



# The Mountaineer

The Official Publication of American Legion Mountaineer Boys' State

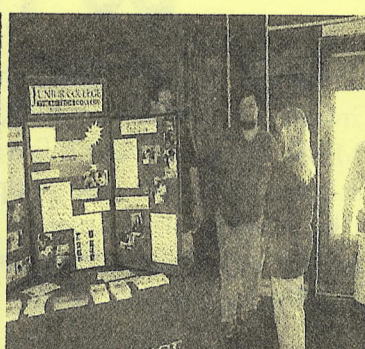
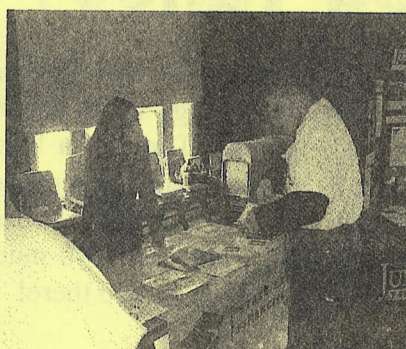
LEARNING TODAY...

Volume 70  
Issue 6



June 16th,  
2007

## MBS College/Career Fair



Many colleges from around West Virginia visited MBS yesterday to inform the Boys' Staters of opportunities they have after high school. They provided many booklets and spoke to the citizens to help them decide about their future. The information was helpful and if any one did not go they certainly missed out. One piece of information was given to us, "Apply to all the colleges you can, then when you get accepted you will have a wide range of places from which to choose."

## How TAPS began...

It all began in 1862, during the Civil War, when a Union Army captain, Robert Eilicombe, was with his men near Harrison's Landing in Virginia. The Confederate Army was on the other side of this narrow strip of land.

During the night, Capt. Eilicombe heard the moan of a soldier who lay mortally wounded on the field. Not knowing if it was a Union or Confederate soldier, the captain decided to risk his life and bring back the stricken man for medical attention.

Crawling on his stomach through the gunfire, the captain reached the soldier and began pulling him back toward his encampment. When the captain finally reached his own lines he discovered it was actually a Confederate soldier, but the soldier was dead.

The captain lit a lantern, suddenly caught his breath and went numb with shock. In the dim light of the lantern, he saw the face of the soldier...it was his own son! The young man had been studying music in the South when the war broke out, and without telling his father, had enlisted in the Confederate Army.

The following morning, the heartbroken father asked permission of his supervisors to give his son a full military burial, despite the young man's enemy status. The captain's request was partially granted.

He asked if he could have a group of army band members play a dirge for his son at the funeral. His request was refused since the soldier was a Confederate. Out of respect for the captain, they said they could loan him one musician. He chose the bugler. The captain asked him to play a series of musical notes found in the pocket of the dead youth's uniform. This wish was granted. That music was the haunting bugle melody we now know as "TAPS".

### TAPS

DAY IS DONE,  
GONE THE SUN,  
FROM THE LAKES,  
FROM THE HILLS,  
FROM THE SKY.  
ALL IS WELL.  
SAFELY REST  
GOD IS NIGH.



Copies of all newspapers are available at  
[www.mountaineerboysstate.org](http://www.mountaineerboysstate.org)



# Daily Schedule

6:30 -	Reveille and Clean Quarters
7:45-	IN FORMATION at Dining Hall
7:50 -	FLAG RAISING
8:00 -	BREAKFAST
8:30 - 9:30	Clean quarters and prepare luggage for FINAL INSPECTION and departure. Deposit your packed and secure luggage on the porches of any of the following cottages (Marion, Kanawha, Upshur, Lewis)
9:30	FINAL ASSEMBLY (Parents and Guardians welcome) Presentation of awards, honors, and closing comments
10:30	ADJOURNMENT (When writing, phoning, and e-mailing home, advise the person picking you up to meet you outside the Assembly Hall after Adjournment of Boys State)

HAVE A SAFE TRIP HOME AND BEST WISHES IN YOU FUTURE ENDEAVORS!

## Do You Yahoo?

Mountaineer Boys' State has a Yahoo! Group for citizens, staff, and friends of MBS. It was created a few years ago and citizens from the past couple of years have been using it to keep in touch and to share their experiences both here and back home. The moderators of this group

would like to invite each and every one of you to sign up (it's free!) and take part in the group. There is a link to it on the web site ([www.mountaineerboysstate.org](http://www.mountaineerboysstate.org)) or you can go to Yahoo! Groups and type in Mountaineer Boys state as the key word. We hope to see you there!

## THE MOUNTAINEER STAFF

**Editor:** Tyler Meadows

**Assistant Editor:** Joe Fusco

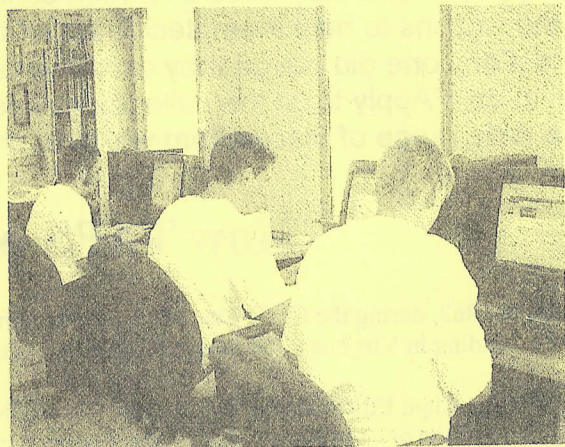
**Reporters:** Corey Woomer, Eric Walker, David Smith

**Photographers:** Daniel Turner, ERay Haynie

**Production Staff:** Dakota Sabe, John Groves, Russell Akerly

**Advisor:** Betsy Byers

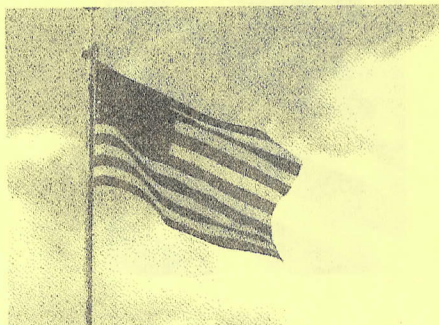
Thank you for all of the positive feedback and support as well as all of your cooperation when being interviewed.



## FREEDOM ISN'T FREE

### FREEDOM ISN'T FREE

Unspoken hardships  
unwanted memories  
that cannot be cured  
you fought for your country  
you fought for your friends  
you gave up your freedom  
and your life in the end  
we'll honor your name  
you bought our liberty  
you paid with your life  
because Freedom Isn't Free



By: Joel Shumaker

### A SOLDIER TOO BRAVE

You find yourself  
alone in your grave  
look at yourself  
a soldier too brave  
you with gallantry  
fought to the end  
defending your country  
never again  
without hesitation  
you gave up your life  
with your last breath  
you couldn't kiss your wife  
not ever knowing  
shipped off in a crate  
winds are now blowing  
accepting this fate  
you were the finest  
the best ever made  
no Americans oppressed  
because of the Soldier Too Brave



CONGRATULATIONS!!

CONGRATULATIONS!!

## GET TO KNOW YOUR OFFICIALS

**Tanner "Flame" Moore** elected the 70th Governor of Boys, State. He is son of Greg and Rebecca Moore and has two sisters Kinsey and Emily Moore. Tanner attends Bridgeport High School where he is a member of the "Catch Big Cats Fishing Club, Stout Hollow Trophy Buck Club, and Ranch Dressing Lover's Honors Club", as well as participating in football and weightlifting. He has one girlfriend, Jaclyn Daugherty. After high school Tanner plans to attend WVU to pursue degree in dentistry. "I've had a blast with the boys of Braxton County and all of the citizens of Boys' State. Phil Hancock has the ability to say more in one word than mortal men can say in a lifetime. I would like to thank everyone and wish them luck with their future."

**Chad "Vargs" Vargo** was elected to the position of Secretary of State at Boys' State. He resides in Wellsburg with his parents John and Linda Vargo. Chad has one older sister named Heidi. He attends Brooke High School where he is a member of the basketball, baseball, soccer, and track teams. He is also a member of the ski club, SADD, FBLA, and Key Club. After high school Chad plans to attend a 4 year college and then pursue a master's degree in business. When asked to comment on his experience this week Chad said, "The week here at Boys' State has been a great experience for me. I met a lot of life long friendships. I would just like to tell everyone thank you and hope everyone's week went as well as mine."

**Mike "Mike Beezy the Snowman" Barnes** was elected to the office of Attorney General of Boys' State. He is son of Randy and Bets Barnes of Clarksburg.. Mike attends Notre Dame High School where he is a member of Key Club, Student Council, the football team, and NHA. He has also won the Kodak Young Leaders Award, St. Michael's Book Award, and VFW Citizenship Award. After high school Mike plans to attend WVU. "My week at Boys' State was fun. I learned how state government works and operates. The citizens and counselors were nice. I made a lot of good friends."

**Jimmy Boggess** was elected to the position of Auditor of Mountaineer Boys' State. He ran for office under the nickname "Slim Jim". Jimmy is son of Earnest Boggess and Joyce Whitman. Jimmy attends Sissonville High School. After high school he plans to attend college and law school before going into military service. "The experience here at Boys State was very fulfilling. I learned a lot about government and leadership."

The newly elected Treasurer of Boys' State is **Johnny Bailey**. Johnny ran for office under the nickname "Cash". He is son of George and Tracy Bailey of Chester. Johnny has one sister, Savannah. He attends Oak Glen High School where he is a member of both the bowling and soccer team. He was also awarded the Golden Horseshoe and participates in Key Club. After college Johnny plans to attend college. Commenting on his week at Jackson's Mill Johnny stated, "We woke up too early, but it's fun. Also, cabins suck to clean."

**Gary "Trey" McCutcheon III** was appointed the state superintendent of schools. He is son of Gary and Genny McCutcheon of Bridgeport. Gary has two siblings Jordan and Kristen McCutcheon. Gary attends Bridgeport High School and is president of WVASC, president of the Bridgeport High School Student Council, and a member of Academic Lamp and Letter. He was selected to attend the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Conference. Gary is also a three year letterman in tennis. After high school he plans to attend Virginia Tech and pursue a career in architecture. "It was fun to learn about some jobs the state superintendent took charge of. I've made many friends and had a great experience here at Boy's State."

**Harley "Gnarly Harley" Staggers** was elected to the office of the Commissioner of Agriculture. He is son of Harley and Leslie Staggers of Keyser. Harley has two siblings, Bryan and Elizabeth. He is a member of the football, basketball, track, and baseball teams, as well as being a member of ACES. Harley has one girlfriend, Monique Kimble. After high school Harley plans to graduate with a degree in business from WVU and then attend law school. "Its been up and down but overall it's been fun. The guys in Monroe cabin are awesome; they're all so funny and its been real cool meeting them and hanging out with them. They've made this experience even better."

Compiled by the Newspaper Staff



# The Supreme Court of Appeals

**Kent "Peacekeeper" Hess** is one of the five Supreme Court Justices. He is son of Phil and Karen Hess of Moundsville and has one sister, Erika Wright. Kent attends John Marshall High School where he is involved with 4H, Demolay, and the National Honor Society. Kent also participates in golf and basketball. Kent plans to go on to college and earn a degree in business. "Boys State not only forged a strong sense of Americanism in me, but it also taught me to take pride in being a Mountaineer."

**Alex "Buck" Zurbuch** was elected one of five Supreme Court Justices. He is son of Jeff and Jill Zurbuch of Elkins. He has two sisters, Samantha and Emily. Alex attends Elkins High School and participates in student council, class council, and Fellowship of Christian Athletes. He is also a three time all-state in track and cross country. He was the NCAC cross country runner of the year. He has a girlfriend, Julie. His plans after high school include college and law school. He hopes to continue running in college. "Be good, drink milk."

**Nate "Italian Stallion" Romano** was also elected to the position of Supreme Court Justice. He is son of David and Sallie Romano of Clarksburg. He has three siblings, Rachel, David, and Lucie. Nate attends Robert C. Byrd High School where he is a member of the Honor Society and student council, as well as the wrestling and football teams. After high school he intends to go to college and then attend law school. "It's been fun and enjoyable but I haven't had much sleep and I'm ready to go home."

**Eddie "The Law Machine" Peters** was also elected to the position of Supreme Court Justice. He is son of Ed and Cois Peters. He has two sisters, Julie and Trudi. Eddie attends John Marshall High School where he participates in various activities including: computer team, National Honor Society, and Speech team. He is also a one year member of the football team. When asked about his girlfriend he replied, "Women... ugh..." Eddie plans to attend college and major in law, history, or mathematics. "I believe Boy's State is an exceptional example of learning and experience; many valuable lessons are learned here at Boy's State." Eddie would also like to make known that bunny rabbits like lettuce—True Story.

**Colin "Bagpipes" Henning** was one of five Supreme Court Justices elected on Tuesday night. He is son of John Henning and Mary Boyd of Elkins. He has one sister, Caitlin. He attends Elkins High School where he is involved in the International Club, Honor Society, Elkins Fencing Team, free running, and Spanish Honor Society. He has one girlfriend, Lori Jordan. After high school he plans to attend college.

## The Leaders of the Congress

**Todd "Zack" Zachawieja** was elected Speaker of the House at Boys' State. He is the son of Mark and Tracy Zachawieja, of Cross Lanes. He has two younger brothers, Noah and David. Todd attends Charleston Catholic High School where he is member of ski club, Spanish club, Pax Christi (service club), track team, cross country team, golf team, and baseball team. After high school Todd plans to attend either Boston University, Harvard or the University of Chicago to study astrophysics, work in research, and get his Ph.D. "I don't think any amount of explanation could actually have prepared me for how busy this week has actually been. That's not to say it's not fun, because although we work virtually non-stop, it's been extremely fun. I wouldn't trade the job I have as Speaker of the House for any other job here at camp. For anyone interested in getting involved later in life it's been my experience that its important to "roll with the punches" and take each event in stride, because things tend to work out for the best anyway. As long as you try, there's no waste."

**Jacob Marshall** was elected President of the Senate while here at Boys' State. He is son of Forrest and Kim Marshall. Jacob attends Cabell Midland High School where he is a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, the golf team, and NHS. After high school Jacob plans to graduate from college with a degree in biology. He then plans to attend medical school and become an excellent doctor. "This has been a wonderful week that has improved my life."

Compiled by the Newspaper Staff



# Hoppy unleashes Boys' State to the Airwaves

## *The Feds Make Another Sweep*

MetroNews Networks, The Voice of West Virginia, brought well known Hoppy Kercheval to Mountaineer Boys State. Two different sessions were held in the West Virginia Building. Each session was broadcasted across the state live. It all began when the Nationalists and Federalists were split on different sides. Then, each party choose five chairman known for their extensive knowledge in West Virginia history to represent them in a competition. The winning side received a statue of the West Virginia Mountaineer as a trophy of accomplishment.

The competition was laid out in the following situation: each question answered by the team was worth five points, if the team opted to defer to an audience member, the point value of the question dropped to two points. The topics of the questions ranged from government, to history, to state symbols.

During both rounds, the Nationalists kept a steady lead throughout. Only two questions stumped both sides. The first question was, "What three jobs are represented on the state seal?" The second question was, "Which West Virginia county is the highest?" The three jobs were mining, farming, and hunting.

The highest county is Pocahontas County. Some easier questions involved famous Clarksburg native Stonewall Jackson and Secretary of State Betty Ireland, a speaker previous in the week. Most of the questions were done in sets due to commercial breaks in the program.

The Federalists were once again successful in their endeavors as they swept both sessions and gained the trophies. Although both scores may have been close, the power of the Feds deserved a "sweeping headline."

By Joe Fusco  
Assistant Editor



## Congrats to Panhandle Cottage for winning the

For further information on the Forest Service please contact Clyde N. Thompson.



USDA - Forest Service  
Monongahela National Forest

Clyde N. Thompson  
Forest Supervisor

200 Sycamore Street  
Elkins, WV 26241

Office: (304) 636-1800  
Fax: (304) 636-1875

e-mail: cnthompson@fs.fed.us

## PARDON GRANTED

"I Governor Tanner Moore  
hereby pardon Scott Barner  
of the crime of burglary."

## So long, Boys State

Well Mountaineer Boys State, its been one interesting ride. Between the early mornings and the strange absence of coffee, I've slugged through the experience to win the prize at the end.

At first, I thought I had died and this was marching and bed making H-E-double hockey sticks, but shortly after arriving, I learned that there was a higher cause of the whole experience. Learning the inner workings of government and law was not only valuable, but very interesting and the people you meet here are some of the most down to earth guys you'll ever meet. There was never a dull moment despite my constant state of exhaustion.

My fellow members of the press and I enjoyed our jobs and became decent friends. This experience has taught me many things, and I will forever carry all of the moments with me for the rest of my life. As I walk away from my cabin with my luggage, I will know that we Boys' State citizens are the men that will lead America to a brighter future.

By Tyler Meadows  
Editor



## 2007 Boys' State National Guard

Adjutant General—Tyler Rodriguez

First Sergeant— Jacob Ruddle

Sergeant First Class—Caleb Burgett

### Sergeants:

Elliott Ianello

Andrew Garrett

Scott Bills

Robert Severt

### Specialists:

Rusty Drain

Michael Kuzma

Michael Cuevas

Russell Miller

Tyler Wilt

Evan Dunbar

Andrew Butcher



## WEST FORK RIVER REVIEW - 2007

*RFL Productions and Dr. Seymour O'Life Present:*

### **The West Fork River Review**

*With Your Host Brandon Flower*

*Featuring Drew Aires and the Mountaineer Boys' State Band*

*9 PM Friday 15 June 2007,*

*Jackson's Mill Assembly Hall*

*The Band*

*MBS 1962*

*Cadence*

*The Song*

*Parliamentary*

*Procedure*

*Drum Thunder*

*A Song*

*3 Guys*

*Sax with a*

*Piano*

*Drums*

*Deak*

*Flag Folds*

*Inspiration*

*Country Roads*

*Amazing Grace*

*Drew Aires and the Boys' State Band*

*A Film Presented by Weirton Steel*

*Justin and the Braxton Boys*

*Neil, Brandon, and the Truman Show*

*Barbour County*

*Mike Cochran & Brandon Zickefoose*

*Colin Henning & Connor McCauley*

*Ben Homan, Brandon Riggs, and*

*Jacob Ruddle of Kanawha*

*Chris Sharps & Luke Markley of*

*Webster*

*Jonathan Tinchier of Calhoun*

*Deak Kersey of Panhandle*

*WWII Memorial Film*

*Robbie Robinson*

*Brandon Flower & Joe Hartwell*

*The Staff*

*The Band & Staff*

## Thanks for a Job Well Done!!!

If you have checked your email this week, you should thank Jacob McCarty before you leave. Mr. McCarty is in charge of the computer lab and updating the MBS web-page. Jacob was assisted by Michael Sluss. Thank you for a job well





## Party Chairman Get to Know Them

**Andrew J. Warne** acted as the Federalist Party Chair while attending Boys' State. Andrew is the son of Terry and Degee Warne of Clarksburg. He has a sister, Katie, 15. He attends Robert C. Byrd High School where he participates in National Honor Society, Student Council, Show Choir, as well as both Jazz and Marching bands. When asked to comment on his week here at Boys' State AJ replied, "It takes a good man to be success at Boys' State. I think everyone this week has been successful. I have actually enjoyed working with all the Federalists and Nationalists alike. I feel as though I have learned an incredible amount this week and I feel as though I've made a lot of new friends." In addition, Andrew wishes to thank all the Federalists elected officials for helping to uphold our standards and platforms.

**Parker Harman** served as chairman of the Nationalist Party this week. He is the son of Rick and Merle Harman of Bluefield. He has one brother, Derek. Parker attends Bluefield High School where he is a member of the Pep Club, Jr. Civitan, Bible Club, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, NHS, and Model UN Team. Parker stated, "It's been a great time. I believe it's open a lot of our eyes and given us a first hand experience of how our government works. Boys' State is truly an outstanding program." Parker plans to attend WVU for an undergraduate in biology, then apply to WVSOM to become a doctor.

## THE PEOPLE IN GRAY

By Mark Byers, Senior Counselor, Lewis Cottage

By the time you get here, we've been here a day, the people in gray. Some of us started work on this year's program before last year's ended. Some meet at least once a year at a remote location to improve the program to make it a better learning experience for you. Some of us invest a great deal of our personal time to put together programs that attempt to make the complexities of the law and budgets and government a simple, enjoyable experience for you. We do it for you.

Who are we, the people in gray? We're veterans who fought in wars you've only read about. We're lawyers and engineers and businessmen and bus drivers and technicians and students. We're also doctors, teachers, truck drivers, funeral directors, psychologists, military, managers, FBI agents, Information Systems techs, firefighters, steel workers, associate pastors, family law masters, financial directors, state workers, and journalists. Some of us have the privilege of being retired. Some of us are high school students only a year older than you are. We come from as far away as Indiana, Southern Virginia, New York, Illinois, and Tennessee and from as close as Weston. We take vacation and schedule our early summer around you, so important is your cause. We're volunteers.

The Saturday before you come, we come, the people in gray. Some of us haven't seen each other for a year: each greeting is a family reunion. Old friends who come together for this program and for you, embrace to honor the friendships forged here years or even decades ago. Pleasantries are exchanged, then the business of your week is discussed. While you're having a last night with your families and friends, we're working with our Boys State family to make sure we're ready for you. After the meetings, we eat and visit and catch up on a year's worth of news, knowing that time is precious once you arrive. We vote for the Weston Fire Department Flame Queen with our change. Pizza Hut loves the people in gray.

The day you get here, we've been up for hours, the people in gray. Nametags and shirts and medical forms and rosters and blue books and handbooks are stacked and sorted and labeled and ready: ready for you. Counselors in cottages stand ready to receive you and your families, our gray shirts fresh to impress upon your parents that you will be in good hands. We receive you in all your forms: on foot, on crutches, in wheelchairs, with special needs or otherwise, there is nothing we cannot handle, even if you forget your physical forms (which you always do). You come in all sizes, colors, and creeds. You come with baggage, both physical and emotional. Some of you have never been away from home before. We answer a thousand questions for the thousandth time. You're silent and shell-shocked. We smile.

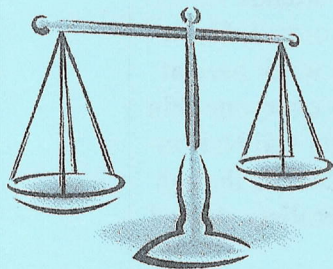
During the week, we make your day, the people in gray. We direct, correct, guide, answer, demonstrate, announce, and teach. Forms and ballots and schedules and the things you need each day appear as if by magic. While you're in classes or doing athletics, caucusing, or assembling, we're making sure the next thing you need will be there right when you need it. If you are up at 6:00, we're up at 5:30. If you're in bed at

12:00 midnight, we're in bed at 1:00a.m. or later. If you're tired, we're more so. The people in gray will sleep when we get home: right now you're more important.

When you leave, we linger, the people in gray. There will be tearful goodbyes fueled by a sense of accomplishment of having taken 350 strangers and molded them into teams of bright young men with a greater knowledge and appreciation for America. You'll be on the road back home and we'll be embracing, relieved that it's over, but not wanting it to end. We'll drag our feet, trying to get in that one last personal contact that we didn't make because we were busy serving you. We'll meet at the Wendy's in Weston so we can have those last moments together and to bask in the glow of our love for this program and each other. Eventually we'll say our goodbyes and resolve to return another day...as the people in gray.



## HIGHEST BAR EXAM SCORES ANNOUNCED



The following citizens achieved the highest score on the Bar Examination Sunday evening: Chip Kelly and Chantz Brummage. Both citizens scored a 96% on the Bar Exam. Chip and Chantz resided in Lewis Cottage while attending Boys' State this week.

## FIRE ACADEMY

On Thursday afternoon the fire chiefs from all Boys' State counties were visited by two local fire departments. The departments from Jackson's Mill and Jane Lew arrived with several vehicles, including the jaws of life machine. Fire Chiefs were given a demonstration on how this machine works. All were amazed at the destruction the "jaws" could deliver. The staff and citizens of the Mountaineer Boys' State would like to thank the Jane Lew and Jackson's Mill fire departments for their continued support of our program.

### Fire Chiefs

Barbour/Webster—John Napier  
Braxton— Matt Law  
Calhoun/Gilmer  
Kanawha-Joseph Pack  
Lewis— Rick Wright  
Marion— Andrew Alderman  
Monongalia/Upshur— Zachary Kapp  
Randolph— Chad Stricklin



# see Ya' Later!

