



# The Mountaineer



Photos by: Aedan O'Quinn

## Citizens Attend Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Ceremony

On June 11, 2026, American Legion Mountaineers Boys State hosted their eighty seventh annual Tomb of the Unknown Soldier ceremony. Hosted by ALMBS staff member Doug Robinson, the ceremony was held near the Mount Vernon Dining Hall, and commemorated fallen soldiers.

The ceremony was held in honor of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, a soldier from World War one that is unknown to all, and the twelve thousand five hundred West Virginians that have been lost in every major war since the state's founding.

*Article by: Aiden Russell*

## Twister Touches Down in Upshur

On the evening of June 11, a tornado touched down nearby Upshur Cottage. First responders arrived at the scene as fast as possible. The Journalism Team spotted what appeared to be an injured citizen, but no information has been released to the press yet. It is unconfirmed if the supposed injured individual is deceased. As the Mountaineer gets more information, more will be published. We appreciate your correspondence and patience.

*Article By: Caleb Shamblin*



Photo by: Caleb Shamblin

# Announcements and Schedules

## CONNECT WITH US!

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## Mountaineer Newspaper Staff

AEDAN O'QUINN- EDITOR  
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 OWEN BAKER- REPORTER  
 AIDAN RUSSELL- REPORTER  
 MATTHEW FUREY- SPORTSWRITER  
 CALEB SHAMBLIN- SPORTSWRITER  
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 JOSHUA GREEN- GRAPHIC DESIGNER  
 JONAH COAKLEY- GRAPHIC DESIGNER  
 BROOKS BROOMFIELD- LAYOUT EDITOR

## TODAY AT A GLANCE

### Friday, June 12, 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

1:45p.m. College and Career Fair

5:30 p.m. Dinner -- Dining Hall

6:30 p.m. Evening activities

8:00 p.m. Assembly

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!**



## Red Apple Tragedy

On June 10, a shooting occurred at Red Apple Tavern. Mountaineer Boys State Police Col. Ashton Blair said in a statement, “Officers responded to a shooting involving two males at the Red Apple Tavern. The individuals were involved in an altercation and were escorted from the establishment during a second altercation outside. One male was shot and pronounced deceased. One suspect in custody. The investigation remains active and ongoing.”

As more information is received updates will be given.

*Article By: Owen Baker*

Later in the day, staff reporter had time to interview Sargent Elijah Huffman. Provided below is the conversation he had with the officer. The first question asked was “What is your name and position?” The response was “Sergeant Elijah Huffman.” Next question was “Who was the suspect in this case?” which he responded “I believe his last name is Metz. Jaden Metz.” “What was the verdict?” That was answered by, “He was found guilty of charges of homicide.” Next question was “What was his sentence?”, to which he responded “I assume it'd probably be around an hour.” Next, he was asked “What evidence did you have in this case?” Then he provided this: “We had found a weapon that was used in the homicide near the victim. We were unable to find fingerprints, but we had a statement from the defendant that he owned the weapon, so it's safe to assume that we found two bullets inside the victim. One that pierced through his chest and out his back, the other that did not. I assumed that it got clogged somewhere. We found those. We also collected his shirt. Just for extra evidence, we found jars of moonshine as well, which led us to believe that they were intoxicated during the altercation.” “Was it the victim or the suspect?”, to which Elijah responded “Both. One of them was being aggressive. The other one became aggressive during the time that they were intoxicated. An altercation is assumed. It is dismissed. The suspect had gone outside. The victim pursued him and another altercation happened. The victim was approaching the suspect. The suspect allegedly felt threatened, pulled his firearm and shot him twice, but it ruled that it was not self-defense. The victim was unarmed. The victim was not lunging at him. The victim was approaching him during the argument as the suspect was walking away. Now I've heard the suspect is planning to sue.” Next question asked was “What do you think of that?” “I think he's digging a deeper hole because it was a pretty clear verdict in this trial. A lot of evidence pointed towards him being guilty. Almost every testimony points to him being guilty except his own. I think we have all that we need.”

*From Staff Reports*

## Mountaineers Meet at Capital, Simulate Civil Service

On June 11, 2026, ALMBS government workers visited the West Virginia state capital for a multitude of reasons. The combined groups of Girls and Boys State joined into four distinct sections, separating in the Board of Public Officials, Senate, House, and Supreme Court. Both the Senate and House held mock legislative review, while the Board talked with Secretary of State Warner. Both groups held a joint legislative review after lunch and got to enjoy their time at the capital, meeting with members of the other camp.

*Article By: Aedan O'Quinn*



ALMBS Government and the RGS Government (Photo by: Aedan O'Quinn)

# Senate Bill Resolution

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The 2026 Mountaineer Boys State Senate passed a resolution regarding the 250th year of the United States of America. The text is as follows:

SR 6001 – sponsor: Shane Shepherd (second sponsor: Gavin Floyd)

## Celebration of 250 Years of Freedom Resolution

Section 1. We live in a unique and exceptional nation. From the Declaration of Independence, ratification of the Constitution, expansion into the West, victory in both World Wars One and Two, and preserving democratic ideals under the threat of authoritarianism, to its present state

as a superpower in the world order, these United States of America have been and will continue to be history's greatest example of the power of a constitutional republic to provide for and protect the welfare of its citizens against those that would deprive them of their God-given liberties.

Section 2. This American Legion Mountaineer Boys State–

- a. Officially recognizes these United States of America as a bulwark of freedom in the troubled world.
- b. Recognizes the 250th anniversary of these United States of America.
- c. Emphasizes that this government is predicated upon the sacrifices of patriotic citizens including, but not limited to, those who have been wounded, killed, and missing in action.
- d. Finds that it is the duty of all citizens to support and defend this wonderful nation and to engage themselves in the civic process.



Senate Seal (Photo by: Aedan O'Quinn)



Court in session (Photo by: Aedan O'Quinn)

# Tree Dedication for Clarence Walton Held

*Page Designed by: Joshua Green, Article by: Owen Baker*



On Thursday June 11, American Legion Boys State Staff had a tree dedication ceremony for Clearence Walton. I was able to speak with Jim Davis and get a bit of information about the event. The first question I asked was “What was the tree dedication ceremony, and who was it for?” and he responded with “A number of years ago we had a director of American Legion Boys State program, he was in charge and unfortunately he became sick, and he was the director for 10 years and he unfortunately got cancer. His name was Clearence Walton from Cameron, WV. So, in the meantime, we planted a tree and made a plaque for him and dedicated it to him. A bad storm came through and blew the tree over, about 4 years ago, and now the found a replacement tree, that's what that was for.” Finally, he was asked if there was anything that he wanted to tell people about the tree dedication ceremony to get the word out more? and he said “Clearence was the type of person that if you met him, he was your friend, if you asked him to do something, it would get done. He was dedicated to the legion; he was dedicated to the youth. he would be here with 17- and 18-year-olds, and then the next day he'd go to wheeling for 4H to deal with 7, 8- and 9-year-olds. Clearence was the type of person who had around 30 people down there for that dedication, those are his friends for 25-30 years, and when they heard there was a re-dedication they showed up.”

*Article By: Owen Baker*



*Jim Davis (Photo by: Owen Baker)*

## Opinion

Ever since laws began to be enforced on the evening of June 10, the police have been too efficient at their jobs. A large majority of the law enforcement branch have been arresting every person they see step out of line, which then backfires onto them.

When I was arrested yesterday, the forensics team had already ran out of paper to fingerprint inmates on, and after a few hours, the jail cells were full, meaning they had to let any incoming inmates free. If they were to issue warnings for lighter offenses, such as missing a turn signal or stopping on the sidewalk, everyone would be happy.

Article by: Aiden Rusell



Picture of future ALMBS Governor Grayson Wylder Composky (Picture by: Owen Baker)

## Experience at ALMBS will last a lifetime

I have been blessed with the opportunity to attend the 87<sup>th</sup> American Legion Mountaineer Boys State. The opportunity to learn about government, make new long-lasting friendships, and build on leadership skills has been worthwhile. I personally want to thank my instructors and cabin mates. The lessons I have learned and the memories I have made in the cabin hold great value to me. My favorite experiences throughout the week include competing in sporting events with my friends, working with the amazing journalism class, and taking late night walks with my friends. I want to personally thank Rebecca, the Journalism instructor, for how understanding and caring she has been throughout the week. Without her and the work of my peers, there would not be a daily newspaper. Also, thank you to all first responders; your dedication and sacrifices you have made for our country are very appreciated. In summary, West Virginia Boys State helped shape me into the man I am becoming, a Man of Tomorrow.

Article By: Eli Ramsey

## No Man Is an Island

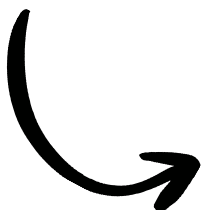
John Donne

Designed by: Joshua Green

No man is an island,  
Entire of itself;  
Every man is a piece of the  
continent,  
A part of the main.

If a clod be washed away by the sea,  
Europe is the less,  
As well as if a promontory were:  
As well as if a manor of thy friend's  
Or of thine own were.

Any man's death diminishes me,  
Because I am involved in mankind.  
And therefore never send to know  
for whom the bell tolls;  
It tolls for thee.



# Letter from the Editor

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## ALMBS Day Five: Dealing With Criticism

Over the course of your career, you may encounter criticism in your chosen profession. Some careers are currently catching flack for reasons that vary by case and knowing how to handle criticism is important. Firstly, even the harshest critics have a reason for writing. Finding this reason can allow you to take some advice and learn from criticism. It is imperative to remove your own feelings when considering advice that seems harsh. Don't get down if something doesn't work out! Keep pushing, take advice when given, and be open to learning.

Thanks, Aedan O'Quinn, Editor

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## In The Corner With The Warden



Warden Anthony Hall stands for a picture  
(Photo by: Owen Baker)

On Thursday June 11, Matthew Furey and I had an opportunity to sit down with the Corrections Warden Anthony Hall to ask him a few questions. The first question he was asked was “What happens when you’re brought into the correction center?” and he answered “Well, once we bring you in, we make sure you have nothing on you. We don’t pat you down, but we make sure you have nothing on you. We let Forensics do their stuff, and you get put in your cell.” Next, he was asked “Are the cells the yurts?” then Anthony answered, “Our cell is yurt number 1, we have 6 bunks, one is for solitary if you get put in there.” Finally, he was asked “How long are the sentences? Do they vary or are they all 15 minutes?” and Anthony answered “The longest one we’ve got so far, and I’m pretty sure the longest one we can give is an hour long. So far, we’ve had one for 45 minutes. But I think they can only last for an hour.”

*Article by: Owen Baker and Matthew Furey*

# Womens Veterans Recognized

In honor of Governor Patrick Morrisey's Women Veterans Recognition Day Proclamation, the American Legion Mountaineers Boys State got an exclusive interview with ALMBS staff member and veteran, Brooke Mason Russell.

Russell feels that Morrisey's Proclamation is an honor, knowing that women veterans will be recognized.

Russell was raised in the army. All of her direct family members were in the military, as it had been her whole life, and she is honored to continue to represent the veteran life. As soon as she graduated high school, she went straight into nursing where she became a licensed practical nurse, and after only a year of working in a hospital she went into the military.

Russell specifically quoted President John F. Kennedy, saying "Ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country."

Russell enlisted because she felt it was her duty to serve for her country during the Vietnam War, and to continue her family tradition.

Brooke and many other female veterans of all ages are proud to be represented on Friday, June 12, thanks to Governor Morrisey.

*Article by: Aidan Russell*

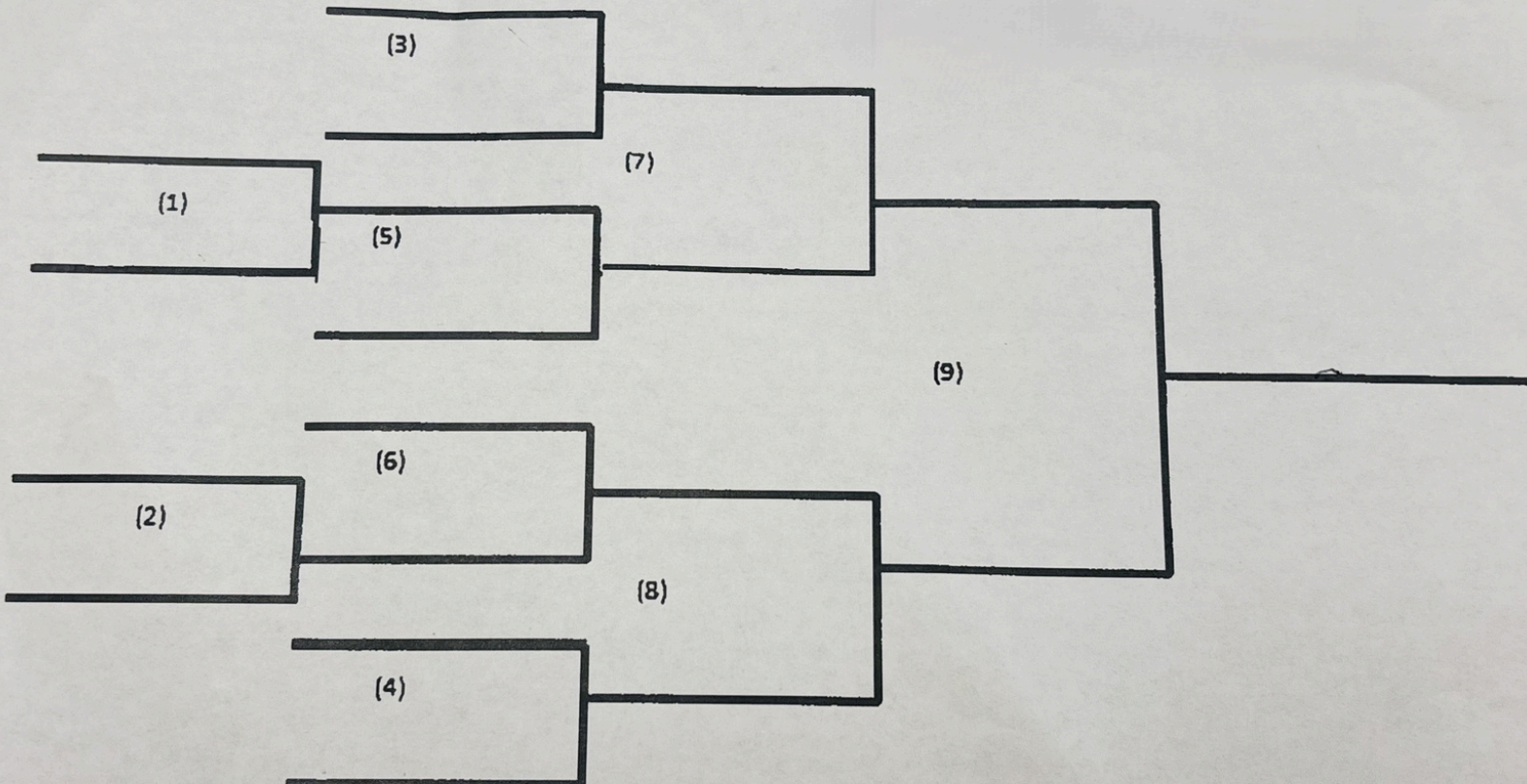


# Tug of War




Today, June 12, the tug-of-war games will begin. The tug-of-war games will be a bracket-style tournament as shown in the image below. The matches are Panhandle-Gilmer, Marion-Webster, Randolph-Upshur, and Lewis-Kanawha, with Monroe and Braxton having byes. The tournament will end with a citizens vs. counselor tug of war game. Hopefully, we citizens of the 87<sup>th</sup> West Virginia American Legion Mountaineer Boys State can end the counselors undefeated win streak! Good luck to all competing!

*Article by: Owen Baker*



# Knicks Knock Out Spurs in the Garden

*From Staff Reports*



On the evening of Wednesday, June 10, the New York Knicks faced off against the San Antonio Spurs in Game 4 of the NBA Finals. The game took place at Madison Square Garden in New York. The anticipation for the game would begin to fizzle out as at halftime, the score was 76-49 with the Spurs in the lead. It looked like this game would result in a blowout, with the lead extending as high as 29 in the third quarter.

However, that didn't mean the Knicks were going to give up. They began to claw their way back into the game little by little, cutting the lead down to 15 by the start of the third quarter. The intensity in the air was palpable, as with 1:22 left in the fourth quarter, the Knicks took their first lead of the game.



Stephon Castle, the shooting guard for the Spurs, made two free throws to try and bring the team back with 30 seconds left. The point guard for the Knicks, Jalen Brunson, took the ball down the floor and took a midrange shot to try to save the game- but he missed. De'Aaron Fox, point guard for San Antonio, grabbed the defensive rebound and sprinted down the floor for a quick transition layup to seal off the game. However, OG Anunoby came from behind and blocked the layup to give the Knicks one more chance to complete the comeback. After Fox committed a personal foul, the Knicks called a full timeout to bring the ball closer to their basket. With 4 seconds left, Brunson shot a 30-foot 3-pointer, but it fell short. OG Anunoby put the team on his back and tipped the ball back into the basket with 2 seconds left to give the Knicks the lead! The Spurs couldn't score with the time remaining, allowing the Knicks to complete the largest comeback in NBA Finals history.

The final score was 107-106. The Knicks go up 3-1 in the series, needing just one more win to become NBA champions for the first time since 1973. The series will head back to San Antonio as the Spurs try to hold on to whatever hope they have left.

All information about this game was from ESPN.

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## Todd Morgan

Boys State Journalism had the pleasure of interviewing Todd Morgan before the championship games on Friday.

Q: What are your feelings towards the championship games?

Todd: This is the first year its ever gonna happen, so we'll just play it by ear.

Q: How long have you been here?

Todd: Forty-seven years.

Q: What is the OMAG?

Todd: I can't explain much... Randall has more info. (To be seen in the next paper)

Q: How are the championships expected to go being first year?

Todd: Seeding will depend on the sport played for championships; seeding will be whoever won the most games around the week.

Q: Has there been any favorite sports this week?

Todd: Most people show up to play basketball rather than other sports.

Q: Has the voting for kickball and softball always been between kickball?

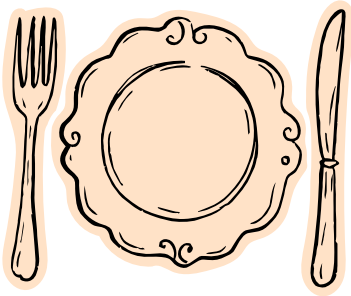
Todd: It used to only be softball with no choice between the two.

Q: Any sports you could bring here?

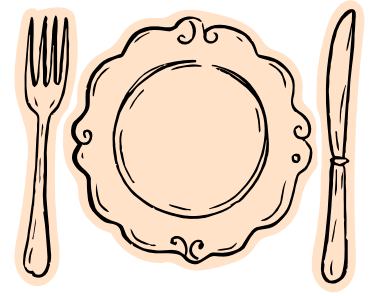
Todd: If we could get more attendees at camp, then I would like the bring back the frisbee football game.

*Article by: Matthew Furey*

*Designed by: Joshua Green*



# 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

Carsar Salad

Rolls

Cheesecake

## Saturday, June 13 -

### **Breakfast:** Bagels

Eggs

Ham

Hot & Cold Cereal

Fresh Fruit



# 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** - Hopy Kercheval

## Saturday, June 12

**Breakfast** - NONE

**Closing Assembly** - (PLACEHOLDER) Governor Morrissey, I (Joshua Green) repeat, this is just a placeholder!

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## Speaker Overview

Over the five days citizens have attended American Legion Mountaineers Boys State, they have had over seven influential figures come to speak with them. Each speaker has presented different stories of their work and advice to each and every resident of Boys State.

The first speaker on 5/8 was Congresswoman Carol Miller (R-WV). Carol Miller is the first female Majority Whip, a member of the Ways and Means Committee, a Congress member, and above all, West Virginia born and raised. ALMBS citizens were given a speech about Miller's upcoming, followed by wise advice about their futures and what the world has in store for them.

Following Miller on 5/8 was Commissioner of Agriculture Kent Leonhardt. He is a farmer, veteran, a member of the West Virginia Senate, and an American Legion Member. His job ranges from tracing outbreaks to restricting the shipment of food all together.

The final speaker on 5/8 was West Virginia University President Micheal T. Benson. Benson spoke to citizens about his many stays in foreign countries before finally settling in West Virginia, along with his previous presidencies at other colleges.

Beginning a new day, WV Secretary of State Kris Warner came to speak at ALMBS on 5/9. Warner spoke about his job as SoS, explaining his experiences in his career to all citizens.

To round out the day, West Virginia Attorney General J.B McCuskey gave the citizens a speech about his occupation and his most famous cases. He presented four cases that were all high profile; A lawsuit against Roblox, a lawsuit against Apple Inc., a lawsuit against the state of New York, and an opening brief to argue against the Save Women's Sports act.

Brent Walker, West Virginia Department of Transportation Communications Director, was the last speaker on 5/10. Walker came to ALMBS to explain his career. He explained how he oversees the agency's public image.

To inaugurate the newly elected government officials, Magistrate Judge Micheal J. Aloï came to ALMBS on the evening of 5/10. He spoke to the crowd about his life story before reading the oaths that the officials would pledge to.

Rounding out the day was WV Treasurer Larry Pack. He spoke about his origin before explaining his job, speaking about the very important work he does.

To begin a new day, Miss West Virginia Courtney Bearer chose to speak to the citizens of ALMBS on 5/11. Bearer spoke about her passion of hula hooping and preaching about heart health.

Stay tuned, as there will be plenty more speakers soon.

# Speaker Spotlight



*Jami Summerlin gives his speech on Sunday  
(Photo from courtesy ALMBS)*



*JB McCuskey gives his speech on Tuesday  
(Photo courtesy of ALMBS)*

For more information on these speakers, go to page 12!



*Kent Leonhardt gives his speech on Monday  
(Photo from courtesy ALMBS)*



*Jonathan Folmsbee (left) and Owen Baker (right) with 2025 Miss West Virginia Courtney Bearer (Photo by: Aiden Shipley)*

# 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.