

THE MOUNTAINEER



**Governor Behrens taken
to court, story on page 2**

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



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Trial of Governor William Behrens

by Payton Martin, STAFF WRITER

Yesterday, Governor William Behrens was called to court “unexpectedly”, according to his comments while heading to the courtroom. The trial was about the governor’s recent giving of pardons towards certain individuals that some would say don’t deserve it. The trial started at 11:30 a.m.

The Supreme Court gathered for the meeting following the arrival of the parties involved. The prosecutor said, “On behalf of the state we feel that that the governor is overreaching... The state believes that in cases such as murder and taking a humans life in cold blood, the verdict of that case does not belong to the executive branch, that is a decision for the judicial branch, in their rulings, to decide if they’re guilty or not guilty under the law, it is not a right of the governor to make a decision on the behalf of the judicial branch.”

The defense stated, “He only officially gave out one pardon and all other pardons were unofficial.” With Ryan Bazzle’s pardon, the defense said, “He did know that the person was guilty, but wanted to not create chaos during the events of Lupsher... Given the recent case of state of emergency, he was given a temporary pardon and when the crisis is over the pardon will be reverted.”

The court has reached the verdict, “In the case of State v. Behrens, the supreme court will not provide a ruling, a pardon was never given or received. Therefore, we cannot rule. However, the court issues a stern warning to Governor Behrens, if this occurs again, a writ of prohibition will be officially against and a ruling will be issued at that time. The governor has power to commute, not pardon those committed of capital punishment.” This statement was signed by all members of the supreme court.

With the governor now on a prohibition, who’s to say how he will proceed with his future endeavors. With the problems and situation over at Lupsher, we wish the governor luck in his endeavors and future plans, along with the rest of Boys State.

Behavioral Health Tip of the Day

This is the last day of Boys State and we encourage you to remember what you’ve learned here and take it into the real world. Furthermore, you should always try to have a positive outlook on things. The real world can get really tough and depressing at times, but if you take the time to look on the good aspects of life, the bad ones will just seem like a bad dream and you’ll be in a much happier state.



Secretary of State Samuel Stotler's Thoughts on the Voting Proposal

Secretary of State Samuel Stotler gave the Journalism team some remarks on the recently proposed bill in Boys State Legislation.

“Under the position as Secretary of State I have recently proposed a bill to the legislature to impose voting records for voters as a go to the voting booth to promote voter confidence and voter safety and also after they vote, the voting booth will give an electronic print-out of their vote. I dearly encourage the legislation to pass this for voter security and voter confidence and the overall improvement of our elections” said Secretary of State Samuel Stotler.

Water Rescue

By: Jon Bennett

Yesterday morning, the Fire Department received a call about a person falling over the river bank. The Fire Department and EMT's arrived at the scene where a child was laying on the river bank. The victim was ten-year-old Bobby Powers. The child was successfully retrieved from the bank before any worse could occur. The child was responsive and was flown to the hospital.

Saying Goodbye

by Cedric Alder, EDITOR

Today is our last day of Mountaineer Boys State citizens. We can all agree that each of us have learned and improved our skills in some way from Boys State. Because of this great experience, I would personally like to recognize every News Paper staff member that I have had the honor of working with these past few days.



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Next, I would like to recognize the Broadcasting team for cooperating with us throughout the week and providing us citizens with a few laughs at the evening assemblies.

And finally, a humungous thank you to every staff member and counselor. We could not have had this experience without you and it truly means the world to every one of us.

GOVERNOR BEHRENS ADDRESSES NEW RULE PASSED BY STATE

by Jon Morgan, STAFF WRITER

In yesterday's paper, a story about how the state legislative body was released. This rule allowed all government elected officials and members of state legislature to be above the law. No matter what, they could not be arrested on the spot for a crime that they did. More can be read on this matter in issue 6 of the *Mountaineer*.

The rule that allowed officials not to be arrested was passed and we could see the increased power it gave them over the citizens, with Chairman Gracey and DeBord arguing with a sheriff that was going to collect Gracey's arrest warrant for missing a loan debt payment. Because the law was deemed unconstitutional, it was changed from a person of power cannot be arrested while a House of Delegates and Representatives session is going on.

Many citizens were not aware of the change, in which Berhens apologizes about. He also told us that he is trying to get the new law overturned and have it so no matter what, government officials can be arrested. This is good news for the Boys State citizens and democracy. The government officials are now on the same level as all the citizens.

As of now, it appears that Gracey has been convicted of evading a court trial yesterday morning. He was sentenced to 25 minutes in jail, but his sentence was soon erased, begging the question if these appointed positions will always have power over the citizens.



Gracey during his trial

Words of Wisdom

by Jon Bennett, STAFF WRITER

Yesterday morning before the House and Senate began their duties, they took time to speak with James Dauge via Zoom. Dauge would have been the Legislative Coordinator had he been able to attend.

When asked what they've been up to, members of the House and Senate responded with how they had put themselves into four different committees: Education, Health, Judiciary, Finance. Each of these committees are responsible for creating the bills.

They also discussed the bill they passed earlier in the week called Life, Liberty, and Lemonade, which Dauge found quite humorous.

Dauge asked what it was like to sit in the chambers of the house and senate. The response was "It was a lot more comfortable than passing bills on those stools." to which Dauge responded, "That was the comment I was not expecting."

They brought up that the state legislature gave them official voting reports with the state seal included on it.

A member asked Dauge what the most important thing was in legislature. Dauge discussed how the diversity of background the most important in legislature.

Gene Holts Visit to Boys State

by Payton Martin, STAFF WRITER

Gene Holt is a national guardsman for West Virginia and a native of South Charleston. He enlisted in the National Guard in 1985. Prior to his position in the National Guard, he got his undergrad degree in accounting at West Virginia University. He has come to Boys State to give a speech about the national guard and leadership, saying, "It's an honor and privilege to be here today amongst the young leaders of todays state" said holt with his opening remarks.

Holt talked to us about the joys of leadership both in the corporate sector and in the military sector and with Boys State having a mix of both, it definitely struck a chord with us. "Be proud to have that desire to want to serve" said Holt during his speech about the topic of leadership.

Gene Holt also gave us here at Boys State some advice. "Life is about learning and it never stops, I say embrace that". He is giving us advice on how to move forward with our lives. Holt also gave us some advice in how to achieve our goals, "It's great to have goals, but you got to know how to get to them... Don't sit back, don't be on the defensive, be on the offensive... Don't be the person who just sits back and hopes it all will work out." Holt gave the citizens of Boys State inspiration and for some, a new perspective and a new path.

Holt left us with some closing words of wisdom. "You can achieve great things." It's a simple, yet powerful phrase. But for all of us here at Boys State, we all know and believe we can achieve great things because for the citizens of Mountaineer Boys State, a radiant future lies ahead.

INTERVIEW WITH CLIFFORD SHINGLETON, EMERGENCY NURSE

by Jon Morgan, STAFF WRITER

Yesterday Clifford Shingleton, a Mountaineer Boys State staff member, came into *The Mountaineer* offices to talk about behavioral health, a big topic for these years Boys State. We had a couple of questions for him about his job and how it affects West Virginians.

Shingleton is a nurse that specializes in physical and psychological health. When asked about what requirements are needed to become an emergency nurse, Shingleton said that a two-year college degree and annual training are required to stay updated on new techniques.

Since behavioral health is such a big deal at this year's Boys State, Shingleton gave his opinion on what he thought about this increased awareness. "Bringing in mental health for young people for West Virginia is very important. We have a huge mental health crisis in this area and a lack of resources in this area for the youth."

When asked about how he believed West Virginia could help the mental health for the people of the state, he said, "The first thing we need to do is get more inpatient beds for psychological care. We at the emergency rooms sometimes need to send patients to Pennsylvania, Ohio, Kentucky in order to get the mental health care they need because there's not enough beds in West Virginia for them."

He also told us that maintaining good physical health, such as getting enough rest, exercising, and having a good nutrition will relieve physical stress, which in turn will help alleviate mental stress.



Winner Winner Chicken Dinner!

Many cabins came into the tournament with hopes of pulling away with the win. Spirits were quickly broken as three cabins were first round exits. These teams included Marion, Kanawha, and Monroe/Webster. Second round exits included Panhandle and Lewis/Upshur. The championship came down to the counselors and Randolph. After an extremely hard fight from both sides the counselors finally pulled away with the victory and tournament champs.



WILLY B APPRECIATION PAGE



Willy B and Jonathan Boner

Willy B receives his very own babydog



Willy B smashes a cheesecake



PICTURES





These are the favorite photos of the journalism staff. WV Mountaineer Boys State was a fantastic experience. We wouldn't trade it for any other.