



New Moatsville Bridge

The Bridge

Volume 3, Issue 8

May, 2012



Important Dates

May 14-18	WESTEST 2 Window for Barbour County
May 17	County Art Show Awards Wilcox Chapel: 7:00 p.m.
May 19	GED Examinations: CTE Center; 8:00 a.m.
May 21	Bd. Of Education Meets: 6:00 p.m. at BOE Office
May 25	Out of School Environment Day: No School
May 28	Memorial Day Holiday No School
June 1	Last Day of School for Students
June 2	PBHS Commencement Fairgrounds; 2:00 p.m.
June 4	ISE Day: No School Tutoring Is Available
June 5	Preparation Day for Closing of School
June 6	Out of School Environment Day: No School
June 11	Bd. Of Education Meets: 6:00 p.m. at BOE Office
June 16	GED Examinations: CTE Center; 8:00 a.m.
June 25	Bd. Of Education Meets: 6:00 p.m. at CTE Center
June 30	GED Examinations: CTE Center; 8:00 a.m.

Hi Folks,

The END is in sight.

This month there are just a few things I want to bring to everyone: 1) We did receive our School Building Authority grant for 1.4 million dollars. The grant will allow us to address the number 1 priority in the CEFPP: renovations to the Career Technical Center. 2) I have had the opportunity to attend several awards ceremonies and concerts during April and into this month. There are still several great chances to see our kids at their best and I hope you will be able to take advantage of some of those opportunities.

I think it goes without saying, but our kids are second to none in all that they do and the talents they possess. They are truly a credit to our community family. Along with their current teachers and staff members, I am sure several of our retired teachers and service personnel have contributed greatly to their successes. Everyone is to be congratulated.

And finally: 3) The community forums have been received well. The folks attending are passionate about their children, their schools and their communities, which I truly appreciate. We still have forums to go at BMS on May 29th for the BES and BMS communities, at PMS on June 5th for the PES and PMS communities, and at PBHSC on June 7th for our last community meeting. All of them will start at 6:30 p.m. I encourage you to please take time to attend any of the remaining forums.

Maybe the rain will hold off and let me stay ahead of the lawn. Take care and enjoy the sunshine. As always, if you are in the neighborhood, please take time to say hello.



Respectfully,

Superintendent

WV School Building Authority Awards Barbour County \$ 1.4 Million Towards Career-Technical Center Improvement Projects



Barbour County Schools has been awarded more than \$ 1.4 million dollars by the West Virginia School Building Authority (SBA) towards six projects designed to modernize and improve the learning environment and climate at the Career-Technical Education Center on the campus of Philip Barbour High School. The announcement was made at the April 23 meeting of the SBA. The Needs Project was one of twelve approved at the session and marks the third major needs grant secured by Barbour County Schools in the past five years (Kasson School in 2008 and Junior Elementary in 2010).

The basic component areas for the CTEC facility project include funding for: replacement and

renovation of the heating/ventilation/air conditioning system; fire safety improvements (sprinkler system, fire panel separator for Food Service, fire alarm system upgrade, emergency lighting upgrade), creation of collaborative education space for the campus's New Tech School initiative, wireless connectivity technology, smart board and projection technology, and ceiling replacement.

The shared project total will be \$ 1,614,752, with SBA funding established at \$ 1,402,305 (87%) and local funding provided by Barbour County Schools at \$ 212,447 (13%). Planning is underway and it is anticipated that the work will be completed during the summer break of 2013.

A Four-Generation GED Tradition

With the 2012 Barbour County GED Graduation slated for June 25, a recent tradition is set to continue. Four generations of the Armentrout family will once again take the lead in preparing the post-ceremony reception at the CTE Center.

For the past decade, the board of education has honored the GED graduates at the end of each school year. One of the program highlights is the reception which features cake, punch, sandwiches and assorted snacks. The Armentrouts and some special friends have volunteered to coordinate the event as their form of congratulations to the honorees.

Shown above during the 2011 event are, from left: Debbie O'Brien, a 1993 graduate; Eva Grace McDonald and Imogene



Armentrout (both 85 years of age); retired teacher, Connie Armentrout; BMS student, Cadie McNaboe; PB teacher, Allyson McNaboe; ABE instructor, John Armentrout; and 2011 graduate, Penny Adair. The family is already making plans for the 2012 program.

2012 Philip Barbour H. S. Commencement Set For Fairgrounds on June 2nd

Some 141 members of the Class of 2012 from Philip Barbour High School will cross the stage and be awarded their diplomas in ceremonies at the Barbour County Fairgrounds on Saturday, June 2. The 48th graduating class will be given voice by two student representatives, J.W. Hawkins and Kelsey Jo Bartlett, during the commencement exercises, which will begin at 2:00 p.m. All school personnel are cordially invited to attend the event, as well as the Baccalaureate Service, which will be held at 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 31, at Wilcox Chapel on the campus of Alderson-Broaddus College.



County Art Merit Award Winners to Be Named on May 17th at A-B College

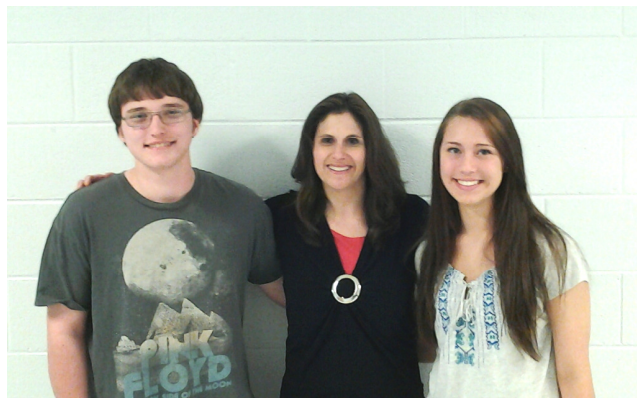
The 2012 Barbour County Art Show awards ceremony will be held on the evening of Thursday, May 17, at Alderson-Broaddus College, with all nine schools represented by student artists, parents, teachers and administrators. The annual celebration, along with the Spring All-County Concert and various drama productions, allows the school system to emphasize the importance of fine arts in the curriculum each year.



Student artwork will be on display at the college in the Daywood Gallery, located in Burbick Hall, from Tuesday through Thursday, May 15—17. The recognition program and awards ceremony is set for 7:00 p.m. on Thursday evening in

Wilcox Chapel. A reception for students, parents, school personnel and guests will be held at Burbick Hall immediately following the ceremony. Refreshments will be available to all.

Local Students to Participate in State Spanish Language Camp



Barbour County will be represented by two sophomore students during the inaugural WV Spanish Language Immersion Camp, which will be held at the Cedar Lakes Conference Center in Ripley. The two Philip Barbour High School students, shown above flanking their Spanish teacher, Theresa Kittle, are Jared Moats and Megan Abe.

The WV Department of Education is sponsoring the seven-day residential program that will take place from June 27-July 3, 2012. The camp is inspired by the nationally-known Concordia Languages Villages and will provide student participants an opportunity to immerse in the language, food, music, art, history, geography and customs of the Spanish-speaking world, while engaging in authentic hands-on studies. Participants will be challenged to communicate only in Spanish and to develop a deeper appreciation of the responsibilities associated with being a conscientious global citizen.

Megan Abe spoke for the pair when she said, "I am choosing to go to Spanish camp because it would be great to experience another culture other than my own and because it is recommended to be advanced with knowledge of other languages than English to be considered for certain jobs and opportunities in today's world."

— Odds 'N' Ends —

➤ **Musterin' Catch Up:** This summer, Philip Barbour High School will again be giving students a chance to "catch up" in subject areas where they've fallen behind. The technology-based credit recovery program, scheduled for June 7-29, will feature intensive daily sessions under the guidance of certified staff members. The self-directed Odyssey software program will be the foundation for the CSO-correlated curricula in the areas of language arts, mathematics, science and social studies.

➤ **When Opportunity Knocks:** As the school year winds down, employees are reminded that a number of staff development opportunities will be available during the summer. For example, a late-June "Using Technology to Deliver Curriculum and Webtop" all-day session is now open for supplemental pay or CE credit. Another expenses-paid two-day program involving a trip to Gettysburg for social studies staff is also available for CE credit and a stipend has been announced. Check the Staff Development tab on the Barbour County Schools website frequently to stay informed about the latest sessions available to county staff.

Tonya Ferguson Plans England Visit as Part of New Six-Week Research Training Session

Tonya Ferguson, a math/engineering teacher at Philip Barbour High School, has been selected to participate in a unique opportunity for high school Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Teachers. West Virginia University and The EdVenture Group have partnered through funding from the National Science Foundation to offer an International Research Experiences for Teachers Program.

The six week program includes a 10-day educational trip to England and many more learning opportunities for Tonya to use in her classroom. As one of only six teachers selected in the state, Tonya will receive a weekly stipend, a technology package valued at a minimum of \$200, along with her airfare and accommodations for the trip to England.

During her training, she will spend 10 days studying in England to develop a Project Based Learning unit, utilize MATLAB, and work directly with researchers at WVU. This will certainly be a valuable experience for Tonya and she says that she is honored and excited about this unique opportunity.

Mobile Agriculture Education Science Lab Visits County Schools

The West Virginia Farm Bureau's Mobile Ag. Ed. Sciences Lab (shown below) has brought excitement to three county schools in recent months.



Funded in part through community and agency partnerships, the rolling laboratory has made stops at Kasson School, and Belington and Philippi Elementary Schools. The lab showcases the top WV agricultural commodities, educating students on where their food comes from, how they are touched by agriculture every day, and why they should respect our natural resources. While fun and exciting for the children, the experience also helps schools meet 21st Century Content Standards & Objectives.