

THE MOUNTAINEER



Special interview from the newly elected Governor Will Behrens on page 2!

*The official newspaper of
The American Legion
Mountaineer Boys State*



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Interview with Governor Will Behrens

by Payton Martin

STAFF WRITER

In the recent election we have let go of Damian Cooke as governor and welcome Governor Will Behrens into office. After the election he was announced governor on Tuesday night following elections.

“My exact plan is that based off the beliefs of my party and my own beliefs and the platform that we set in motion a few days ago, I want to take those policy’s that I elaborated on in my conventions and my debates and I want to pass as many as I can, at least one onto the West Virginia state legislature so that it can actually get passed and make a change in West Virginia” said the governor when asked what his plan is for governor of boys state.

When asked about his thoughts on nuclear energy and power Governor Behrens said “Nuclear in of itself is something we touched on briefly, nuclear energy is a cleaner form of energy so long its disposed of properly, we haven’t looked into the specifics of nuclear energy, I know of a few ways with different substitutes, like there’s uranium nuclear energy, there’s also thorium nuclear energy, so we got a lot of option in that area” and when asked about solar and wind energy Will said “Solar and wind energy in my opinion are good back up ways to get energy, but I don’t know if they will ever be really a main way of making energy. When I went out to Las Vegas, you could see miles and miles of these huge solar fields and the solar fields require a lot of land, a lot of area to use and maintain them, it’s a large operation for minimum output. Then wind energy is unreliable, wind isn’t a consistent thing and secondary to that is it kills a lot of birds and bats, its just the energy produced from wind is unreliable and solar panels have way too much up keep to be a main source of energy, if a development happens in the future which would make them more effective then we would talk about switching to that means of production”

When asked what his words to Boys State are, Governor Behrens said “Listen, I am no different than you guys. If you guys have an idea or you don’t like how I’m doing something, just come talk to me about it.” Boys State welcomes it new governor into this bureaucratic family of ours.



COUNTY COMMISSION ENDS IN LEWIS COUNTY MURDER

by Jon Bennett, STAFF REPORTER

Former Federalist candidate for Governor Ryan Bazzle has allegedly shot and killed a resident of Lewis county. “We were having our county commission meeting and not a minute in, we heard yelling from the stairs. We kept the meeting going but the yelling continued.” said Samuel Templeton, a resident. The argument was over a speech and two shots were fired.

Cabinmates attempted to save the victim’s life but was unsuccessful. The suspect was uncooperative with Police. The victim’s name is undisclosed at this time. His trial is expected to happen Thursday afternoon. Bazzle was recently defeated by Willy Behrens in the state elections. Please stay with The Mountaineer for more details.



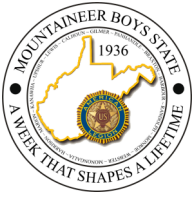
Shooting Near Jail

Cedric Allder

Editor

A deer was found shot dead at the jail Wednesday night. This deer was allegedly the last of its species. Two suspects were found at the scene along with a rifle. These suspects were placed under arrest for further questioning and their identities were not released.





Announcements

WVU President Gordon Gee will be
Visiting and speaking with us today

Apply Today!

Davis & Elkins College

Mountaineer Boys State attendees receive a
scholarship up to \$5,000 annually to attend
Davis & Elkins College.

In addition, you will receive the WV
Highlands Scholarship up to \$20,000
annually.



Menu

Thursday

Breakfast

Assorted Muffins
Sausage
Eggs
Hot & Cold Cereal
Fresh Fruit
Milk/Juice/Water

Lunch

Pepperoni Rolls
Cheese Sticks
Vegetables w/
Dressing
Assorted Chips
Jello Cup
Water/Punch

Dinner

Pasta w/Meat
Sauce
Steamed Broccoli
Apple Sauce
Cottage Cheese
Salad w/Dressing
Garlic Bread
Pie

Tug Of War Championship – Friday June

Marion

Panhandle⁽¹⁾

Randolph

Monroe/Webster

Lewis/Upshur

Kanawha⁽³⁾

Counselors

Bye⁽⁴⁾

Counselors

Winner

DELINQUENT TAX AUCTION

(AFTER ASSEMBLY THURSDAY NIGHT)

AUCTION OF THREE VALUABLE PIECES OF LAND FOR ALL CITIZENS. THESE PROPERTIES INCLUDE:

**THE VOLLEYBALL COURTS AND PICNIC AREA IN FRONT OF CALHOUN COTTAGE.
THE WEST VIRGINIA BUILDING, LAND, AND TENNIS COURTS BY THE PRISON.
HISTORICAL BUILDINGS AND LAND BY LEWIS COTTAGE, INCLUDING JACKSON'S MILL, THE POND, GENERAL STORE, AND STONEWALL JACKSON'S CHILDHOOD HOME.**

RULES:

YOU MAY ONLY BID THE HIGHEST AMOUNT OF WHICH YOU CAN AFFORD (YOU MAY TAKE OUT LOANS)

YOU CAN COMBINE MONEY WITH OTHER CITIZENS TO BUY LAND BUT MUST HAVE A SPOKESMAN AND MUST EVENLY DIVIDE LAND. THIS IS HIGHLY ENCOURAGED AND WILL SAVE MONEY FOR THOSE WITH LOWER SALARIES.

BIDDING STARTS AT THE CURRENTLY ASSESSED TAX VALUE AND INCREASES BY BIDDING.

DIRECTIONS FOR BUYER TO ENTER AUCTION

VISIT BANK TO GET APPROVED LOAN

OBTAIN AUCTION FAN

BID IN AUCTION

VISIT STATE TREASURER TO PAY VALUE

VISIT SECRETARY OF STATE TO RECEIVE DEED.



WILL BEHRENS INAGURATED AS 83RD BOYS STATE GOVERNOR

by Jon Morgan, STAFF WRITER

Damien Cooke, the stand-in governor for the 83rd Mountaineer Boys State, gave his final words to the citizens as he stepped down and Nationalist candidate Will Behrens stepped up. Cooke was met with loud applause as he left the Assembly Hall stage as governor for the last time.

The newly elected Boys State citizens were sworn in by Chief District Judge for the Northern District of West Virginia. After all the appointed citizens were sworn in, newly elected Governor Behrens gave a speech about his experience with Boys State.

Behrens explained how he first was interested in Boys State after his counselor told him about it, then he became discouraged after reading the packet he was sent from the American Legion. He eventually committed and wanted to run for Supreme Court Justice until his father encouraged him to run for Governor. After his first day, his once discouraged expectations of Boys State disappeared after seeing how enthusiastic the program was, with the caucuses being treated seriously and the citizens trying to make a change in West Virginia. It made Behrens look differently on how much difference the citizens could make for West Virginia.

MARION COURT CASE

by Jon Morgan STAFF REPORTER

Tensions were high for the Marion county cottage, as the defendant Austin Adams was tried for breaking and entering Dining Hall and stealing a ham sandwich and potato chips. This made-up scenario was used to teach the legal positions and citizens how exactly how a court trial would work.

The Marion county sheriff called up the jury, all made up of Panhandle citizens. The judge read the rules for the jury and the trial was started.

The prosecutor's opening statements accused Adams of leaving Marion cottage past curfew to meet with a female lifeguard, then breaking into the Dining Hall to steal a ham sandwich and potato chips. The defendant's opening said that Adams was out past curfew, but it was not him who broke into the Dining Hall and stole the food.

The prosecutor's first witness said Adams told him he was going to sneak out to meet up with a female lifeguard. He also said he saw Adams with the same lifeguard earlier before that day. Their second witness, which was a camp counselor, said he was out walking in the forest when he heard glass break, which then he hurried to his cottage to grab a flashlight and ran to the Dining Hall, where he found Adams with a big of the food in his hand.

That was when the defendants went to cross examine the witness, asking him why he was up that late and if he was hungry and what his food preferences were.

The third witness for the prosecutors said the evidence he collected matched what Adams was being accused of, with missing food and similar shoe markings.

The defendant finally took the stand, explaining why he was innocent, from his hands not being cut up by glass and how he already had food in his cottage.

After the defendant was finished, the judge dismissed the jury to make their decision, which around 15 minutes later, found Austin Adams guilty of breaking and entering. This in-depth practice procedure simulating a court trial educated the citizens of Marion cottage. The other citizens were also put through similar situations.

Behavioral/Mental Health Tip of the Day

As much as the counselors don't like to see it, go ahead and yawn. Yawning has been shown to actually increase awareness and can even improve how efficiently the brain works.

Firefighter Training

by Cedric Alder

Yesterday at the WVU State Fire Academy, the Boys State firefighters experimented with putting out a fire using teamwork and cooperation. The main focus of yesterday's training was on car fires and the dangers of burning electric car batteries.

The trainees were partnered up with the goal of putting out a car fire. Using the training car at WVU's facility, these training firefighters were provided an exceptional opportunity to learn.

Each team carried the hose to the car with one fireman in the front, controlling the nozzle, and the other directly behind him who helped with supporting the weight of the hose. The hoses are extremely heavy and hard to move. To put it into perspective, these hoses shoot approximately 350 gallons per minute. Each gallon of water weighs about 10 pounds.

Landon Edwards, a fireman in training at Mountaineer Boys State said that the hose isn't just heavy, but the water spraying out of the hose creates tons of pressure, making it much more difficult to move forward. Pointing the hose at the ground makes even more pressure by pushing the firemen away from their destination. This along with the challenge of the hose makes for an extremely difficult job.

Despite the challenge, there seems to be a common consensus among the training firemen that they enjoy putting out fires and working together. When asked about what it's like to be right next to a fire and holding the hose, Edwards said, "It's thrilling."

Mike Hart, a volunteer helping teach these trainees, described the dangers of burning batteries of electric cars. In an electric car fire, a burning battery will release hydrofluoric acid, which is toxic to humans. Hart understands the risk of burning electric cars and informed the trainees of the dangers.

JERROLD WILSON ADDRESSES BOYS STATE

by Jon Morgan STAFF REPORTER

During yesterday's Formal Review assembly, Jerrod Wilson, the National Vice Commander of the American Legion addressed the citizens of Boys State. He hoped for all the citizens to come back to West Virginia after they graduated high school and college, saying we all should try to stay in West Virginia no matter what.

He gave us some background information about him and his family, saying his family has over 130 years' worth of service in the military, including himself, his son, father, and relatives. He also encourages citizens to enlist in the military.

However, Wilson told the citizens that you do not need to join the military in order to have honor in America. He used an example of Tom Sullivan, who had a wife, five sons, and a job in ammunition manufacture during World War II. His sons were Navy soldiers and were fighting on the Pacific theater when their ship, the USS Juneau, had been struck by a torpedo directly where their ammunition supply was. Everyone on the ship, including the five Sullivan sons, died instantly, the only survivors being the soldiers on the deck.

Months later, a military officer came to the Sullivan household to tell Tom and his wife the tragic news. All five of his sons, George, Francis, Joseph, Madison, and Albert were killed in action. In grief, Tom decided to go to work again to help supply and support the other soldiers still fighting the war. Wilson commemorated Tom Sullivan's duty to serve the soldiers by working to supply them with proper munitions to finish the war.

To end his speech, Wilson shared with the citizens one of his favorite quotes by Robert Kennedy: "Some men see things as they are and say 'why.' I dream things that never were and ask 'why not.'" Wilson said he hopes the Boys State citizens will be dreamers and to pursue their passion to make West Virginia a better place.

Ain't No Funny Business

by Jon Bennett, STAFF WRITER

Chaos struck by Panhandle Cabin yesterday around 3:10 when a grey Toyota Tacoma ran into a tree. Two passengers were inside the vehicle at the time of the accident.

The driver was unconscious when EMT's, Fire Department and the Police Department when they arrive at the scene. The driver was needed to be extracted. But, the passenger according to the witness, the passenger ran into the woods and was a clown. Alexander Arzt of Panhandle cabin witnessed the passenger reach of something on the driver before running to the woods where the Fire Department had to extract him from the woods.

"I heard a loud bang from the cabin, I noticed a man hunched over the hood and a clown run into the woods." He seemed to have suffered a head injury. Both had to be flown to a hospital in Gilmer county. There is no word about their conditions at this time and the Police Department is still investigating. This is a developing story, please stay with The Mountaineer for more details.



LIFE, LIBERTY, AND LEMONADE: A NEW CAREER PATH FOR FUTURE BOYS STATE CITIZENS?

by Jon Morgan, STAFF REPORTER

Here at the Mountaineer news platform, we had the chance to talk to Logan and Jeremiah of the Randolph County, who have started up a new part time job at WV Boys State that they hope can become the root of a new career platform for future Boys State citizens: A lemonade stand.

Logan, the Randolph County Mayor, and Jeremiah, the Randolph County Assessor, thought of the idea of starting a lemonade stand after losing their party state elections. However, instead of being angry for the rest of the week, the duo decided to channel their energy into something positive. Their lemonade stand uses the motto "Life, Liberty, and Lemonade" to show all the citizens what their business is about.

They sell lemonade and all the earnings go straight back to the Boys State in order to increase the amount of money that can be used for future Boys States. Recently approved by Boys State administration, the two of them are hoping that their stand can be used as jobs for future Boys State citizens and hopefully to inspire them to start their own citizen owned businesses.

Last night, after the Formal Review Assembly, Logan and Jeremiah sold their lemonade to both parents and citizens, earning 205 dollars, which all was donated back to Boys State. While the lemonade stand is currently a part time job, they are hoping that it can become a full-time job in the future.

They are currently not accepting applications. If you are interested in their homemade lemonade, you can find them either by the ballparks or in front of the Dining Hall.

VETERAN WOMEN AT BOYS STATE

by Jon Morgan STAFF WRITER

This week at the West Virginia Boys State, the citizens are not only helped by male counselors but also aided by a handful of women counselors who spend their entire week dedicated to helping these boys turn West Virginia into a better place in the future. Five helpers out of all the women are U.S Military veterans, who not only deserve our thanks for helping supervise the camp, but also for their service for our country.

Members of the Boys State newspaper were able to interview three of the veterans about their service and their words of advice for any citizens interested in enlisting in the military.

Robin, an Air Force Veteran who served 21 years from 1987 to 2008, was interviewed first. Being asked about why she joined the Air Force in particular, she said that she actually wanted to join the Marines after a recruiter came to her high school. However, she was ignored and was placed into the Air Force as a military medic, as she was interested in nursing in high school.

When asked about what she thought the hardest part to get used to in the first couple of months after enlisting, this was her answer:

“Basic training.” She also put in that she never really got used to going from station to station. She said that she encourages anyone interested in enlisting to enlist in any branch they want, saying her enlisting in the Air Force ultimately helped her grow straight out of high school.

The next veteran interviewed, Brooke, said her motivation for joining the Army was her father’s military trips around the world, which she traveled with her father from base to base. After her father left the military in 1961, Brooke enlisted in 1966. She was stationed in a hospital in El Paso, Texas, where she met her husband. After leaving the Army, she pursued her career in nursing.

She encourages anyone interested to join the military in any branch, speaking on how sometimes different branches work together. An example was when she was stationed at an Air Force base where she helped install facilities for the base.



Sonja, a Woman Army Core veteran, said her inspiration for joining the military was President John F. Kennedy’s statement: “Ask not what your country can do for you – ask what you can do for your country.” Her family could not afford college so her and her siblings joined the military.

Like Robin, Sonja said basic training is the hardest thing to adjust to when first joining the