



# The Mountaineer

VOLUME 87 ISSUE 7 OF 7

Saturday, June 13, 2026

wvboysstate.org

## Career Fair

On June 12, 2026, several colleges and programs from around the state visited the ALMBS campus. Students were thrilled to be able to meet with leaders from their respective programs and explore options for their futures. Students were interested in a multitude of pathways, such as the many colleges, universities, and government organizations.



## Barr Brought Back

**After being stabbed to death during a jailbreak, Officer Todd Barr sat down with us for an interview.**

Q: So... you just got stabbed to death. How was that?

T: It kinda hurt. EMS took a really long time to come get me... that's why I died. I was dead for about five minutes when patrol found me laying in the yard. Two inmates stabbed me in the chest, the neck, and the forearm.

Q: Now that you're dead, what are your plans as a ghost?

T: No no, the EMS brought me back.

Q: They brought you back?

T: Yeah... they got me on the board and flew me over in the helicopter.

Q: Do you have a vendetta against the person who stabbed you?

T: No. I forgive everyone and we should all love each other.

## Getting Ferocious with the Kocsis

Since the week of the American Legion Mountaineers Boys State is coming to a close, the ALMBS The Mountaineer newspaper team conducted an interview with the highly regarded Randall K. Kocsis.

Conducted by Owen Baker and Matthew Furey, the duo asked Kocsis several questions pertaining to this week.

When asked about how he has enjoyed the week so far, he responded "The week has been good. It's been rewarding, fulfilling, and it's been tiring for me."

Kocsis said that helping at ALMBS "requires a lot of work, a lot of organization pre camp to put staff together, a lot of training before citizens arrive, and the greatest satisfaction I get is seeing all these efforts come together to create a functioning state."

His favorite parts of the week are the formal review, when the government is formed, and Saturday morning commencement. His least favorite part is not getting enough sleep, and the toughest part of the week for Kocsis is getting up in the morning and dealing with disciplinary actions.

Kocsis also gave the interviewers an explanation of what the OMAG is. OMAG stands for Objects Movement Advancement Gauntlet, and will be held for the first time on Friday after the College and Career fair on the parade field. Participants must cross the parade field while following specific instructions, and the team with the lowest time will win.

*Article by: Matt Furey, Aiden Russell, and Owen Baker*



*Matthew Furey (left) and Owen Baker (right) asking Randall Kocsis (middle) questions (Photo by: Jakob Elliot)*

# Newspaper Staff Spotlight:

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*(Evil) Aedan O'Quinn-  
Editor*



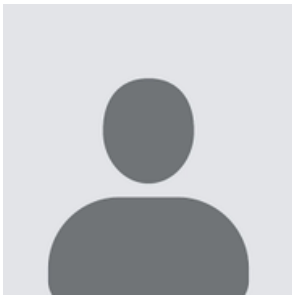
*Eli "D.B. Cooper" Ramsey- Staff  
Reporter*



*Owen Baker- Staff Reporter*



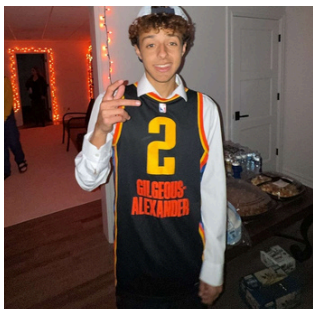
*Matt Furey- Sportswriter/Reporter*



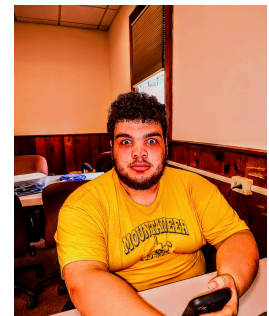
*Jakob Elliot- Photographer*



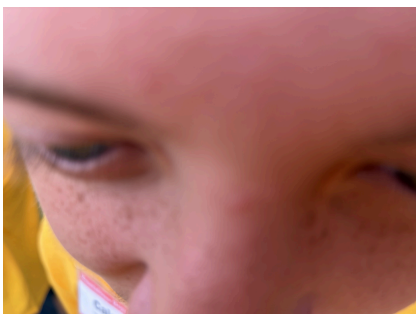
*(Good) Aidan Russell -Staff  
Reporter*



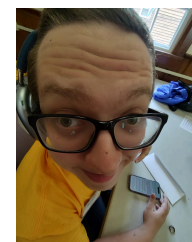
*Jonah Coakley -Graphic Designer*



*(Angel) Joshua Green - Graphic  
Designer*



*Caleb Shamblin- Sportswriter*



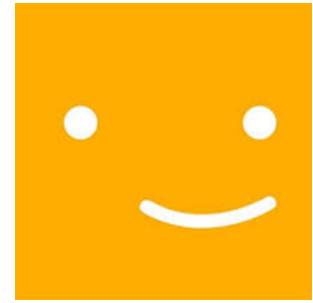
*Brooks Broomfield- Layout Editor*

# Broadcast Staff Spotlight

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*Tyler Joyce -Anchor*



*Jonathan Folmsbee -Videographer*



*Trey Thompson -Reporter*



*Trey "Trey Beckwith" Beckwith- Sports*



*(Soggy) Aiden Shipley- Weather*

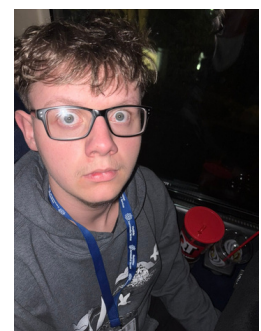


*Dane Dalesio- Video Editor*

## Public Media

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Plishka Corner:

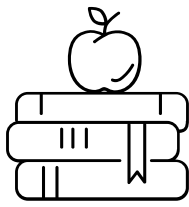
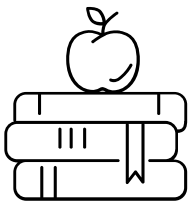


*Joel Plishka- Asisstant Editor*

*Levi Rine- Media Specialist*

*Issac Stephans- Media Specialist*

*Justin Chen- Media Specialist*



# **Teacher Salary Improvement Act**

EB#1

The purpose of the bill is to set the minimum teacher salary in West Virginia to \$50,000 per year. This will help retain current teaching jobs and bring in new teachers. This is meant to combat the Blueprint for Maryland's Future Act, which raises the minimum teacher salary to \$60,000 per year. This will decrease the amount of teachers leaving West Virginia to teach in Maryland, helping the crisis of there being not enough teachers in West Virginia.

This bill will be accomplished initially by allocating surplus state funds to the salaries will be gradually increased annually and retained by allocating 5% lottery funds.

# Opinion

ALMBS Day Six: Past to Present

Article by: Aedan O'Quinn

I'd like to take a moment to recognize the ones who got me here. I'd like to give credit first to my parents, who have raised me to become who I am today. I'd like to give credit to Landon Lester and Landon Palmer along with PikeView High School, all of whom pushed me towards attending Boys State. I'd like to thank the Boys State counselors and administration, who have motivated me to keep going even though I am tired (I am the lion). Finally, I'd like to thank the members of my hometown, who reassured me on my (somewhat overly) ambitious ideas.

All of these people made me who I am today. In some sense, the people around you have helped to form you as well. If you haven't thanked the people around you, then you should consider doing so. Those who support you are willingly giving you their time because they think that you're worth it, and I think that they deserve a thank-you for their efforts.

## Counselor Spotlight



Al Hall smiles (Photo by: Aidan Russell)

For Counselor Spotlight on June 13, the American Legion Mountaineers Boys State The Mountaineer has interviewed ALMBS staff member Al Hall.

Hall is the ALMBS State Government Coordinator, Elective Process Advisor, Assistant to the Administrator, Assistant Band Director, Assistant Choir Director, Talent Show Coordinator, and Officer of the Day.

Hall has been in the ALMBS program since 2013, where he was a citizen, and has been back to volunteer every year since.

Outside of ALMBS, Hall works as a rocket scientist. He works to find new ways to manufacture and design rockets.

## Photo Corner



# 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.

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