



The New
Moatsville Bridge

The Bridge

Volume 4, Issue 1

September, 2012



Important Dates

- Sept. 3 Labor Day Holiday:
No School
- Sept. 7 Five-Year Planning
Committee Mtg. 8:30
- Sept. 10 Bd. Of Education Mtg.
@ BOE Office; 6 p.m.
- Sept. 12—14 Homecoming at Philip
Barbour High School
- Sept. 24 Bd. Of Education Mtg.
@ BOE Office; 6 p.m.
- Oct. 5 ISE Day: No School
(tutoring available)
- Oct. 6 GED Examinations:
CTEC at 8:00 a.m.
- Oct. 8 Bd. Of Education Mtg.
@ BOE Office; 6 p.m.
- Oct. 19 Last Day of 1st Nine-
Weeks Grading Pd.
- Oct. 22 Bd. Of Education Mtg.
@ BOE Office; 6 p.m.
- Oct. 26 Report Cards Are
Distributed



Hi Folks,

It's hard to believe but a year has passed; another summer is over, our school house doors are open again, and we are in full swing.

I want to personally say **"Thank You"** to everyone in the Barbour County Community for last year. You welcomed me, allowed me to provide and accepted my leadership in moving Barbour County Schools forward. My job was made so much easier due to the support of the excellent people around me from the BOE, the central office, the teachers, the service personnel, the students and the community. And I am fortunate in knowing that this support will continue as we all move in the right direction for the good of our kids and our school system.

Last year was truly notable: We received an Innovation Zone Drop-Out Prevention Grant for \$300,000., several mini grants, an S3 grant, and an SBA \$1.6 million dollar grant for the CTE Center. Our men's and women's cross county teams won state championships, several students received state recognition academically and athletically, our high school band continued to be the model for the state, and we tripled the number of schools making AYP on the WESTEST in 2012.

Yes, we still have much to accomplish, but we need to celebrate the successes of our students, teachers, service personnel, and administrators, as well as the support we all have received from the community. I told folks last year upon arriving that we would continue to go through some transitions, and we are still doing that, but it will all be for the good of the primary purpose for which everyone is here: **For the Good of Our Students**. Again, I truly believe that we have the key components in place to become **THE** educational leader in West Virginia. We truly are a gold mine waiting to be discovered!

With that in mind, and as I am sure you are all well aware, our Board of Education voted to present both an excess levy and a bond to the public for their approval during the November 6 election. The levy is for student needs and daily operations while the bond will allow us to complete renovations and construction at our outside athletic facilities at PBHSC. These items are crucial to not only the educational well-being of the school system, but as well to the economic well-being of the whole county.

With unfaltering conviction, I tell this to people every chance I get: It is very easy for me to look at the national parties, their candidates and their politics and to realize that Barbour County Schools has a party and candidates too. Both are better than what is being offered nationally. You see, **Our students are our party and they are our candidates**. Most of our party members and candidates do not have a voting voice, so it is up to us as voters to speak for them – they need **our "Yes" votes** for both the levy and bond. It is the right thing to do and November 6th is the time to do it!

Allow me to close by again thanking everyone for welcoming and supporting me this past year. Remember, my door is open, so if you are in town please take a couple of minutes to stop by, introduce yourself and chat with me. We have a rich tradition of partnership between the community and our schools that is the foundation of success for our students – we need to continue that tradition.

Heather Halfin Named Barbour County Teacher of the Year

Heather Halfin, a fifteen-year veteran teacher and coach at Philip Barbour High School, was named the 2012 Barbour County Teacher of the Year during the recent Opening of Schools program. Her current teaching duties include Language Arts, Yearbook and ACT Prep classes, and she also serves as head coach of the highly-successful Lady Colt volleyball program.

From playing school as a youngster to influences by family members and great teachers, Mrs. Halfin feels that she was destined to become an educator. She thoroughly enjoys the rewards and challenges of the profession and strives to “lead by example” with a sense of passion and enthusiasm for the profession.



Though clearly in charge in the classroom or on the court, Heather feels that it is vital to allow students to “think for themselves or outside the box” as well. She says that building positive connections and “spicing things up” to keep pupils engaged are key factors that help make her feel “lucky to do what I love to do every day.”

New Personnel Welcomed

As the 2012-13 school year opened, greetings were extended to seventeen new school employees with wishes for a happy and productive school year. They include: Brittany Brandon, Noah Shaffer, Timothy Moyer, Thomas Williams, Stephen Maxson, Shawn Weaver, Josh Ashby, Lindsay Bracey, Kim Burnett, Christina Duke, Willis Ray Freeman, Jr., Naomi West, Hillary Hulver, Holly Price, Ashlie Hennon, Kelly Clark and Marcey Rainey.

Homer Talbott Is Honored as 2012 Service Person of the Year



During Opening of Schools ceremonies held at Philip Barbour High School on August 14, Homer Talbott was recognized as Barbour County’s Service Person of the Year for 2012. Homer enters his 19th year in the local school system, including the five most recent in his multi-layered post as executive secretary, coordinator of services and central office computer technician. A candidate for the RESA VII Exemplary Service Person of the Year for 2012, Mr. Talbott has been described by peers and supervisors as “a man of integrity, dedication and trust,” along with the statement, “His professional demeanor, work ethic and experience make him a wonderful role model for others in the field.”

Thanks for the Memories!



A total of seventeen professional and service staff members, representing well over 500 years of experience, retired during 2011-12. Best wishes and great appreciation are extended to: Nancy Shaffer, Rita Kennedy, Jude McConnell, Tonda Channell, Debra Moore, Kathleen Kratsas, Debra Workman, Christine Weese, Maxine Haymond, Barbara Barkley, Jill Schiefelbein, Donna Phillips, Tom Kittle, James Carpenter, Ira Mayle, Gloria McLean and John Hickman.

Innovative “New Tech Network” Program Underway at Philip Barbour High School



As the majority of Barbour County's public school students returned for the 2012-2013 academic year to familiar classroom settings, more than fifty in-coming freshmen, ten teachers, and two administrators entered uncharted territory...the New Tech Network environment. Presently housed at the campus CTE Center, Philip Barbour's New Tech “school-within-a-school” has been funded in part over a three-year period through a successful \$300,000 West Virginia Department of Education Innovation Zone grant application. Local funding is also being used to supplement the initiative. Barbour County is one of two districts in the Mountain State to “take the plunge.”



The New Tech Network works nationwide with schools, districts and communities to develop innovative public high schools in providing services and support that enables them to fundamentally rethink teaching and learning. The goal is to allow students to gain the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in life, college and the careers of tomorrow. The New Tech model provides a three-part instructional approach centered on: project-based learning, a culture that empowers students and teachers, and integrated technology within the classroom. The program's hands-on, multi-year approach gives schools the structure and support to ensure long-term success. Founded in Napa, California, in 1996, the New Tech Network now encompasses 115 schools in 18 states.

Ten Philip Barbour teachers and a technology specialist volunteered for summer training to teach using New Tech's PBL (problem-based/project-based learning) model, along with ECHO, the specialized computer application platform utilized by teachers, students and parents in the New Tech environment. After spending a week in Grand Rapids, Michigan for New Tech Network New Schools Training and additional work time over the summer at PBHS, the teachers organized and held a New Tech Orientation cookout for the participating students and their parents on July 31st at the high school.. Over 100 parents and students participated in the event, which included welcomes from the New Tech director, Ms. Rebecca Nesbitt, and Barbour County Schools superintendent, Dr. Joe Super. Following the meal, parents were given an overview of the New Tech program and an introduction to the computer application, ECHO, that will provide grade information and communication tools. Students and parents also met their New Tech teachers, along with other PB teachers and administrators. The evening concluded with team-building games and a scavenger hunt competition to familiarize themselves with the people and places involved in the New Tech program. Barbour County Schools is planning to expand the New Tech program at the conclusion of this pilot year.



— Odds 'N' Ends —

➤ **Art Stroll Planned:** Local citizens will have another chance to witness the artistic talents of county students when all nine county schools are represented at the Philippi Main Street Art Stroll on Thursday, September 13. Student artwork will be on display at the Code Blue building and the Philippi Public Library.

➤ **Sam's Club Memberships:** Barbour County school personnel are eligible for payroll deduction options if they are interested in renewing or becoming members of Sam's Club for the new year. Check your recent e-mails for the attached form or see your principal or supervisor for a flyer that outlines the program.

➤ **Volunteer Training Available:** Mary McCartney of the county's Parent Center is ready, willing and able to help schools and personnel with volunteer training. Sessions for new or returning volunteers are available in key policy areas such as: student confidentiality, safe schools plans and procedures, harassment, cell phone usage, etc. To arrange for Mary's assistance in this area, please contact her at the Center at 304-823-1245.

First day of school quiz...(match the faces)

- a. Teacher
- b. Principal
- c. Janitor
- d. Student
- e. Mom
- f. Bus driver



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Barbour Third Graders Enjoy Traditional "Kids Day" at Fair

About 170 county elementary students, their teachers and parent chaperones enjoyed the sights and sounds of the 2012 Barbour County Fair in beautiful weather on Thursday, August 30. The traditional field trip for third graders from all six county elementary schools gave the youngsters a chance to visit a variety of educational and interesting exhibits while socializing with classmates for the day. It also provided them opportunities to celebrate the county's rural and agricultural heritage.

Along the way, students stopped by the circa-1840's Mouse Run School, which was relocated to the fairgrounds and renovated in the 1980's. The historic structure is supported and maintained by the Barbour County Retired School Employees organization. Shown above is retired teacher, Pat True, as she shares the school's history and customs, along with stories from days-gone-by to a group of third graders. While touring the rustic building grounds, the children also had a chance to learn about beekeeping and honey production, and then watched as apple butter was being made. Tasty samples of each product helped cap off their memorable day.