

THE MOUNTAINEER

THE WV ALMBS NEWSPAPER



A Somber Moment to Remember: Boys State Flag Retirement

Max Newman,
Staff Reporter

This evening, Tuesday, June 10, 2025, citizens of American Legion Mountaineer Boys State witnessed a flag retirement ceremony take place at the 4-H Council Circle. Volunteers from 2025 ALMBS-

conducted the retirement in a professional and meaningful manner, paying tribute to a worn, unserviceable flag. The ceremony not only paid respects to the American flag, but also honored fallen soldiers that served our country. The formality began with the lighting of a candle and a prayer, followed by the playing of Taps. Afterwards, the flag was presented for inspection to verify its unserviceability. After the examination, the flag was promptly burnt, all whilst TAPS once again played.

To finalize the event, female veterans and staff members of ALMBS were given thanks, as well as a round of applause from both staff, and citizens.

William Northey Elected Governor

Josiah Pilkington & Christopher Mulligan,
Staff Reporters

The Results Are In

Treasurer:

Trace McLaren - 58

Timothy Hetrick III - 62

Write-in - 2

Commissioner of Ag.

Noah Daniel - 129

Gabriel Gainer - 94

Attorney General

Dash Carey-Squire - 162

Torben Heinbockel - 59

(Write-in - 2)

Governor:

William Northey - 132

James McMillion - 82

Write-in - 10

Secretary of State:

Vic Chen - 158

Jackson VanHoose - 66

Auditor:

Alvaro Yemba - 183

Garth Beck - 41



(For Northey jump to page 4)

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Breakfast

Lunch

Dinner

Yogurt Parfait Sausage Link Eggs	Chicken Tenders Curly Fries Caesar Salad	Pasta w/ meat sauce Apple Sauce Garlic Bread + Salad
Assorted Muffins Sausage Patty Eggs	Chicken Tenders Curly Fries Caesar Salad	Orange Chicken Stir Fry Vegetable Egg Rolls + Rice
French Toast Stick Bacon + Eggs	RiPulled Pork Sandwich Cole Slaw + corn Salad w/ Dressing	Sliced Turkey Mashed Potatoes + Gravy Key West Vegetables
Bagels Eggs Sausage		

K-9 Meiko Catches the Convict Trail

Christopher Mulligan,
Staff Reporter

Journalism staff had the chance to witness a K-9 unit training exercise. Over at the Yurts Correctional Center the basic exercise with the K-9 unit, whose name is Meiko, a Belgian Malinois, to track an escaped convict played by Stevie Taylor. This is an important training exercise as K-9 units are a valuable tool in the field and are used to help with crowd control. Meiko practices drills at least once to twice a month. This is to prepare the Correctional Center Cadets for when they apply for future jobs and to be able to have experience as they are a core part of the job. Handlers started off the exercise by blaring an alarm which signaled a convict who-

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Josiah Pilkington, Staff Reporter

Matthew Parsons is a counselor for the Kanawa cabin. Matthew's home county is Harrison. Matthew went to boys' state in 2023 and has been a counselor for 2 years. Matthew's favorite thing about boys state is the diversity of the people in boys state citizens and staff alike. Matthew at the moment is a full time student.

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Max Newman
Sportswriter - Jackson
Bowen
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-wasn't accounted for and escaped. The Cadets lined up and prepared their weapons as Meiko was brought out. Meiko quickly caught the trail of the convict and after several minutes they tracked him down into the woods. The Cadets took cover as Meiko went over and drove out Taylor and quickly surrendered. He was then escorted back to his confines back at the center. The Staff were glad to say that this training was a success and went well with no fail.



A Moment with E. Gordan Gee

Max Newman,
Staff Reporter



This Monday, June 9, 2025 the American Legion Mountaineer Boys State citizens had the honor of receiving a speech from the West Virginia University President, E. Gordon Gee. Gee gave some incredibly inspiring words of encouragement to citizens, speaking on things such as tolerance to brash criticism, being humble, and having a sense of humor.

Gee's unorthodox style of presentation and speech kept students incredibly engaged, all while cracking jokes that continuously kept the room rolling with laughter. All of these humorous moments were between sections of seriousness, allowing citizens to maintain a level of ease throughout the speech; Gee truly understands how to convey a meaningful message.

During an interview with Gee, he spoke about a book he is currently writing, titled *Change or Die*. He mentions referencing other works for his text, such as the book, *Team of Rivals*. Within the same discussion with Gee, when asked, he stated his proudest accomplishment completed by his tenure at West Virginia University, was being able to provide world class healthcare to every West Virginian through the WVU Health System. This includes healthcare facilities across the state of West Virginia.

"Health is a tentpole for every great state," Gee stated.

Gee's presence at Boys State made a clear, lasting impact on citizens, and, if not all, many young men will remember this experience for a lifetime.

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William Northey Elected Governor

NORTHEY

Journalism staff had the chance to do an interview with the newly elected governor, William Northey. He originates from the Nationalist Party and from the Lewis cottage. During the interview he had a positive outlook on the future but he also was aware of the challenges that may come. He was also feeling excited yet definitely relieved that the elections are over, along with pride at being the citizens of Boys State elected choice of governor. Northey claims that his success came from the support of his party.

Northey's schedule will be hectic for him but he did lay out a foundation of what he plans to do over the next few days. The main thing he discussed was how he was going to appoint his cabinet, ensure bipartisanship, and understand the senate.

Among his schedule he plans to interact with the councilors and see what he can do to make their jobs easier. Rest assured that Governor Northey does not plan to hire just anyone to-

appointments as he plans to follow through with seeing everyone equally. Interviews will be conducted to find the best candidates so that only the truly qualified may be put into positions of power, he stated.

Among these plans Northey stated he will pass a quantity of policies that he does not yet quite know, but he shared with us one policy he does want to try and pass. This policy would allow free water to be handed out at Jim's General Store. The main idea behind this policy is to encourage the citizens of Boys State to drink plenty of water so that everyone can perform their best and hold nothing back from being able to achieve their goals. When asked why he replied, "When there's a will there's a way."

Thought's On Tuesday's

Ceremonies

Zachariah Nunley,
Editor

On my third day of The American Legion Mountaineer Boys State, we were taken to a location on the camp of which its existence was unknown to me up until 8 p.m. There we partook in three ceremonies: Post Everlasting, recognition of the women veterans and staff, and a Flag Retirement Ceremony. I was not aware of what Post Everlasting is; I had heard of Flag Retirement Ceremonies, but I had never attended one; and in my life, I have only seen very few veterans. Due to my interest, I have decided to research them further to educate myself. Post Everlasting, from what I have gathered, represents the departure of those in the service who died and the relocation to their new, Everlasting post in the afterlife. The ceremony denotes God as a commander, accepting departed American soldiers into the ranks of heaven. I will not pretend to know anything about the service or military after a few minutes of research, but for those who have served, it appears their service becomes a part of their identity. That may have been obvious to some, but it is a new discovery to me. (For Editor see page 6)

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An Act of Sportsmanship

Jackson Bowen,
Sportswriter

During an impressive, and close basketball game, a controversial call was made when Mighty Lopez and another player both looked as if they were touching the ball as it was sent out of bounds. The call ended up being that Mighty's opponent had touched the ball last and put his team at the advantage. Anyone who only cared for the game would've taken the call. Mighty on the other hand called over the ref, Scot Meadows and told him the truth that he had in fact touched the ball last. While not putting himself or his team at an advantage, this act was an incredible display of sportsmanship, one of the most important things in the game.

Words from the Wiser

Jackson Bowen,
Sportswriter



Haden Hodge, your former boys state governor was interviewed on his future and how boy's state shaped his sports senior year at his high school.

"I ran Cross Country, Long distance in Track, and played basketball," Hodges told us on his athletic career in high school. "It helped me develop thick skin" Hodges told us on how Boys State as well as Boys Nation helped shape his athletic ability. (See Governor on page 6)

A Tight Kickball Game

Jackson Bowen,
Sportswriter

The air was electric down at the boys state kickball field where Kanawha and Webster were locked in a close game the whole time.

"I just love sports, man" Jackson Willis, the athletic director from Kanawha said on his ability to be head of the team, He also mentioned on how he's the head of the sports media pages at his high school and a prominent soccer player. "I feel sweaty," Mighty Lopez the athletic director of Webster county was reported saying on how he felt about the game at that point "I love my team man, and even though they're not the most athletic our passion out there makes us just as formidable as others," Lopez also said.

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(EDITOR)

I can respect someone who dedicated not only a period of their life, but their entire identity to what they believed to be just and to a nation they value. Women in the service are usually accredited to being first allowed to join after the passing of the Women's Armed Services Integration Act. However, women had served all the way back in the Revolutionary War. Women had fought for our independence, albeit they had to disguise themselves as men to actually fight. It is a fact that women are disadvantaged in our society, so I appreciate the women in the service all the more. They go the extra mile to serve and protect our nation. Flag Retirement Ceremonies, as mentioned prior, were familiar to me before the one I had attended today. Simply put, when a flag can no longer fly, it is retired by burning the flag in its entirety. The reason for burning the flag is to make sure that it can no longer be used. When I was younger, my grandfather explained the ceremony to me. I thought it would be disrespectful to demolish an American flag by lighting it on fire.

Now, I understand the alternative would instead be disrespecting the flag tenfold. At the ceremony, they said the flag would be replaced with a new one of the same dimensions. Specifically, I understand the degree of respect for retiring a flag once it has served its purpose, to be replaced with a clean, neat representation of our nation and values. While the ceremonies are over, I offer one last thank you to our veterans.



Poem

To Laugh Often And Much
Ralph Waldo Emerson

To laugh often and much;
to win the respect of the
intelligent people
and the affection of children;
to earn the appreciation of
honest critics
and endure the betrayal of
false friends;
to appreciate beauty;
to find the best in others;
to leave the world a bit better
whether by a healthy child, a
garden patch,
or a redeemed social condition;
to know that one life has
breathed easier
because you lived here.
This is to have succeeded.

Boys State Judicial Circuits

1st Judicial Circuit: Kanawha and Lewis/Upshur (Mock trial location: Harrison)

2nd Judicial Circuit: Marion and Panhandle (Mock trial location: WV Building)

3rd Judicial Circuit: Randolph and Monroe/Webster (Mock trial location: Boggs)

Supreme Court of Appeals Docket (Wednesday)

11:45am

Hear any motions for admission and conduct any other business

1:15pm

Observe Circuit Court trials

9:00pm

Hear petitions for Appeal from Circuit 1, Circuit 2, and Circuit 3, and any other business; Recess;
write opinions and conduct other necessary business

10:00pm

Reconvene; announce decisions from any cases heard on oral argument, and conduct other business before the Court