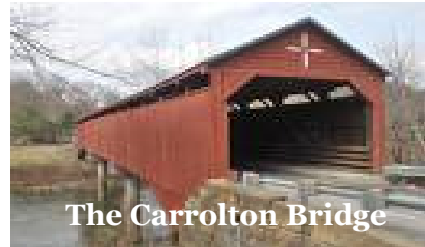


The Bridge



The Carrollton Bridge

Volume 8, Issue 2

October, 2016

Greetings Everyone,

Some exciting things are going on in Barbour County Schools and I am anxious to see how they play out for the remainder of the school year. There have been some personnel changes and there will be more in the coming weeks and months.

This year we have been focused on seeing all professional employees work towards improving their professional practices. In the education business, it is not just the students that have to focus on learning. Our staff, at all levels, must continually strive to get better.

We are also getting ready to move forward on two different major construction projects. The first is the Energy Conservation Project that we are working on in seven schools throughout the county. This project is funded in the amount of \$4.5 million dollars from the SBA with the remaining \$2.5 million being financed through the school system, based on the anticipated energy savings guaranteed by Wendel Energy. The project will involve the installation of new LED lighting and plumbing upgrades to seven schools, as well as new HVAC units on four of those schools. The second major initiative is the connector project at PBHS that is described on page 3 of this issue.

The parent pick-up area at PES has been chaotic at best for several years and we have made some renovations that we hope will make the traffic flow process safer and much more efficient for our parents and students. Doward Matlick and his team at Sunrise Construction did a wonderful job installing the culvert, guard rails and new road. Mr. Matlick is a great friend to Barbour County Schools and always steps up when we need his help. New fencing will be added in the near future to complete the project.

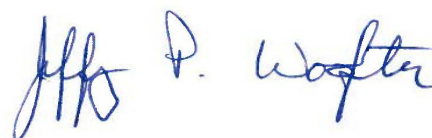
The West Virginia State Board of Education just voted to accept our amended Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan (CEFP) which includes the closure of Mount Vernon and Volga-Century Elementary Schools and the transfer of students from those attendance zones to Philippi Elementary School beginning next year. It is difficult to lose a school in any community but I am convinced that we are doing what is in the best interests of all students in Barbour County. I know the faculties and staffs at both Mount Vernon and Volga-Century are working hard to make this a terrific year at their schools.



Finally, the West Virginia Board of Education has instituted an accountability program where all schools in the State will be graded on an A-F scale. The public announcement of each school's grade will be published following the State Board of Education meeting in November. The grades are based primarily on the General Summative Assessment that was given last spring, but also factors other components such as student growth, attendance, graduation rates, etc. I am confident that we will do just fine when the ratings are released and I want everyone to realize that this is just a starting point.

Please keep working with a focus on pushing our students, and ourselves, to be the best that we can be.

Sincerely,



BCBank Park: Barbour County's "Field of Dreams" Dedicated

A local project that seemed out of reach for many years became a reality on August 26 as an overflow crowd witnessed the dedication of BCBank Park on the campus of Philip Barbour High School. A ceremony prior to the kickoff of the PB—Grafton football opener featured comments by officials from the bank, the Promise Foundation and Barbour County Schools, among others. The theme for the evening was "looking back with pride and forward with excitement." Members of the Philippi and Belington VFW's dedicated the field's new flagpole and presented the colors, while the Ruf family of Belington performed "God Bless America." Several former Colt standouts in athletics and music from the past half-century were also honored at the field where they excelled over the years.



The Pride of Barbour County also led the audience in the Star Spangled Banner and the PBHS Alma Mater. It is expected that the state's newest outdoor athletic and performance facility will serve the students and community for decades to come. BCBank, Inc. CEO, Ryan Curry (above) invites citizens to visit the facility and enjoy the walking track in the evenings. For more information about BCBank Park, contact the Promise Foundation or BCBank in Philippi.

New JAG Grant Returns PRO Officer to High School Campus

On September 29, the Barbour County Commission and Barbour County Schools received official word that the county's Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) proposal for a Prevention Resource Officer (PRO) had been approved by the state. The \$20,000 award will be used to help offset the costs related to the employment of a full-time officer at Philip Barbour High School, along with materials and equipment related to the PRO initiative. Program objectives include:

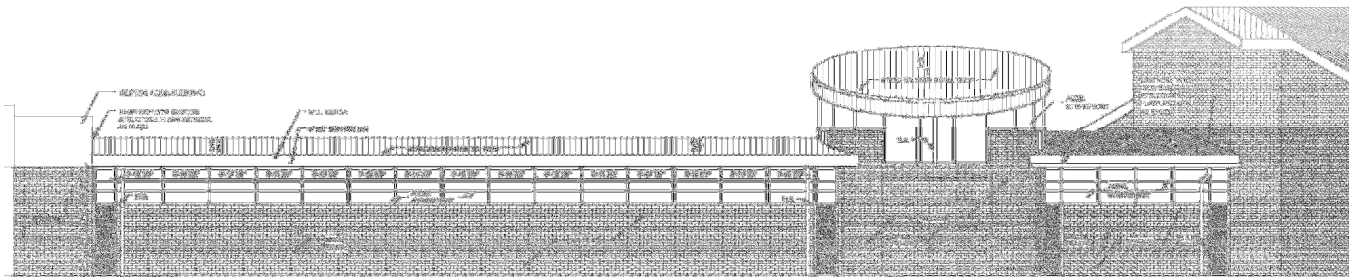
- 1) educating students on juvenile crime and issues through non-traditional education topics;
- 2) providing advice to students who are at-risk;
- 3) informing students about problems that lead to truancy, poor grades, drugs and crime;
- 4) increasing awareness of at-risk youth concerning problems and consequences;
- 5) acting as a deterrent to juvenile crime in the school and community;
- 6) acting as a positive role model and mentor in the school and community, minimizing negative stereotypes and allowing the officer to be known as an individual rather than by his role.

Officer Jeff Roy, who served as PB's very first PRO in 2008-09, returns in the role for 2016-17. He is shown above, fourth from right, as he receives congratulations from Lynn Phillips (center), the regional representative for Governor Earl Ray Tomblin, county commissioners and officials from Barbour County Schools.



SBA Approves Barbour County's \$400,000 Major Improvement Project: New Connector Will Improve Safety, Security, Health and Wellness

The West Virginia School Building Authority has selected Barbour County's Major Improvement Project on the campus of Philip Barbour High School as one that will be funded during its 2016-17 cycle. The construction of a new physical connecting structure between the third floor of the high school building and the Career and Technical Education Center will address a safety and security issue that has concerned school officials, students and parents for several years. The enclosed walkway between the facilities will eliminate the school's most glaring "Achilles' Heel" as it provides safe, clean and protected travel for hundreds of students and staff members every day, while keeping unauthorized visitors from entering through the CTEC parking lot area.



The architectural rendering above depicts the connector from the high school (right) to the CTEC from the perspective of Rt. 250. The total cost of the initiative will be \$400,000, with \$372,846 awarded by the SBA and \$27,154 contributed through local funding. Benefits will include: building security, safe student footing and passage, elimination of vehicular and trip hazards, linkage to existing security and sprinkler systems, improved access for those with disabilities, cleaner buildings and less exposure to harsh weather conditions.

Third Graders Visit Mouse Run School; Observe Apple Butter Process

In keeping with a long tradition, members of the Barbour County Association of Retired School Employees combined two activities into one during the annual Barbour County Fair. Members of the group can be seen here during the apple butter stirring procedure. More than 150 pints of the tasty treat were produced in two rounds of production in late-August. County third grade students had a chance to observe the old-fashioned process and sample the apple butter during a visit to the old Mouse Run School (right). Each year for Kids' Day, the BCARSE cleans and decorates the 1850-era structure for tours and information about how the school operated in the days before and following the Civil War. Mrs. Sandy Lantz served as lead presenter for 2016.



Reading Project Brings Squeals and Smiles to Mt. Vernon Students

Mt. Vernon Elementary school students are collectively a multi-chaptered book during 2016-17. For the first nine-weeks they chose the children's novel, *Charlotte's Web*. Each week they answer comprehension questions, conduct art activities, and much more related to the book. Encouraging student enjoyment of reading is a school goal this year.



This week the students had a special guest in Gene McCord, a local farmer and grandfather to one of the MVES students. He brought three lively piglets to the school for a visit. Each class took

time to talk with Gene about what it takes to raise animals. A lot of love was shared with the piglets from each student. By the time the last group was finishing up their visit, all three pigs were on student laps fast asleep.

Upcoming Late-October Events Are Announced at PBHS

Officials at Philip Barbour High School have announced that the October 21 football game at BCBank Park has been designated as a "Pink Out" event, so wear your pink to the contest to help support cancer awareness.



In addition, the high school will sponsor a special "Trunk or Treat" event on October 28 from 4–6 p.m. in the school's first floor hallway. It is open to all county elementary and middle school students.

KEMS Grants Fund Carnegie Trip and New Library Resources



Students at Kasson Elementary/Middle School have benefited from a pair of recent grants that helped fund a September 26 trip to the Carnegie Science Museum in Pittsburgh and will provide new books for the school library. A Google grant paid travel, admission and planetarium show costs for all students and staff, as they enjoyed hands-on exhibits like the rock wall (above) and a tour of the USS Requin submarine. Nearly 300 children and adults took part in the adventure.

The school will also receive \$3000 to upgrade the school library through a Lois Lensky Covey Foundation grant. The funds are designated for the purchase of books published for youngsters at schools with limited budgets in grades PK-8. The new books will be ordered during October.

Mountaineer Power:

The West Virginia University mascot recently visited students at Kasson School to inspire them to embrace true Mountaineer Spirit. Here he completes a series of push-ups as he prepares for yet another WVU football victory.





Important Dates

- Oct. 10** Board Of Education Meets; 6 p.m.; BOE
- Oct. 14** Last Day of 1st Nine-Weeks Grading Pd.
- Oct. 17** Two-Hour Delay—Faculty Senate Day
- Oct. 18 and 19** TASC Exams Given at CTE Center (PB)
- Oct. 21** 9-Week Report Cards Are Distributed
- Oct. 24** Board Of Education Meets; 6 p.m.; BOE
- Oct. 25** Elementary School PT Conferences
- Oct. 27** Middle School PT Conferences
- Nov. 1** High School & CTEC PT Conferences
- Nov. 8** Election Day—No School
- Nov. 11** Veterans Day—No School
- Nov. 14** Board Of Education Meets; 6 p.m.; BOE
- Nov. 21 to 23** Out of Calendar Days—No School
- Nov. 24** Thanksgiving Holiday - No School
- Nov. 25** Out of Calendar Day—No School
- Nov. 28** Board Of Education Meets; 6 p.m.; BOE



Actual Student Answers to Quiz and Test Questions

Name one measure which can be put into place to avoid river flooding in times of extensive rainfall (e.g. in Mississippi).

Flooding in areas such as the Mississippi may be avoided by placing a number of big dunes into the river

What is a fibula?

A little lie

What happens during puberty to a boy?

He says goodbye to his childhood enters adulthood.

Where was the American Declaration of Independence signed?

At the bottom.

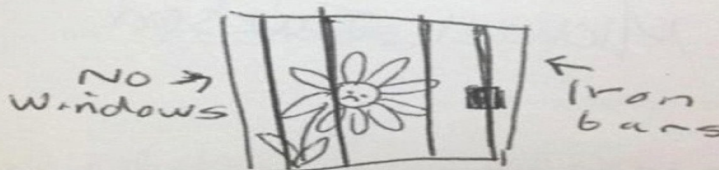
What ended in 1896?

1895

Name six animals which live specifically in the Arctic.

Two polar bears
~~Three~~ Four Seals

Draw a plant cell and identify its most important parts.



Grant Writing Assistance Available

Do you have a great idea for programs, supplies or equipment that would improve learning experiences for your students? Do you know of a local, state, federal or private grant source that matches that need? Are you short of time or unsure of how to proceed to pursue it yourself? If so, please feel free to contact Doug Schiefelbein at the board office. He will be happy to help match your raw plans, good ideas and sound proposals to complete the grant writing process. You can reach him at 304-457-3030 (ext. 110) or at dschiefe@k12.wv.us.

