholarship, seven are eligible for a \$20,000 scholarship. Besides the Samsung Scholarship, the American Legion has recently began a new scholarship called the September 11th Scholarship.

"If you are a descendant of a victim of the World Trade Center attacks," Davis explained, "you are entitled anywhere from 1.2 - 4.3 million dollars. However, if you are a descendant of a victim of the Pentagon attack, you can only receive a maximum of \$28,000. The American Legion felt this was a great injustice to those who served in the U.S. military."

Davis also noted how the American Legion is currently spending millions of dollars toward campaigning for the "Flag Amendment." This amendment sets up protective laws for the United States' flag and recognizes it as the symbol of the country.

"We've been trying to pass this amendment for some time now," Davis said. "It seems every time we get it past the House of Delegates, the Senate drops it. I really hope students will take the initiative to write their senators and delegates and encourage them to support the Flag Amendment."

State Police Graduate Class

After hours of classes and training, the Boy's State Police Force finally graduated at Jackson's Lodge at 11:00 on Wednesday morning. Each graduating trooper was recognized by his instructors, as well as his peers. The graduation procedure was an inspiring thing to be able to witness. The whole force seemed to move as one unit, and looked ready for the challenges that lay before them. With all the real police officers present, it instilled a sense of honor in the program.

Officers from the State Police, as well as State Conservation Officers took part in the program. They taught the classes on different aspects of being a police officer, such as firearms training. They instructed our citizens well, and have taught them to be the best. When asked to comment on how the law enforcement program benefits the citizens of Boys' State, State Police Officer C. J. Tierney responded "It gives the citizens of Boys' State a different viewpoint from what has traditionally been a political system." Tierney concluded by stating that it allowed Boy's Staters to have an opportunity to see a different branch of government come together with the political system and work together.

With the law enforcement now fully qualified to do their numerous duties around campus, citizens must now remember to follow all state laws, and to respect and obey the officers on duty. Citizens may no longer engage in activities such as running, crossing the field, or standing in the road. Once again, driving regulations are now enforced throughout campus, so do not forget to carry your driver's license, and follow the rules.