



## Special honorees say 'Be A Leader'

By Erin Duffy, Kanawha Federalist, & Dang Ren, Calhoun Federalist

Mayor Mara Campbell-Boggs and her selfsame sister, Lieutenant Lee Ann Campbell-Haley, made a special trip to RGS this Tuesday.

Campbell-Boggs, the elder of the two, now resides in Senator Mansions court of staff.

The theme of RGS 2016 is "Rise Up! Be Your Best You," and each sister portrays different aspects of this phrase.

Lieutenant Campbell-Haley is the physical embodiment of a sentiment integral to the spirit of Rhododendron Girls State: challenging yourself to confront your fears.

The Lieutenant was a member of the esteemed 82nd Airborne, where she, along with her sister, Major Campbell-Boggs, was a paratrooper.

Despite participating in hundreds of jumps, Lieutenant Campbell-Haley is "terrified" of heights.

However, this hero refused to let her natural aversion to heights stop her from challenging herself to participate fully in the aviation program whilst she was stationed at Fort Bragg in North Carolina.

Her sister, Campbell-Boggs is another example of the values being taught at RGS.

All we need is that one person that believes in us," the Major proclaimed.

And as Campbell-Boggs iterated her endeavors in service, there was no hesitation in her accreditation of

### SPECIAL HONOREES

- Lee Ann Campbell-Haley and Mara Campbell-Boggs.



the one man who believed in her, Colonel Mike Weir, who selected Campbell-Boggs to command the engineers despite her gender and despite the more prolific sexism at the time.

Weir refused to allow Campbell's gender to detract from her immense ability to lead.

And lead she did, fulfilling her earlier sentiment that "these 200 people will come home alive," referring to those under her command in Iraq.

Both women expressed a strong connection to our proud state, discussing their lasting kinship with the mighty Appalachian Mountains.

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PRIMARY

ELECTION

RESULTS

**Governor:** Ava Asbury

**Secretary of State:** Andrea Idler

**Auditor:** Hannah Cummings

**Treasurer:** Hannah Dieffenbaugher

**Commissioner of Agriculture:**  
Cassandra Stout

**Attorney General:** Devony Workman

**Justice of the Supreme Court:** Rachael Flanagan, Chief; Taylor Miller; Sadie Hackworth; Lauren Hopper; Brooke Ashby

**Governor:** Mariah Daffron

**Secretary of State:** Erin Ramsey

**Auditor:** Sonja Harris

**Treasurer:** Sarah Victory

**Commissioner of Agriculture:**  
Elizabeth Kocsis

**Attorney General:** Caroline Ferrell

**Justice of the Supreme Court:** Erin Guy, Chief; Tori Swihart, Hannah Eshelman, Sophia Shumway, Taylor Graham



FEDERALIST

NATIONALIST



*'Be confident in the leader you are'*

## *Tharp offers unique way to identify leadership*

By Brianne Covington, Kanawha Federalist



**Adrienne Greene Tharp**

What makes a good leader? Is it someone with an abundance of confidence and experience? Is it someone who can take charge and shepherd large groups of people?

The citizens of Rhododendron Girls State 2016 answered that question while attending Mrs. Adrienne Tharp's leadership class.

Mrs. Tharp guided those citizens into a contemplative state of mind and encouraged them to think deeply about what a leader truly is.

She provided general definitions, which aided in inspiring the citizens to think of their own definitions and compare those definitions to the definitions of others.

She shared an inspiring tea talk, which pushed for a new way of thinking when considering what a leader is,

a way of thinking, which allows for everyone to be a leader, no matter how simple.

Mrs. Tharp is a former Girls State citizen who continued to give back to the American Legion Auxiliary by participating as a junior and senior counselor.

She is the coordinator of the Bonner Scholarship Program; she works closely with students seeking secondary education and works with these students to help them recognize the strengths and weaknesses, which will make them great leaders.

Her message to the 2016 Girls State citizens is to understand a leader comes in different shapes and sizes and to be confident in the leader you are.



Irene Weber presented "The Poppy Story" to RGS citizens Tuesday. "The Poppy Story" was written by Laura B. Mercer, during Girls State in 1982. The story revolves around the red poppies growing on Flander's Field, the only touch of life and beauty amid the rubble of war.

## *College Prep is Here to Help*

By Allison Patrick, Randolph Nationalist

College preparation is key to future success.

RGS Girls State citizens are now more prepared for college after taking the college preparation class with the Wheeling Jesuit Admissions Counselor on either Monday or Tuesday morning.

The Acker Science Center hosted the college preparation class in order to learn about the application and college search process.

Applications, ACTs/SATs, financial aid, essays and more were taught during the hour-long class.

Citizens learned when to

apply: as early as possible; and they learned what to look for when visiting colleges: size, location, religion, cost, clubs and academics.

The class helped all citizens learn their potential to go to any college they can dream of.

Two great things to remember: ask questions and apply early.

College is something to look forward to, not to stress about.

College preparation was able to calm some nerves as all citizens prepare for the college experience!

# Girls State Chorus gears up for Inauguration

By Morgan Widmer, Lewis Federalist, Olivia Archer, Braxton Nationalist, & Emily King, Lewis Nationalist

Girls State Chorus is one of four electives offered the week of Rhododendron Girls State.

During this elective, director Jenn Simpson is preparing them to sing at the Inauguration Thursday, June 16.

She has chosen the songs "You Raise Me Up" and "My Home Among the Hills" for the girls to perform.

When interviewed, Simpson provided that McKenna Bowlin was chosen as the student director of the chorus.

Chorus member Eden Toothman

related she was excited to sing at the Inauguration.

"We sounded pretty good for just meeting for the first time together today," she said.

She and the other 30-40 members have one more practice before they sing at Thursday's Inauguration.

**Jenn Simpson directs Rhododendron Girls State Chorus in preparation for Thursday's Inauguration.**



## Board of Education

**Braxton:** Emilee Bradly, Rachel Dingess, Olivia Archer, Sierra Kendrick, Brook Stewart

**Calhoun:** Emily Murphy, Nicole Gordon, Victoria McKnight, Matalyn Hayes, Dang Ren

**Kanawha:** Camryn Andrick, Taylor Barnes, Haleigh Eldridge, Alexis Webb, Allison Click

**Lewis:** Catherine Campbell, Rachel Moore, Bailey Topping, Shaina Wood, Victoria Potts

**Marion:** Madelyn Mitchell, Autumn Fiest, Sarah Akers, Haley Brown, Sydney Jefferys

**Monongalia:** Taylor Gordon, Kristen Massey, Reina Edwrds, Lucretia Shumate, Tayler Huffman

**Monroe:** Darian Darway, Gia Watt, Kaycee Kiser, Kimberly Fagga, Sydney Roseland

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## Public Speaking is Essential Skill

By Tori Swihart, Braxton Nationalist

Public speaking is an essential skill to have in modern society.

From small presentations within your English class to campaign speeches in front of thousands, the ability to communicate effectively and efficiency is necessary for future success.

For the 2016 session of Girls State, former citizen, counselor and current Admissions Specialist for Waynesburg University, Adrienne Greene Tharpe returned to the pro-

gram to instruct in Leadership and Public Speaking classes.

"I think that public speaking is a really valuable skill.

"You're using it not only this week when you run for different positions and offices, but as you continue through high school and college.

"Even in my career I do a lot of presenting and group talks, so it's something you'll be using, no matter where you are in life," Tharpe said.

## Read the Rhododendron Daily online

Read the Rhododendron Daily online at:

[www.wvgirlsstate.org](http://www.wvgirlsstate.org)

Keep in touch with your friends and the program on:

Twitter: [t.wvgirlsstate.org](https://twitter.com/t.wvgirlsstate.org)

Facebook: [f.wvgirlsstate.org](https://facebook.com/f.wvgirlsstate.org)



# *State Troopers educate RGS on public safety*

*By Mary Winans, Monongalia Federalist, & Hannah Dennis, Randolph Federalist*

Watch Out! The two state troopers who have been assigned to Rhododendron Girls State are State Troopers English and Thompson.

English and Thompson provided citizens with a Public Safety class.

"It is important to inform the public of the dangers outside," said English.

Trooper Thompson informed the citizens of common dangerous events.

"We taught about Internet safety and campus safety," said Thompson.

Public safety is vital to all citizens.

"We need to protect our citizens and those who can't protect themselves," said English.



**State Troopers Thompson and English**

# *JC's give lecture on State Government*

*By Georgia Beatty, Marion Nationalist*

In the NTTC Auditorium Tuesday morning, Girls State citizens were greeted with bright pink polo's instead of the refined senator they expected.

Junior counselors Whitney Ramey and Gabby Flannigan explained the mechanics and structure of the state government, as Senator Jack Yost was unable to attend; he is currently preoccupied with the budget crisis in Charleston.

In the class, citizens learned exactly how a bill transforms into a law between the house and the senate, how long each politician remains in office, and how different politicians do their jobs efficiently.

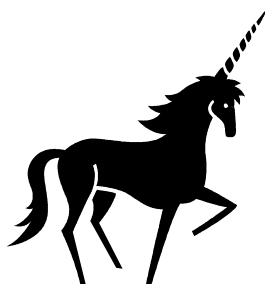
Equally valuable to the citizens were Ramey and Flannigan's personal experiences as interns in the capital.

"It was kind of crazy being around all these powerful people in a committee and you're just sitting in the corner furiously taking notes," Flannigan mused.

Information regarding political and journalistic scholarships and internships can be found on the Legislatures website, according to the two junior counselors.



**Whitney Ramey & Gabby Flannigan**



# *Education*

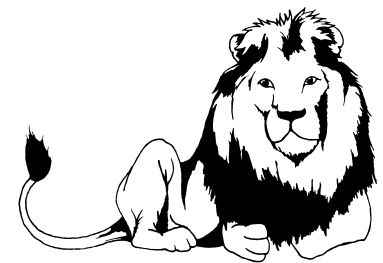
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**Northern Panhandle:** Rhiannon Macon, Tressa Varner, Ashton Rexroad, Omotayo Oluwafemi, Anna Sweilam

**Randolph:** Julianna Everly, Korri Evans

**Upshur:** Keely Shafer, Palton Stutler, Jordan Haley, Madison Wagner

**Webster:** Bayleigh Burge, Caitlin McCurdy, Despena O'Neill, Mykenna Buckhannon



**THANK YOU - Steve Wright, West Virginia State Detachment Commander of the Sons of the American Legion, presented Rhododendron Girls State with a donation from the Legion Riders Chapter 28 Tuesday evening, June 14.**

## City Government with Allison Skiba

By Sydney Roseland, *Monroe Nationalist*

Featured on Monday and Tuesday mornings, City Government was taught by Allison Skiba, a Marketing and Community Relations specialist for the City of Wheeling.

To start off our class, she introduced herself, explained her profession and enlightened us as to her college education and experience.

After a few family anecdotes, she intrigued her audience with some facts about important or semi-silly city history.

After many intelligently worded explanations on the main topics covered in her PowerPoint presentation, which she handed out in print for our convenience.

She showed a video to demonstrate the purpose of her occupation.

The video was incredibly interesting and creatively shot, demonstrating both the historical and the more modern professionalism of Wheeling.

As we began to run out of time, she picked up speed and began to encourage the class and entirety of Girls State to promote the general



Allison Skiba

welfare and raise the voice of youth in our society, not only in both our communities and local governments, but in all we do.

She left us with a few choices words, "Local government gives people of all ages the ability to form and utilize their voice."

## Don't forget to order photos

**PLEASE NOTE: THE WEB ADDRESS LISTED IN THE TUESDAY ISSUE OF THE RHODODENDRON DAILY WAS INCORRECT. PLEASE USE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO ORDER PHOTOS:**

Girls State citizens have the opportunity to order photos from throughout their week at RGS.

From community or party pictures, to parade or Inauguration photos, a variety of shots are available for purchase at:

[www.3miphotography.com](http://www.3miphotography.com)

Click online ordering, find Rhododendron Girls State. Each day will have its own gallery. Click shopping cart to order. Girls State staff and citizens will receive a 10 percent discount through June 30, 2016.

Prices for group photos including Party, Community and Inauguration are: 4x6 = \$5.00; 5x7 = \$10.00; 8x10 = \$20.00; 11x14 = \$38.00; 12x18 = \$45.00; 16x20 = \$55.00; key chain = \$10.00; digital download = \$20.00



## 'Work together!' says Brenda Miller

By Samaria Oiler, *Upsbur Nationalist*

"Work Together." Young ladies of RGS gathered in the CTE recital hall on Tuesday, June 14<sup>th</sup>.

Circuit clerk Brenda Miller explained women must educate themselves, become qualified in careers and love what they do.

Miller has been Ohio County's circuit clerk for 17 years.

She was the only women among five men in office at first.

Miller worked in college in the records area and participated in management and marketing classes.

She demonstrated how to introduce oneself when running a campaign.

"You have 30 seconds to make a good impression, if somebody's going to vote for you," she said.

Miller offered every candidate an opportunity to introduce themselves.

"Tell voters what you will do for them.

Once you're in office it's not about you anymore," she explained.

If voters elect a woman, she has to let them know she appreciates them.

Above all Miller concluded, "you must be able to work together."

Circuit Clerk  
Brenda Miller



## Leader

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Major Campbell-Boggs went on to remind the young women in attendance of the important role their home state heritage has on their growth, saying "these mountains make you strong."

The sisters originally hail from Keyser WV. Campbell-Haley currently resides in Morgantown.

As RGS citizens finish their week a, they should remember Campbell-Haley's words, "Be a leader in whatever you do."

## The Poppy Story, by Laura B. Mercer, Girls State 1982

For more than 70 years, red poppies have been worn proudly by Americans to commemorate Memorial Day. I would like to tell you the significance of this flower.

From 1914 to 1918, the Battlefields of Europe were trampled by the boots of millions of fighting men. From 1917 to 1918, American troops were part of the Allied Forces, which fought to bring peace to Europe. In Flanders, the only touch of life and beauty they often saw was the wild poppies that bloomed amid the rubble of war. Along the trenches, around the shell craters, and among the barbed wire and wreckage, the little poppies grew and bloomed. The tiny blossoms also covered the graves of American fighting men who had fallen on the battlefield; they soon became a symbol of sacrifice to the living and dead.

Mrs. Mercers, two brothers were World War I casualties, one was killed in France and the other one was lost at sea on the USS Cyclops and was never heard of. Blake Brothers, American Legion Post 46, at Benwood, WV, was named for them.

The Poppy, as the memorial flower for American war dead, is a tradition, which began in the years following the First World War. Veterans returning to their homes in this country remembered the wild poppies, which lined the devastated battlefields of France and Flanders and the soldiers of all nations came to look upon the flower as a living symbol of their dead comrade's sacrifices.

We, in this country, wear the Poppy to signify the feeling of reverence in our hearts for the servicemen and women who died for America during World War I, World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War, Grenada/Lebanon War, Panama Conflict Persian Gulf War, Iraq War, Afghanistan War. The Poppy is their flower. However, in addition to serving as a memorial to the war dead, the Poppy helps lighten the burden carried by veterans who returned disabled in mind and body. Making Poppies gives employment to those who otherwise would not be able to earn support for themselves and their families. What form of aid could be more effective than helping veterans aid themselves with productive work?

The Veterans are paid for the work they do regardless of any government compensation and the job itself is a relief from long hours spent in a hospital ward with nothing to do. This occupational therapy breaks the monotonous routine of the hospital and gives them a new lease on life. As each Poppy leaves the hands of a disabled person, it contributes monetary assistance for necessities and comforts not supplied by the hospitals and a small amount of savings for the veteran towards the day he can leave the hospital, as well as financial assistance for his dependents. Veterans invariably ask the American Legion Auxiliary for permission to make more and more Poppies, not only for the money, but because the program offers them the opportunities to do something productive.

In our Department of West Virginia, all supplies for making Poppies are furnished by the American Legion Auxiliary and each poppy is made by Veterans, for which they are paid .05 cents for each Poppy made. The entire proceeds from the sale of the poppies are used solely for relief and welfare of Veterans within the local communities, thus aiding those Veterans at home who are in need. Veterans who rely upon Poppy-making for earning money to support their families are to be found in virtually every State in the Nation. Nationally, about 30,000 families are helped by the sale of Poppies each year.

A Canadian officer, Col. John McCree, who was killed during World War I, immortalized the Poppy by his famous poem, "Flanders Field," which I quote:



"In Flanders Field the Poppies blow  
Between the crosses row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders Fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though Poppies grow  
In Flanders Fields."



America's Answer, written by R.W. Lillard:



Rest ye in peace, ye Flanders' dead  
The fight that you so bravely led  
We've taken up. And we will keep  
True faith with you who lie asleep  
With each a cross to mark his bed,  
And Poppies blowing overhead,  
When once his own life-blood ran red,  
So let your rest be sweet and deep  
In Flanders Fields.

Fear not that ye have died for naught;  
The Torch ye threw to us we caught,  
Ten millions hands will hold it high,  
And Freedom's light shall never die!  
We've learned the lesson that ye taught  
In Flanders Fields."



The American Legion Auxiliary has taken up the torch. When you see a Veteran-made Poppy and are asked to wear one, remember the many, many Veterans who gave their lives for this country and the Veterans in the hospitals who are making this memorial flower. Each Poppy tells its own story, as no two are fashioned alike. Each wearer of the Poppy tells a story of memorial tribute and aid to someone who needs that helping hand of understanding. A simple flower, 'tis true, But more, A symbol of that sacrifice, which made and kept us free, and so, lest memory dim with time, we wear, a Poppy for remembrance! Some day, in the future, you may be asked to help with this program. I hope you will do it proudly in remembrance of the Veterans who gave their all so you and I can enjoy a free life and continue to participate in this Girls State program, made possible by the American Legion Auxiliary.