

# THE MOUNTAINEER

## TORNADO RIPS THROUGH UPSHUR

*By: Jeremiah Rogers*

This evening of June 15 a tornado struck Upshur cottage. The general of the national guard, Alex Burns comes to talk, he reports, a tornado went through the county. He states that 30 houses have been hit by this tornado. He also reports that some of the civilians are unaccounted for. Nearly all the wounded are out of the buildings.

The Upshur cottage received massive damage and had four victims wounded, two victims in critical condition, one victim dazed, and one victim had to be life flighted out of the cottage. National guard is currently helping with aid towards the victims of this tornado.



Alex also explained that he had not known the true size of this tornado but it had to be big enough to cause so much destruction. This event occurred at 3:28 pm.

Alex Burns also added some more information about the disaster, once it struck he immediately activated the national guard and got everyone working and in position.

They also had set up a checkpoint for the ones wounded in the disaster. This checkpoint allowed everyone involved to get refuge and



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A Week That Shapes A Lifetime!

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## TORNADO RIPS THROUGH UPSHUR (cont.)



and safety in Lewis cottage. He also added that everyone got out and they sent a very extensive search party to retrieve any that were lost in the event. He also explained that there will be no looting because they will have a perimeter around the cabin to ensure no further damage and so no property is lost.

We talked to Brigham and he explains that only 2 towns were safe. Out of the towns there were four victims injured and none were dead. He also said that everyone was transported out safely and everyone had made a full recovery.

We talked to victim, Cody Willey about the disaster that happened here in Boy's State. He said that he had been trapped in the closet after attempting to seek a safe place to hide from the tornado. He says that when he entered the closet he was trapped in by beds and could not move them to get out. Also, we were told that someone was trapped inside of the chimney in the Upshur cabin. 24 houses were damaged in the tornado and 16 were destroyed.

He told us that when he was in the closet he was struck in the head and knocked out. He says that when he awoke and was confronted by the fire department that he had fought with them because he was dazed and confused. After that he was escorted to hospital for medical attention and made a full recovery. After the event occurred beds were spread out all over the grass in front of Upshur cabin.

Liam McCarthy states that they will be putting in a disaster relief bill to help the healing process of the damages that occurred. This bill includes that \$30,000 will be put into the fund as a start. This also includes that every transaction in and out of this account will be monitored and recorded and can be viewed by the public at any time.

# NOT GUILTY

*By: Jeremiah Rogers*

On June 15<sup>th</sup>, the circuit court case of the murder of Reid Landis commenced. The defense pleads that Thomas is innocent and that everyone is mistaken for who really killed Reid. The prosecutor pleads that Thomas killed Reid and both teams have no motions.

The first witness, Will Wolfe, is brought up by the prosecution team. Will said that he was located on the front porch of the Lewis cottage. He heard a ruckus inside the cottage and he said that 2 people ran out. He then heard gunshots and reported that he had seen Thomas shoot and kill Reid.

Will also said that there had been cans on the porch, they may or may not have been drinking earlier that day. They also were arguing moments before the fight. They present the cans as evidence to the judge. He says that the victim was shot multiple times in the chest. Defense has no questions to ask the witness.

The prosecution brought the second witness, Riley Wolfe to the stand. Riley reported that at 10 am Wednesday he was at Lewis cottage intending to have a meeting, he said he heard arguing and saw Reid was leaning against a bunk bed. Defense now asks Riley questions, Riley claims to be the arresting officer of the suspect but his name is absent from any report. Riley claims that anyone present on scene will know he is the arresting officer.

Prosecution presents the third witness Keneth Powell, when he arrived on scene, he found bullet casings and a gun. The evidence matches what Keneth saw at the scene. They found visible fingerprints and are certain that the prints match the defendant. The Defense asks Keneth if he knows what the results on the prints on the gun are and Keneth says he doesn't remember. Prosecution asks Keneth about the prints and he had found prints on the gun but he isn't sure if the prints match the victim.

Prosecution now brings up their fourth witness CSI Joshua Streets, and he reports that he had found one matching print on the Fanta can. Defense asks, "How can the fingerprints found on the Fanta can relate to the murder?" Joshua says that he cannot answer the question.

Prosecution brings their last witness, State police officer Evan McElwayne to the court. Evan said that he was the lead investigator of the case. He states that Thomas admitted to shooting Reid, he also said he admitted to drinking but the suspect said he was not intoxicated. Evan also said Reid Trespassed and they were both drinking.

Defense now brings up witness Andrew Dunkin to the stands, Andrews says that he reported the incident to a state officer. Prosecution has no questions to ask Andrew. Both teams now finish out their cases with a closing statement.

Prosecution's closing statement was that he was drinking and intoxicated at the time of the murder. They also explained that they had multiple eyewitnesses. The defense closing statement was that the only evidence that was found was on a can which doesn't relate to murder, he just could have been drinking. They also state that his hair could or could have not been blond.

The jury now goes back and starts deciding the verdict, after a while the jury comes back to the courtroom and reaches the verdict of not guilty. Their reasoning is that there were no fingerprints on the gun that matched the subject and that his hair could have not been blond hair. They also said that the witness's statements were shaky and unclear.



*Prosecuting Attorney Isaiah Harvey showing cans of alcohol to the Judge.*



*Eyewitness Will Wolfe explaining to the Court what he saw at the time of the murder.*



# National Guard Organized Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

*By: Caleb Rowan*

Tonight, the ALMBS National Guard orchestrated a ceremony for the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier for the whole camp. It was a solemn event to support the fallen soldiers in the military.

It was a reverent mirror to the Arlington Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, where it runs 24/7, and it was established in 1930. "The men and women we are honoring deserve and earned it" says camp director Robbie Robinson. This is the statement that is set in stone in all the soldiers as they march in all kinds of weather at all times of day, even in a tropical storm. "This is not just an assignment, but it is the highest honor," many Guards say. This shows just how much respect each of these people give to those who have been lost.

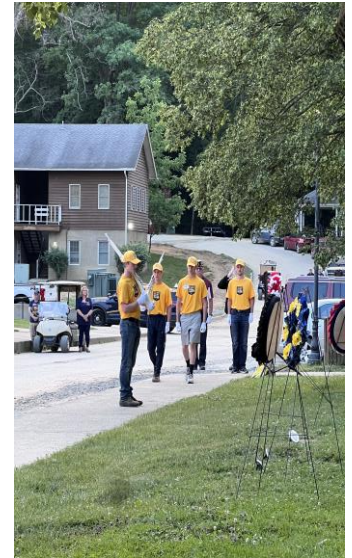
There are many steps in order to make it as dutiful as possible. Some include taking 21 steps with a 21 second hesitation when turning, wet gloves, rifle

shoulder away from the tomb, height 5'10-6'2, thick soles, pants and belt 2 sizes too small, etc. These steps assure that the ceremony is as respectful to the fallen soldiers as possible.

Guards also must be in a 6-month isolation period with no electronics and no contact to other people. During this time, they must memorize the people buried in Arlington cemetery. The cemetery even includes some notable people such as President Taft and Frank Woodruff Buckles. After the "contestants" have completed this period, plus the 2 years before, they are eligible to be guards.

During the ceremony, 4 wreaths were placed in front of the memorial to signify the American Legion, West Virginia, MIA and POW, and the United States. They were presented by the Public Works offices and Jeff Bennett.

To end the ceremony, a rifle salute occurred as well as the playing of Taps.



## Boys State Bank: Robbed!

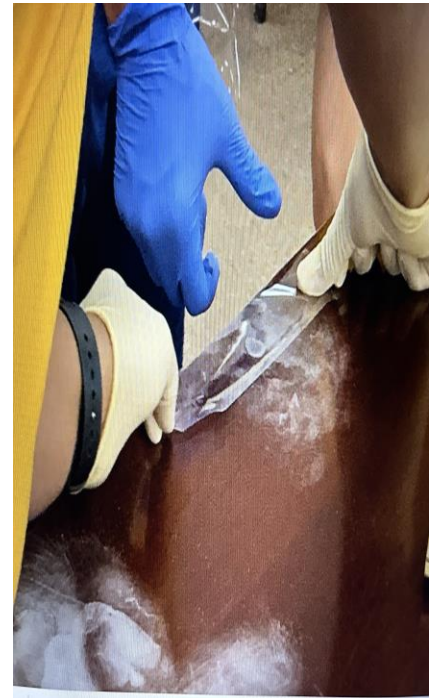
*By: Kaden Minch*

On the day of June 15th 2023, the Boys State Bank was robbed. This incident occurred at approximately 3:05 PM. the Vice President of the Bank stated, "I am very upset to say that around 3:05 on June 15th 2023 our bank was robbed."

We were also informed that there were approximately 10 people in the bank at the time of the incident, this including both staff and citizens. "We have no further comment at this time. We are working with the local police at this time to ensure the safety of the public as well as to bring the perpetrator to justice", says the Vice President of the Bank.

Forensics worker Kenneth Powell investigated the scene. At the scene, Powell had identified half a palm, and 8 fingerprints with the possibility of some yet discovered.

CSI Joseph Matheny had brought in a suspect during examination. The suspect was holding a black bag with tape and other unidentified stuff on the sides. More information to be determined.





# MBS

# Tug of War

# Monroe

# Upshur

# Panhandle

# Lewis

# Marion

# Kanawha

# Randolph

# Webster

# US Army Marks 248<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

*By: Kaden Minch*

The Army was officially established on June 14th, 1775. The Army's Birthday also marks the day of Flag Day.

Tom Hicks is a US Army veteran. Hicks was a Military Police in his time in the Army. Hicks went to Maryland for about a year and then moved to Thailand where he did MP (Military Police) patrol.

Hicks states that the Army "defends the Country and when something happens, they're always there to defend and protect our Country".

Jeff Bennett is also a US Army Veteran. Bennett was a Commenced Arm Major in his time in the Army. Bennett retired just last year after serving for 33 years.

Bennett was also an infantryman on train. Bennett states, "The Army is a great opportunity for today's youth, and it's a great example". Bennett, also says, "The Army transitions you to a little bit of military history and courtesies, and you can apply that later maybe for a job."

Bennett also makes the point that the Army can give you lots of ways to go to college and further your education.



Friday night, everyone will get together to unwind and have some entertainment, food and fun... with door prizes too!

Only those citizens who come to auditions for talent shows will be considered. See schedule for audition times.

Audition to sing, play an instrument, tell a joke, dance, or whatever your talent may be!



## ALMBS National Bank

**Wednesday Hours:**

9-12

3-4

8:30-11

**Thursday Hours:**

9-12

2-5

6:15-7:30

8-9:30- (Tax Sale)

**Friday Hours:**

9-12

3-5



## 'Uncle Sam' Becomes Attorney General

*By: Staff Reporters*

Wednesday evening, Samuel Struthers officially became the 84<sup>th</sup> annual Boys State Attorney General Elect. To attain this position Struthers beat out the Federalist candidate, Shawn Utt.

Struthers, the Nationalist party candidate, ran on a platform of putting the working people first and above all else "upholding the law," Struthers explained. When asked why he ran for Attorney General Struthers cited his love for law and his want to "reinforce the legal system" at the Mountaineer Boys State.

Additionally, the Attorney General Elect was asked what he is planning on doing in office to which he replied that he will be "advising the legislature, maintaining the constitutionality of laws and prosecuting everyone regardless of what position they hold."

Finally, Struthers was asked how he would handle the widespread and noticeable division between the Nationalists and the Federalists. He replied by explaining that the "law is objective" and as such he will, being loyal to said law, not be basing his decisions on "any biases" or "political affiliation."



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## Panhandle Boys Undefeated

*By: Staff Reports*

The Panhandle boys have had much recent success here at the boy's state in athletics. The squad took to the kickball team and fell behind early but rallied back late.

The Randolph Cottage took an early 6-0 lead in kickball Tuesday evening, but the boys from Panhandle were unfazed, unleashing a furious 13-0 rally and winning Tuesday's highly contested contest 13-6.



## Monroe-Webster Caps Off Win Against Lewis-Upshur with Inflammatory Chant

*By: Bradley Dale*

The Monroe-Webster Softball team took the field for an incredible outing vs. Lewis-Upshur today at Hershel 'Woody' Williams Park early on Tuesday morning. Both teams fought hard for the win, but Monroe-Webster came out with the big victory after the official nine innings and, an even bigger victory, after the bonus tenth inning.

Monroe-Webster took the early 3-0 lead until the top of the sixth inning when Lewis-Upshur started to make a comeback, scoring 2 runs. After this close call for the Monroe-Webster cottage, both teams stopped scoring until the bottom of the eighth inning where Monroe-Webster scored one after the other to go on a 3-0



But, with fifteen minutes to spare, both cottages agreed to play another bonus inning. In this tenth inning Monroe-Webster expanded their lead by 2 to make the unofficial final score 8-2.

After the game, players Grady Brown and Devon Welge credited their team's win to their strong "communication" and to their ability to "[keep their] cool." They also cited Jacob Wisman as the Monroe-Webster MVP due to his two in-the-park homeruns and multiple RBI's.

After the game and while in formation, Monroe cabin called out Lewis-Upshur with their chant "how 'bout that softball game, Lewis-Upshur?" Sports here at the 84<sup>th</sup> American Legion Mountaineer Boys State are getting heated, and rivalries are being formed right now!



## GUEST EDITORIAL

*Guest Writer: Kaden Minch*

There are a variety of First Responders, the main groups being Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Firefighters, and Police Officers. These groups of people deserve so much, the only problem is that they don't.

We have First Responders here at Boys State. We have our Fire Department, we have our EMS crew, and we have our Police Station. However, we are not thanking them as much as we should be. Our First Responders protect us when we are in trouble or in need. When you see a first responder, you should thank them for doing what they do and keeping us safe. And if you see a First Responder sitting around, don't say they're not doing their job. When you're in need of something whether its because your house is on fire or you're having a medical issue, they will be there for you, and they'll be there as fast as they can.



### **2023 ALMBS Newspaper Staff:**

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**Photographers: Tyler Stevens, Jeremiah Rogers, Jonas Sauls**

**Layout Editors/graphic designers: Landon Rowan, Ryan Hordyszynski**

## Items for sale:

Toothbrushes, deodorant, soap	\$1.00
Flip flops, shave cream, belts	\$2.00
Toothpaste	\$ .50
Water	\$ .25

Other items available, go check it out!

## Available at Headquarters!



### MENU

#### Breakfast

French Toast Sticks, Bacon, Eggs, Hot and Cold Cereal, Fresh Fruit, Milk/Juice/Water

#### Lunch

Hot Dogs, Chili, Potato Salad, Baked Beans, Salad with Dressing, Watermelon, Water and Tea

#### Dinner

Sliced Turkey, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Key West Veg, Salad with Dressing, Cobbler with Ice Cream, Water and Tea

