



# The Mountaineer

VOLUME 87 ISSUE 5 OF 7

Thursday, June 11, 2026  
wwboysstate.org

## Car Accident Leads to Two Injured

ALMBS Col. Ashton Blair released a statement to The Mountaineer staff regarding the late Wednesday evening wreck: "At 8:30 there was a car accident near the West Virginia building two individuals were included. Both injured, both taken by EMS. One suspect in custody more will be released when we gather our evidence. That is all."



Emergency services responds to wreck at the West Virginia Building (Photo by: Owen Baker)

## Jaxson in Action!

On the evening of 6/10, the newly elected governor of American Legion Mountaineers Boys State addressed his fellow citizens. After the inauguration conducted by

Judge Micheal J. Aloï, where his fellow election candidates were sworn into their respective positions, Governor Jaxson Rappold delivered a speech to his audience.

Rappold expressed his gratitude towards the figures who helped him most, including his family, God, and his fellow citizens. He kept his speech short and sweet, allowing his fellow citizens a fair amount of time to eat before their Formal Review parade.

Article by: Aidan Russell

### TODAY'S WEATHER

Thursday's outlook—Lewis County/Jackson's Mill

**HIGH** [ 84°F] **LOW** [ 70°F ]  
**CONDITIONS** [ Mostly Cloudy ]  
**PRECIP** [80 % ] **WIND** [ 4-10mph ]

### INSIDE TODAY

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Action Jaxson has his first speech as Governor (Photo by: Owen Baker)

# Announcements and Schedules

## CONNECT WITH US!

Follow #ALMBS all week

Website [wvboysstate.org](http://wvboysstate.org)

Facebook

[facebook.com/wvboysstate](https://facebook.com/wvboysstate)

Instagram @wvboysstate

X / Twitter @wvboysstate

BlueSky

@wvboysstate.bsky.social

LinkedIn

[linkedin.com/company/wvboysstate](https://linkedin.com/company/wvboysstate)

YouTube

[youtube.com/user/mountaineerboysstate](https://youtube.com/user/mountaineerboysstate)

## Mountaineer Newspaper Staff

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## TODAY AT A GLANCE

### THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2026

- 6:45 a.m. Revielle, inspection
- 7:50 a.m. In formation -- Dining Hall
- 7:55 a.m. Flag raising
- 8:00 a.m. Breakfast
- 9:00 a.m. Morning Activities
- 12:05 p.m. Return to Cottage
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch
- 1:10 p.m. State of the State Address
- 5:30 p.m. Dinner -- Dining Hall
- 6:30 p.m. Evening activities
- 7:45 p.m. Assembly
- ~8:30 p.m. Evening activities
- 12:30 a.m. Lights Out

## AND NOW FOR A SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT FROM OUR MARKETING AND BUSINESS TEAM!



**BE SURE TO STOP BY AND CHECK OUT ALL OF THE EXCITING DEALS AND ACTIVITIES THEY HAVE PLANNED. FOR A LIMITED TIME, THEY WILL BE SELLING TWO SLICES OF PIZZA FOR JUST \$3 AND PEPPERONI ROLLS FOR ONLY \$4. THESE DELICIOUS SNACKS ARE PERFECT FOR ANYONE LOOKING FOR A QUICK AND AFFORDABLE MEAL WHILE SUPPORTING OUR EVENT.**

**LOOKING FOR A SURPRISE? TRY YOUR LUCK WITH ONE OF OUR MYSTERY BAGS FOR ONLY \$5! EACH BAG IS FILLED WITH A VARIETY OF ITEMS FROM AROUND THE STORE, AND YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT GREAT FINDS YOU MIGHT DISCOVER INSIDE.**

**THE FUN DOESN'T STOP THERE! TAKE A SPIN ON OUR MYSTERY PRIZE WHEEL FOR JUST \$1 PER SPIN. EVERY SPIN GIVES YOU A CHANCE TO WIN FREE ITEMS, SPECIAL PRIZES, AND OTHER EXCITING REWARDS FROM THE STORE.**

**MAKE SURE TO STOP BY, ENJOY THE FOOD, TEST YOUR LUCK, AND SUPPORT OUR MARKETING AND BUSINESS TEAM. WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU THERE!**





# ALMBS Court News



## Swearing In Ceremony

The Swearing-In Ceremony took place on the afternoon of 6/10. It saw all winners of the general election be sworn in by Judge Michael Aloï as they joined in an oath to the U.S. Constitution. The Boys State Board of Public Works will be travelling to Charleston on 6/11 to get a taste of the West Virginia legislative process.



The Supreme Court gets sworn in (Photo by: Owen Baker)

## Circuit Court 1

Monroe-Webster and Randolph cabins had an open-and-shut trial today. States prosecutor attempted to accuse cabin members Miles and Anthony of possession of crack cocaine and tacked on intent to distribute to Miles. Unfortunately for the plaintiffs, they had no evidence, and Miles and Anthony were decided to be innocent in a short jury meeting.

## Circuit Court 2

On the Panhandle v. Marion side, Shane Shepherd was accused of breaking into the Mt. Vernon Dining Hall and stealing a ham sandwich, along with a bag of potato chips. The defense argued that Shepherd was only there by circumstance, accidentally sleepwalking into the dining hall rather than breaking into it. However, the prosecution argued that Shepherd was fully awake and broke into the building with malicious intent. Both parties went back and forth, calling different witnesses to the stand to help their case. The jury, which consisted of 13 citizens of the Panhandle Cottage, found Shane Shepherd guilty of breaking and entering into the dining hall. Shepherd was arrested by the bailiff and escorted out of the courtroom.



# Opinion Pieces

As elections have now concluded, much more time will be devoted towards career prep and athletics. What I believe gets overlooked, however, is how much we are developing not only as leaders but as men. As we debated and voted, we not only gained experience in the legal system but focused on themes such as impartiality and respect for others. While it may seem corny, these experiences will help to define us as men for the future to come. As more guest speakers come and more opportunities are given, it is important to maintain the same decorum that exemplifies what Boys State stands for.

"I speak to everyone in the same way, whether he is the garbage man or the president of the university." - Albert Einstein  
 -Aedan O'Quinn

## Missing Link at ALMBS could be absent career paths

By Caleb Shamblin, Staff Reporter

For two bills that I proposed to the 2026 American Legion Mountaineer Boys State Legislature, I stated that there should be two new categories for career paths: a chaplain role, and different trade positions. These two career paths would be crucial to having a realistic and functioning society here at ALM Boys State.

On October 11, 1798, John Adams wrote the following to the officers of the Massachusetts Militia: "We have no Government armed with Power capable of contending with human Passions unbridled by morality and Religion. Avarice, Ambition, Revenge, or Gallantry, would break the strongest Cords of our Constitution as a Whale goes through a Net. Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious People. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."

Having a chaplain, as well as assistants to the chaplain, would provide mentors to those seeking moral or spiritual guidance.

The second career option I proposed are different trade options. Societies cannot function without the critical citizens who step up and do dirty work so everyone can live comfortably. Careers like electricians, plumbers, and construction workers would not only be useful to Boys State but could also inspire citizens to consider entering those fields.

Anything you'd like to share? Send it in! We love to see it! - Aedan O'Quinn

## Good Timber

Douglas Malloch

The tree that never had to fight  
 For sun and sky and air and light,  
 But stood out in the open plain  
 And always got its share of rain,  
 Never became a forest king  
 But lived and died a scrubby thing

The man who never had to toil  
 To gain and farm his patch of soil,  
 Who never had to win his share  
 Of sun and sky and light and air,  
 Never became a manly man  
 But lived and died as he began.

Good timber does not grow with ease,  
 The stronger wind, the stronger trees,  
 The further sky, the greater length,  
 The more the storm, the more the strength.  
 By sun and cold, by rain and snow,  
 In trees and men good timbers grow.

Where thickest lies the forest growth  
 We find the patriarchs of both.  
 And they hold counsel with the stars  
 Whose broken branches show the scars  
 Of many winds and much of strife.  
 This is the common law of life.

## Letter To The Editor

Dear Citizens of Mountaineer Boys State, Learning, according to the late Jacques Barzun, is a series of overcoming difficulties. ALMBS is a learning experience for citizens, so if Barzun is correct citizens will face difficulties. The purpose of these difficulties is to learn good government through participation.

I believe I speak for the entire staff when I say we are very proud of you. While the scenarios and situations are simulations, the learning and leadership skills you develop are quite real. You are attaining learning that will help you and equip you to lead in your personal life, your family, private enterprise, and government.

West Virginia needs you. The United States needs you. We need leaders who understand the calling of leadership and embrace difficulty in pursuit of the good. Wherever life takes you, I hope you will rise to the calling of leadership. It is difficult, yes. But just as you have embraced and overcome difficulty to learn this week, I hope and pray you will embrace and overcome difficulty to lead in our communities, state, and nation.

The challenges of today are myriad. The difficulties of tomorrow are unknown. You are not alone in facing them. Lean on the relationships and friendships you are building this week. Continue to grow and learn together. A prosperous and thriving West Virginia is worth all of the difficulty we must overcome to attain it.

Thank you for the privilege of working with you this week. We expect greatly of you because we believe profoundly in you. The Lord bless you and keep you and make His face to shine upon you, and know in any future difficulty we stand at the ready to lend a hand and cheer you on.

Yours in Blue and Gold,  
 Josiah Batten  
 Political & City Government Advisor

# Flames and Flags: Flag Retirement Ceremony

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*ALMBS citizens participate in the Flag Retirement ceremony (Photo Courtesy of WV ALMBS)*

## Elected Candidates Sworn-In

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The elected officials were finally sworn in during the inauguration assembly on 6/10. Conducted by Judge Micheal J. Aloï, he presented a speech on his life and gave advice to the citizens before reading the different oaths that each official would have to swear by. Each official swore by their oath with no hesitation, showing their eagerness to support to help their community.

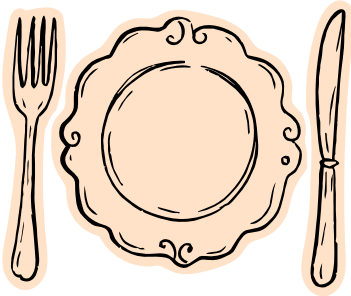
The following roles were sworn in:

Superintendent of Schools, Speaker of the House, President of the Senate, Supreme Court, Attorney General, Commissioner of Agriculture, Auditor, Secretary of State, and finally, Governor.

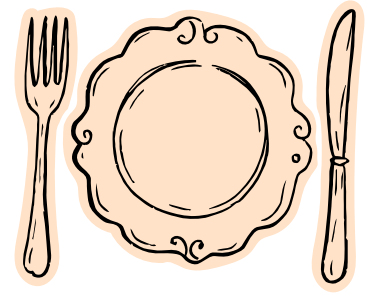
*Article by: Aiden Russell*



*Governor "Action" Jaxson being sworn-in by Magistrate Judge Michael J. Aloï (Photo by: Owen Baker)*



# Menu



**Thursday, June 11 -**

**Breakfast:** Assorted Muffins

Sausage Patty

Eggs

Hot & Cold Cereal

Fresh Fruit

**Lunch:** Pulled Pork Sandwich

Cole Slaw

Baked Beans

Salad

Assorted Pudding

**Dinner:** Orange Chicken

Stir Fry Vegetable

Egg Rolls

Rice

Fortune Cookies

**Friday, June 12 -**

**Breakfast:** French Toast Stick

Sausage Link

Eggs

Hot & Cold Cereal

Fresh Fruit

**Lunch:** Calzone

Corn

Salad

Oreos

**Dinner:** Sliced Turkey

Mashed Potatoes

Gravy

Key West Veg

Caesar Salad

Rolls

Cheesecake

**Wednesday, June 10 -**

**Breakfast:** Yogurt Parfait

Sausage Link

Eggs

Hot & Cold Cereal

Fresh Fruit

**Lunch:** Chicken Tenders

Curly Fries

Caesar Salad

Rice Krispy Treats

**Dinner:** Pasta w/Meat Sauce

Apple Sauce

Salad

Garlic Bread

Pie

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**Saturday, June 13 -**

**Breakfast:** Bagels

Eggs

Ham

Hot & Cold Cereal

Fresh Fruit

# DMV is Now Open!

Wednesday June 10, the DMV opened. The only way to obtain your license is to take a 10 question exam, the first 5 questions are multiple choice, and then the last 5 are true and false. Once you complete your exam, you turn in your paper to a staff member who then grades your exam, and then sends you off to get your stickers (if you pass). It'll cost you \$100 for your driver registration, \$25 for vehicle registration, \$50 for your boating license (which you need to swim!), and insurance costs \$350. In total the entire trip will cost you \$525.

*Article by: Owen Baker*



*Jonathon Folmsbee (left) and Owen Baker (right) thrilled after passing their drivers test (Photo from Owen Baker)*

# Counselor Spotlight



Monroe Counselor Brock Miles (Photo from Jakob Elliot)

On Monday, June 7, Camp Counselor Brock Miles sat down with us for a quick QnA on his time at Boys State.

Q: Where are you from originally?

Brock: I am from Summersville.

Q: How many years have you been in the Boys State program?

Brock: This is my first year as counselor, and I had one year as a citizen.

Q: What are your favorite things about the Boys State sessions?

Brock: Probably the fact that you actually make friends for the rest of your life. I know that I still talk to people that I met when I was at Boys State camp.

Q: What career path would you like to go into?

Brock: I want to be a teacher; I want to be a college professor.

# Mountaineer Boys State

## Speaker Schedule

### Wednesday, June 10

**Breakfast** - Brent Walker, WVDOT Communications Director

**Lunch** - NO SPEAKER UNLESS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY -  
COURT TRIAL ATTORNEYS

**Inauguration** - PRESIDING JUDGE (arranged by Brandon  
Flowers)

**Dinner** - WV Treasure Larry Pack

### Friday, June 12

**Breakfast** - NONE

**Lunch** - NONE - COUNTY PHOTOS AFTER  
LUNCH

**Dinner** - Chris Sharps (career path roundups)

**Assembly** - TALENT SHOW

### Thursday, June 11

**Breakfast** - Miss West Virginia, Courtney Bearer

**Lunch** - NO SPEAKER UNLESS ABSOLUTELY  
NECESSARY - COURT TRIAL ATTORNEYS

**Dinner** - WV Auditor, Mark Hunt

**Assembly** - Hoppy Kercheval

### Saturday, June 12

**Breakfast** - NONE

**Closing Assembly** - (PLACEHOLDER) Governor Morrisey

## Newly Passed Bills!

The newly officiated government is already working hard to make citizens' time at American Legion Mountaineer Boys State even better. They have signed two new bills, both impacting the budget of ALMBS in favor of the citizens.

The first bill, HB number seven, repeals chapter four of article three of the ALMBS code, which states that members of the House of Delegates and the Senate will be given polos to wear to the capital if formal wear is not brought by the member. The bill was signed due to the Senate believing it provided very little use and instead changed it to require formal wear. The second bill, HB number nine, repeals chapter five-B of section three, subsection E. The code spends forty percent of the general store sales on the previously mentioned polos for the House and Senate. This bill was repealed for the same reasons as HB number seven.

Article by: Aiden Russell

## Legal Ad

### Notice from the Legal Team...

There will be an auction held after the evening assembly on 6/11

If you win the property, you will LEGALLY OWN the property for your time at ALMBS

Site 1: Amphitheater	Site 2: Historic District
Value: \$25,750	Value: \$715,250
Starting Bid: \$130	Starting Bid: \$3,580

Site 3: WV Building + Courts Behind  
Value: \$285,000  
Starting Bid: 1,430

Bidding occurs in multiples of \$10  
Funds will be given to the Treasury for tax purposes

# Sponsorships

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## THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS!

Sponsorships are solicited year-round for the program.

Who foots the bills for Boys State? Who pays for the week of citizenship and fellowship enjoyed at West Virginia University's Jackson Mill? Who pays for transportation, insurance, and administrative costs? The American Legion Family, civic clubs, lodges, school booster clubs, and service organizations, as well as business firms, sponsor students to attend the American Legion Mountaineer Boys State. The American Legion Department of West Virginia pays for the administrative cost of the program. Citizens of American Legion Mountaineer Boys State are selected by their high school staff and/or local American Legion Post.

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Please be sure to write and thank your sponsor for enabling you to attend the American Legion Mountaineer Boys State by supplementing the cost of the program. If you don't know who that is, see Marie Burleigh in headquarters. The American Legion Mountaineer Boys State stationery and envelopes are available in Dorsey Center. There is also a box for outgoing mail in the Dorsey Center.

The American Legion Posts and ALMBS staff work throughout the year to recruit sponsorships to ensure a full program. It is requested that when you return to your hometown and school you help spread the word to continue increasing enrollment. The best gift you can provide to the program is the gift of referring your friends and classmates to attend in the future.

Our goal is to have every high school and county in the state of West Virginia represented each year. Your help will make this possible.