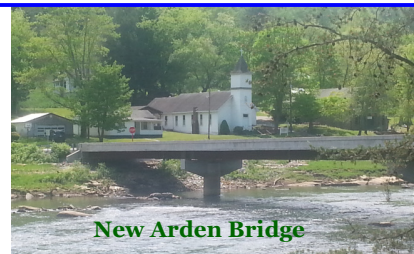


The Bridge



New Arden Bridge

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June, 2015

Hi Folks,

As you may know on November 26, 2014, I respectfully notified the Board of Education that effective end of work June 30, 2015, I would be retiring as Superintendent of Schools for Barbour County. It truly has been my honor, my privilege to serve the students and their parents, teachers, staff, the Barbour County community, and the Board for the past three years and now completing my fourth.

My thanks go to those Board members responsible for my coming to Barbour County four years ago, to past and current members. I trust the faith they had then and have had has been fulfilled many times over. I can honestly say with a true, open heart and conscience the system is in better condition than what I inherited and with the same conviction say it should be the goal of my successor to leave it in even better condition. The confidence placed in me with overtures to continue are greatly humbling and appreciated.

In over 40 years in education in one form or another I have viewed those years from the perspective that I never had to work a day of them. I have loved getting up every morning and facing whatever came through the door; in my own way of looking at things, it was fun, it was rewarding, every day was great while some days were greater than others, and now I am venturing on leaving the best job going. I have been fortunate to always have great people around me that made my job easy in those 40 plus years; for the past 4 of those years the folks here in the Central Office have exemplified that, they have been both my right and left hands, they have made me look good and my heartfelt thanks goes to every single one of them.

I know and have lived that it is a legal, ethical and moral calling to be a servant-leader in carrying out the responsibilities as your Superintendent. I have not shied from making decisions based on what I termed "informed decisions" in the best interest of our students and the system as a whole. We have great teachers, administrators and staff and their willingness to move forward in trying financial times locally and from Charleston only proves their dedication to working with young people. I thank them for that and for their support.

The Barbour County community has been a pleasure to be part of and serve, the folks here are deserving of, and wanting, an educational system that will meet the needs of all our students. I thank them for their support of our kids in the classroom and on the field in demonstrating what "community" is all about and I know they will step up to meet every opportunity to showcase our most valuable asset: our students.

Those students are why all of us are here. It has been my pleasure and at times my therapy to be among them, in their classrooms, in their hallways, and at their activities – I am their biggest fan. I always tell them they are my bosses, that I work for them, that to lead they first have to serve, and more importantly they have a voice and it is their right and obligation to use it responsibly. I cannot thank them enough for the manner in which they welcomed me, their openness with me and their acceptance of my servant-leadership.

(continued on page 2)

The Ultimate Milestone... County Retirees to Be Recognized

The Barbour County Board of Education will officially recognize a group of 11 professional and service personnel who, as of June 1, have retired from the school system since July 1 of 2014. These staff members will be honored with a special ceremony and refreshments at the beginning of the June 8th board meeting. This group represents 333 years of service to West Virginia and Barbour County children and, while congratula-

tions are in order, they will be greatly missed. Sincere gratitude and best wishes for a happy and healthy retirement are extended (alphabetically) to the following personnel:



- Elaine Benson (Board Office)
- Sharon Cross (Board Office)
- Willis Freeman (Bus Operator)
- Pamela Frey (Kasson School)
- Nancy Kelley (Belington Elem.)
- Kathleen Prusa (Philippi Mid.)
- H. Moke Post (Belington Mid.)
- Dr. F. Joseph Super (Board Office)
- Sandra Thorne (Junior Elem.)
- Phyllis Tucker (Philip Barbour)
- Nancy Ware (Belington Elem.)



Important Dates

June 2-16	Rescheduled: Instructional Days
June 5	Three-hour Early Student Dismissal
June 8	Board of Education Meets: BOE Office @ 6 p.m.
June 8	Recognition of 2014-15 County School Retirees; 6:00 BOE Office
June 10	TASC Equivalency Exams to be Administered at CTE Center
June 16	Final 9-Week & Semester Report Cards Distributed
June 16	Last Day for Students: 3-hr. Early Dismissal
June 17	Preparation Day for Closing of School
June 22	Board of Education Meets: BOE Office @ 6 p.m.
July 13	Board of Education Meets: BOE Office @ 6 p.m.
July 27	Board of Education Meets: BOE Office @ 6 p.m.

Letter from Dr. Super (continued)

Finally, I would be remiss in not accepting and acknowledging the love and support always given to me from my beloved parents, from my wonderful wife Debbie, from our devoted son Josh, and from God for not only his love, support and guidance, but also for the talents and blessings he has so freely bestowed on me.

Again, please accept my thanks to all of you in the Barbour County Community for allowing me to serve you as your Superintendent of Schools.

Come July 1st, I will fully realize just how much I will truly miss all of you!!

Respectfully,

Dr. F. Joseph "Joe" Super

Soon-to-be Retired Superintendent



Superintendent Woofter to Assume New Duties July 1st



Barbour County Schools will welcome its new Superintendent of Schools on Wednesday, July 1, as Jeffrey P. Woofter takes the reins of the local system after having served as principal at Hampshire High School. Mr. Woofter was appointed at the May 11 board of education meeting. He is shown above, right, receiving congratulations from Board President, Eric Ruf, after signing a three-year contract.

His journey to the superintendent's office has followed a diverse path, having been a businessman before serving eight years as sheriff of Hancock County. He then taught Criminal Justice courses at a career center before moving on to stints as assistant principal at Oak Glen High School for five years and then his two years as principal at Hampshire High School in Romney. In a recent interview, Mr. Woofter said that he is looking forward to the upcoming challenges and has pointed to improved academic proficiency among county students as a top goal during his tenure.

Mt. Vernon Students Harvest Bounty from Garden Project

Students at Mt. Vernon Elementary School have begun to harvest the benefits of a year-long gardening project. A grant secured through the local WVU Extension Office allowed the school to secure a new "high tunnel" greenhouse and an assortment of plant-growing materials and supplies. As the school year draws to a close, many of the vegetables are being gathered by students to supplement school snacks and the Kid Reach program. Other produce will be given away to those in need or sold as part of a min-business venture that will permit the project to become self-sustaining.



Last fall, after researching high tunnels, classes selected one model and calculated the square footage that would be required. Small teams of students then created two- and three-dimensional plans for the structure and its beds. Volunteers from the Extension Office helped them to implement the best ideas and determine plants to grow, along with when and how to space them. This spring, the students have worked daily weeding, watering, measuring plants, and learning about healthy foods. Over the past few weeks, they have picking, eating and selling their plants, appreciating the results of their labor. The school staff and parents have termed the project a "big success," and thanked the Extension Office for its help.

Children's Trust Fund Grant to Benefit Barbour Families

Barbour County Schools has been selected as one of five state grant recipients for the 2015 Strengthening Families program. The \$5000 award will help fund a local initiative designed to broaden, deepen and/or sustain community-level strategies to improve family well-being and healthy child development. The project will include a series of six programs during the upcoming summer and fall that will involve a different one of the five key protective factors identified in the "Strengthening Families Initiative and Protective Factors Framework." Each session will conclude with a secondary spotlight activity designed to promote early childhood literacy, along with parent-child engagement activities and snacks.

strengthening families
WEST VIRGINIA

The county's "Stable Families and Literate Little Ones" project is designed to help break the cycle of limited family expectations, student apathy and low success rates by primarily targeting and aiding new and young parents of pre-school aged children and younger to: a) primarily address and promote the five key protective factors; and b) secondarily, promote early childhood literacy. Barbour County's plan involves a focused, resource-based program of communication and discussion led by authorities in each of the key protective factor areas and in early childhood reading/literacy. Identified outcomes. The project coordinator is Teresa Childers, Title I Director and Elementary Ed. Coordinator.



PBHS Class of 2014 Makes Donation to Friends of George Byrer Field Project



During April, the Philip Barbour High School Class of 2014 made a generous gift of \$2382 to the Friends of George Byrer Field. The check was presented by class president, Celeste Kelly, and class sponsor, Jill Weese, pictured at left.

The FOGBF volunteers are currently focused on three areas of improvement at the outdoor sports and performance facility: the installation of a state-of-the-art artificial playing surface and track, the construction of modern facilities to include a large new field house, a concession stand and spacious public restrooms; and new lighting for the entire area. This phase will build upon the successful earlier step of the installation of new aluminum bleachers and a press box during 2012.

52nd Philip Barbour Commencement Held at Fairgrounds on May 31

The Philip Barbour High School Class of 2015 bid farewell to its alma mater on Saturday, May 23 as over 160 graduates received their diplomas during the 52nd Commencement Exercises. The event, held at the Barbour County Fairgrounds, attracted a large crowd of supporters and featured speeches by student leaders, and Jessica Sell of Senator Joe Manchin's staff. The ceremony was further highlighted by comments from school administrators, and retiring Superintendent Dr. Joe Super. Board President Eric Ruf presented the diplomas, and a vocal performance by Abby Suder followed. A tree was placed on stage in memory of classmate, James Bell. The class now disperses to the future to pursue its motto of "Live life full throttle."