

# The Bridge



New River Bridge: Fayette County

Volume 4, Issue 7

April , 2013



## ***Important Dates***

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| <b>April 8</b>   | Board of Education Meets<br>at BOE Office; 6:00 p.m. |
| <b>April 8</b>   | Amended to Become<br>an Instructional Day            |
| <b>April 12</b>  | All-County Music Show<br>at PBHS Gym; 7:00 p.m.      |
| <b>April 22</b>  | ISE Day: No School<br>(tutoring available)           |
| <b>April 22</b>  | Board of Education Meets<br>at BOE Office; 6:00 p.m. |
| <b>May 11</b>    | GED Examinations<br>at CTEC; 8:00 a.m.               |
| <b>May 13</b>    | Board of Education Meets<br>at BOE Office; 6:00 p.m. |
| <b>May 16</b>    | Annual Student Art<br>Show at A-B College            |
| <b>May 13-17</b> | WESTEST 2 Testing for<br>Students in Grades 3-11     |
| <b>May 20-24</b> | WESTEST 2 Makeup<br>Testing Window                   |
| <b>May 24</b>    | Amended to Become<br>an Instructional Day            |
| <b>May 27</b>    | Memorial Day Holiday:<br>No School                   |
| <b>May 28</b>    | Board of Education Meets<br>at BOE Office; 6:00 p.m. |

Hi Folks,

Just a few odds and ends this time...

**First:** It appears that Spring is finally here -- guess the Easter Bunny was in hopping close communication with Mother Nature when he said there would be no more snow storms once the snow melted! Everyone now needs to get out and support our spring sport athletes!

**Second:** I want to congratulate Nick Mayle and Marcus Johnson, the members of BACSO, and community members for their support of the middle school coaches and our students who will benefit from their funding raising efforts.

**Next:** I hope everyone is watching all of the proposed and passed legislation coming out of Charleston. While I am all for reform in education, I am not sure all that is being presented is golden for the immediate future in small systems such as ours without a levy. Some of the changes I am reading and hearing about present themselves, at least at first glance, as costing counties more money. They appear to be shuffling financial obligations and responsibilities to the backs of school systems instead of addressing them at the core of the matter – in Charleston. I fear that the old expression of the “devil being in the detail” will more than likely hold true.

**Finally:** While we have yet to receive our final computations for the school aid formula, we are still working through the budget process for 2013-2014. Several hard decisions have been made and there will be more hard recommendations and decisions to come, but we are working through them. The support and understanding that people have shown continues to reinforce my straightforward approach with folks and my perspective of the glass being half full ..... as always “we have great people who are willing, no matter the challenge, to make the glass even fuller.”

Again, my personal “Thank You” to all our great people.

## Girls On The Run!



More than two dozen Barbour County elementary students are participating in the local chapter of an exciting program called “Mountain State Girls on the Run.” Girls in grades 3-5 at Belington and Junior Elementary Schools are invited to meet during fall and spring seasons on Mondays and Thursdays from 3:00 to 4:15 p.m. to participate in a life-changing character development program. Using the power of running, the girls are provided tools to celebrate their bodies, honor their voices, recognize their gifts and activate their personal power, according to the organization’s mission statement.

Serving Randolph, Barbour, Tucker and Pocahontas counties, the group uses exercise, positive reinforcement, and encouraging role models to help girls discover the confidence they need in those critical pre-teen years and beyond. Through interactive activities such as running, playing games and discussing important issues, participants learn how to celebrate being their unique and real selves. For more information, contact the Mountain State GOTR president, Katie Wolpert, at 304-642-5787 or at [terry@mountainstategotr.org](mailto:terry@mountainstategotr.org)

## Golden Horseshoe Winners Honored



Students from Belington Middle School swept all three county slots as 2013 West Virginia “knights” and “ladies” of the Golden Horseshoe Society. Liam Sanders, Jacob Carr and Lindsay Blake posted the top scores in the county during the recently administered Golden Horseshoe Test. Their social studies teacher is Sarah Harris. The three will be inducted in ceremonies at the state capitol on Friday, May 3. The Mountain State program, initiated in 1931, is the longest running of its kind of any state in the nation.

## Kasson Career Day a Success



Oliver Luck, former star quarterback and current athletic director at WVU, was one of several speakers to address Kasson’s eighth grade careers class recently. Eighth graders were joined by fourth through seventh grade classes as Oliver Luck encouraged students to focus on academics as well as being involved in many different types of athletics.

Luck informed the students that those who compete in sports typically perform better academically than others. He went on to describe a number of different potential scholarships offered at WVU for different types of athletics.

Other guest speakers who participated in the semester program included: Martin Durst, an army engineer and author of several books including *Templar: Age of the Dark Prince*; Pastor Mike MacAdam, pastor at Living Water Church in Philippi; Dr. Meagan Chianumba, a recent graduate of the WV School of Osteopathic Medicine; Marilyn Milem, an ER nurse at Broaddus Hospital; and Thomas and Susan Mitter, both of whom are deputy sheriffs in Preston County and were accompanied by their K-9 officer partner, Bleck.

# All-County



Philip Barbour High School Gymnasium

Friday, April 12th at 7:00 p.m.

# Music Program



## Do Your Best on the Test! Tips and Techniques

When students ask why it is so important to give a good effort on the WESTEST II (or any other standardized instrument), here are some reasons and/or discussion starters...

- *It is generally good practice to always give your best effort on anything you do. It becomes ingrained and a part of your character, and others will notice.*
- *While it is true that the WESTEST results will not affect your classroom grades, report card or promotion status, these scores become part of your official school records and, as such, will be available to future schools and employers.*
- *In addition to the importance of your individual scores, the overall grade level and school scores will be used to compare our school with other schools around the county, state and nation. We want to show how sharp our students are! The results will also be used by the school staff to improve the curriculum as it analyzes strengths and weaknesses.*

**Note:** The teacher's attitude toward the testing process is critical because students are by nature intuitive. Also, be aware of the fine line between preparation and over-preparation. There exists a point of diminishing returns where students may become overwhelmed by the whole process and begin tuning out.

### Before the Test:

- *Get a full night of rest before each of the testing dates so that you are fresh and alert the following mornings. Test sessions are usually limited to the morning hours to avoid fatigue and burnout.*
- *Eat a good breakfast either at school or at home to provide fuel for the day's activities.*
- *Dress comfortably so that you are not distracted by clothing too warm, not warm enough, too tight, etc.*
- *When feeling nervous before the test, close your eyes and take several slow, deep breaths; spend a few moments completely relaxing your mind as necessary.*
- *Do not try to study for the WESTEST. Think of it as a non-threatening opportunity to show what you've learned over the past several years.*

### General Test-Taking Tips:

- *As the test begins, quickly scan all questions in the section. This will help you see what the test covers and how many questions you will need to answer.*

- *The WESTEST is untimed. Don't agonize over any one question. Work at a comfortable pace, marking any items that you need to return to, and use available time at the end of each section to review your answers.*

- *Answer all questions. All multiple-choice items are weighted equally. You are not penalized for incorrect responses. Your score will be determined by the number of answers that are correct. Do not leave any answers blank.*

- *All tests have some hard questions. Don't skip them. It's much better to take a good guess. Use the process of elimination to reduce the number of choices and then make your best guess.*

- *Read all directions through twice. Never begin to answer questions before reading all directions.*

- *Mark the multiple-choice answers by filling in the circle completely with a dark pencil mark. If a mistake is made, erase it thoroughly and then fill in the new answer circle.*

- *Stop at the STOP sign or the end of the test section or when time is up. If time remains, use it to go back and work on any questions that were skipped or marked for review. Make sure that an answer has been bubbled for every item. You may then begin a quiet activity at your desk (e.g. reading a book, working a puzzle, etc.) until the rest of the class is finished.*

- *Look for key words that tell what kind of computation is needed in mathematics sections; for example, less than, greatest, between, nearest, least and so on.*

- *Use the provided scratch paper for mathematics calculations or notations.*

- *Try out all answer choices until finding one that is correct. Sometimes the correct answer is not given. Then follow the directions for marking the none of the above choice. Similarly, sometimes the first three answers are all correct. Then mark all of the above as your choice.*

- *Watch carefully for negative words in directions, such as NOT or OPPOSITE. These words tell exactly which answer to look for. Such key words often appear in bold or italic type or all capital letters.*



## Springtime for Student Artists

**Annual Student Art Show:** The 2013 Barbour County Student Art Show will be held on the campus of Alderson-Broaddus College from May 14-16



at the Daywood Gallery on the first floor of Burbick Hall. The traditional celebration of art in our schools and the awards ceremonies will be held at nearby

Wilcox Chapel beginning at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 16. Light refreshments and viewings of the student art displays will be available at the gallery from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. and following the program.

**Philippi Art Stroll:** Young county artists will also have a chance to put their work on display during the Spring Art Stroll in downtown Philippi on the evening of Tuesday, April 30. Student art will be included among the pieces exhibited by area professional and amateur artists. The stroll will be open to the public from 5:00 to 8:00 a.m. in locations such as Code Blue and the city library.

## Need a Certificate Renewal?

As the school year draws to a close, many educators across the state are preparing to renew their teaching certificates. The West Virginia Department of Education is providing information on how to renew using the Summer 2013 e-Learning program. This initiative provides West Virginia educators with quality professional development opportunities designed to address content knowledge and the skills required to improve student performance. The e-Learning for Educators initiative will help bridge the barriers of time, distance, and inequities for all West Virginia teachers by providing access to web-based professional development opportunities. Account applications must be made by April 22 and registration completed by April 21. For more information and a listing of course offerings, visit <http://wvlearns.k12.wv.us/>.

## Mission Accomplished!



What some friends had termed “a crazy idea” became a reality last weekend when Barbour County coaches, Nick Mayle and Marcus Johnson completed a remarkable six-day hike from the courthouse square in Philippi to the National Football League Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio. By dedicating their spring breaks to the cause and enduring physical and logistical challenges during the trek, the duo has helped the county’s All-Sports Organization raise nearly \$35,000 so far to help defray the costs of middle school coaching salaries and other extracurricular needs.

The two coaches and a group of supporters is shown above as they take the last few steps of the 172-mile journey through Stadium Park in Canton during the early afternoon of Saturday, April 6. A large sendoff on April 1 included participation by WVU athletic director, Oliver Luck, and the Mountaineer mascot. A support vehicle and various volunteers joined the educators along the route. The All-Sports Organization hopes to raise a total of at least \$50,000 for the benefit of school programs and students in Barbour County.

