



The Bridge

Volume 9, Issue 1

Fall, 2017

Upon occasion, Superintendent Woofter will ask someone to serve as a guest contributor to write The Bridge's monthly message. Today's thoughts are shared by retired educator, Doug Schiefelbein.

The Bridge, The Hall and Other Things

Many of you will recall or have heard the oddly-titled pop hit, "The Rain, The Park and Other Things" from 1968. Performed by the family group, The Cowsills, it was a #2 hit 50 years ago. For some reason, it popped into my head as I pondered a theme for this edition's short message.

When the historic Carrollton Bridge was heavily damaged by fire recently, it was like hearing about the loss of an old friend. Built in 1856, it was the second longest and third oldest covered bridge in West Virginia. I remember having the same feeling - even stronger really - when a local radio station reported, in error, that the 1852-era Philippi Covered Bridge had been washed away during the great flood of November, 1985. The live helicopter account had been based upon the fact that the wild Tygart was splashing across its roof in poor visibility. But the next morning, slowly receding waters revealed that our bridge, battered and bruised, the oldest and longest such structure in the state, had survived.

Sometimes, bridges can connect more than the opposite banks of a waterway. In the case of our Barbour County community, these two icons endure to link our yesterday to our today and tomorrow, and become more precious to us with the passing of time.

In late-September, the new Philip Barbour High School Hall of Fame inducted its first ten members in ceremonies over two days. The inaugural group represents a broad cross-section of alumni and others who embodied the concept of Colt Pride as they achieved or served in remarkable ways throughout the school's 54-year history. According to those behind the project, such recognition is long overdue, and the Class of 2017 only scratches the surface of the school's rich heritage. The Hall, in essence, provides a bridge between PB's best and brightest from decades past and the students of today and tomorrow who, in a now tangible way, can gaze at the plaques and wonder to themselves "Why not me?"

Regardless of our roles in the school system, each of us has an opportunity to serve as a bridge for each of the students with whom we interact daily. Our own pasts, complete with bumps and bruises, afford us the wisdom to impact their futures in positive ways. As a result, we can help get them safely across the rough or scary patches, in school and in life, providing them with a steady bridge to the amazing things that can await them on the other side. -Doug S.



Important Dates

Oct. 18 and 19	TASC Exams Given at CTE Center
Oct. 13	Last Day of 1st Nine-Weeks Grading Pd.
Oct. 13	Faculty Senate: Two-Hour Early Dismissal
Oct. 20	Report Cards Are Distributed
Nov. 1	PLC Day: Two-Hour Early Dismissal
Nov. 10	Veterans Day Holiday No School
Nov. 16	Student Progress Reports Distributed
Nov. 20 thru 24	Out of Calendar Days: No School
Nov. 23	Thanksgiving Day Holiday: No School
Dec. 13	PLC Day: Two-Hour Early Dismissal
Dec. 13 and 14	TASC Exams Given at CTE Center
Dec. 22	Faculty Senate: Two-Hour Early Dismissal
Dec. 22	End Second 9-Weeks and First Semester
Dec. 25	Christmas Holiday: No School
Dec. 26 thru 29	Out of Calendar Days: No School
Jan. 1	New Year's Holiday: No School

Philip Barbour's Twila Smith Represents County as 2017 Teacher of the Year



Twila D. Smith is Barbour County's Teacher of the Year for 2017. A member of the profession for 31 years, she currently serves as World Studies teacher at Philip Barbour High School, where she has taught for the past five years.

Coming from a family of educators, Twila's love for reading, school and teaching evolved naturally. Her greatest influence was her father, Russell Wagner, a popular long-time teacher and coach in Barbour County. Her degrees from Fairmont State (Social Studies) and West Virginia University (Special Education) have led to a varied career that has touched thousands of youngsters from all walks of life.

Twila's highest priority has always been to help students to feel comfortable and safe in the learning environment. In fact, this goal and her years of experience helped her to remain calm in a horrific situation that could have quickly become tragic. Her leadership and demeanor in the classroom during that incident two years ago have been applauded universally as being key factors in bringing about an optimal outcome for her students, the school and the community.

Mrs. Smith's favorite quote comes from teacher-astronaut, Christa McAuliffe, who famously said, "I touch the future; I teach." Twila sees each student as an individual, a unique being with unique needs, and adapts her instructional approach and strategies accordingly. She realizes that teachers themselves are students as well and, that as lifelong learners, they must constantly evolve and grow. By passing these lessons on to their students, teachers can share the excitement of learning and give them hope to fulfill their dreams. Such sentiments are part of why Twila D. Smith has been and continues to be one of Barbour County's finest, and the district's Teacher of the Year.



Kevin Snider of BMS Is Honored Twice as 2017 Service Person of Year



The summer of 2017 was an eventful one for Kevin Snider, Custodian III at Belington Middle School. Not only was he selected as Barbour County's School Service Person of the Year, but the honor was repeated when he earned regional recognition through RESA 7.

In his 19th year of service to the county, Kevin enjoys working with the faculty and staff, but especially loves watching "his kids" develop and grow into respectable young adults.

Although he takes pride in his work and makes sure that the school is clean and inviting to all, this is not his most outstanding attribute, according to principal, Mary Beth Hovatter. "Though modest about it, Mr. Snider is an important male role model for the students. He comes in early to complete his morning work so that he can mentor them. He teaches them about character and responsibility, and coaches them about completing assignments and keeping up their grades."

Kevin looks out for students with individual needs, whether it's warm clothing, a sympathetic ear or a friendly smile. The staff, as well, speaks glowingly of the many extra things that he does for them, both in the line of duty and as personal favors before and after school.

He is described as "a key member of our Belington Middle family. Without his generous heart and his work towards the school's success, coming to work just wouldn't be the same."

New Philip Barbour Hall of Fame Kicks Off with September Events

The concept of a Philip Barbour High School Hall of Fame became reality in late-September when special programs celebrated the accomplishments and service of ten inaugural members.



"The Hall of Fame exists to recognize alumni and others who have brought recognition and honor to the Columbia Blue and White through their exceptional achievements and service to Philip Barbour High School" according to the organization's mission statement. The HOF committee plans to so honor PB's 54-year history annually.

Members of the first class were welcomed during a well-attended dinner program at the high school on September 21 and then re-introduced to the football crowd at BC Bank Park the following evening.

Nominations for the 2018 cycle will be accepted from January 1 to February 15. More information will be available through local media and the PBHS school website.



Charter Members: The PBHS Class of 2017 Hall of Fame inductees include, from left to right: Ernie Nestor; Charlie and Debbie Byrer, children of George A. Byrer, Jr.; Stephen Redd; Loren J. Rinehart; Scott Mayle; Linda Nestor Sandusky; Arnold Weese; Dr. Joan Crites Propst; Rich Mace and Dr. Andrew Freeman.

County Adult Education Program Prepared for a Productive Year

Barbour County's Adult Education staff has hit the ground running this fall with programs and services designed to "enable adult workers to be literate, productive and successful in the home, the workplace and community."

Staffed by instructor, Michelle Gainer; examiner, Angie Harris; and director, Tonya Ferguson, the team offers TASC (Test Assessing Secondary Completion) preparation classes for citizens seeking high school equivalency credentials. Last year, ten students completed the program and earned TASC diplomas in Barbour County.



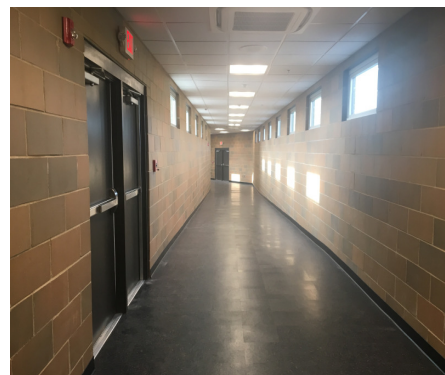
Registration for the classes are held on the first and third Tuesdays of each month beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the Barbour County Career and Technical Education Center. Classes run from 9:00 a.m. until noon. The 2017-18 TASC exam schedule has been announced:

- **October 11-12, 2017**
- **December 13-14, 2017**
- **February 14-15, 2018**
- **April 11-12, 2018**
- **June 13-14, 2018**

Those interested in strengthening skills for the marketplace may enroll in the TEAS (Test of Essential Academic Skills) classes held at the center on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 1–3 p.m. Future plans call for an afternoon computer literacy class later this fall and a Healthcare Occupations class next spring.

New Connecting Hallway Links High School to CTE Center

The parking area and traffic flow pattern around the Barbour County Career and Technical Center have a new look with



the summer completion of a new connecting hallway between the center and the third floor of Philip Barbour High School.

The \$400,000 "School Access Safety Project" will provide secondary students and staff with safe, secure and clean passage between the two buildings. The improvements are the result of Barbour County's Major Improvement Project proposal, submitted during the 2016 funding cycle. The School Building Authority awarded \$372,846 for the connector and its infrastructure, while \$27,154 was provided through local and other funds.



"You can take a student's phone away, but you're supposed to give it back after class. not sell it on eBay."

Say Hello to New Barbour County School Staff



The new 2017-18 school year has ushered in a total of eighteen new professional and service staff to the ranks of Barbour County Schools. Throughout the first nine-weeks, the following personnel have added their skills and talents to provide the best possible educational experiences for Barbour County students. Best wishes for a productive, rewarding year are extended to:

Morgan Balducci, 4th Grade, Belington Elementary; Jessica Boot, ELA, Philippi Middle; John Boskovich, 4th Grade, Philippi Elementary; George Collett, Assistant Principal, BMS & PMS; Charlene DeBarr, Bus Operator/Mechanic; John Drubel, Art, PBHS; Melanie Gribble, Belington Middle, Special Education; Kaela Harris, Kindergarten, Belington Elementary; Lisa Heinbaugh, Principal, Philippi Middle; Emily Isaacs, ELA, Philippi Middle; Sharon Nuzum, Title I, Philippi Elementary; Jessica Robertson, ELA, Belington Middle; Tyler Rogers, Physical Education, Junior Elementary and Philippi Middle; Tristen Simpson, Kindergarten, Kasson Elem/Middle; Monique Warner, Pre-Kindergarten, Junior Elementary; and Heather Wilkins, 5th Grade, Philippi Middle; David Williams, PBHS, Custodian; Tami Wilt, 5th Grade, Philippi Middle.

Congratulations to Our Dozen Retirees!

The Barbour County Board of Education; Superintendent, Jeffrey Woofert; and the administrative staff of Barbour County Schools have expressed appreciation for the dedication and service of the twelve professional and service staff



members who concluded their careers in education between July, 2016 and the past summer. Best wishes for a happy and healthy retirement are extended to the following employees, who represent well over 300 years of experience:

Susan Anglin; Veda Daugherty; Charlotte Haddix; Sandra Haller; Sally Hammack; Carol Harris; Jennifer Lantz; Eddie Malcolm; Deborah O'Brien; Luella Saffle; Glenn Sweet; and Deborah Walsh.



Board of Education Meeting Dates Set for Fall of 2017

Listed below are the established meeting dates for the Barbour County Board of Education during the fall of 2017-18. Unless otherwise noted, all sessions will begin at 6:00 p.m.

- **October 9 - Junior Elementary School**
- **October 23 - Belington Elementary School**
- **November 13 - Philippi Elementary School**
- **November 27 - Location To Be Announced**
- **December 11 - Location To Be Announced**
- **December 18 - Location To Be Announced**

— Odds 'N' Ends —

➤ **Grant Writing Support Available:** With extra funding for special projects in short supply, county schools, departments and educators often consider looking at grant opportunities to support program needs. If you have a project and a source that you'd like to pursue, whether a mini-grant or something larger, feel free to get in touch with Doug Schiefelbein at the board office (dschiefe@k12.wv.us) for grant writing, technical assistance, proofreading or thoughts on how to present your idea in a favorable light.

➤ **"EcosySTEM" Contest Announced:** The Education Alliance is asking teachers and community organizations to add their STEM programs, events, clubs, camps, or activities to its new online searchable directory at www.wvecosystem.org. Each EcosySTEM opportunity submitted is entered into a random drawing for \$2,000 in prizes. See the site for more details on the event, which is scheduled to run through December 1, 2017.



Kasson School Robotics Programs Continue to Grow and Flourish

The popular robotics program at Kasson Elementary/Middle School is following up its success of 2016-17 by expanding its scope to include more grades and students. Recent grants from First Inspires Lego Robotics, Donor's Choice and the REC Foundation have allowed the school to increase the number of teams on campus from one to four. Included, by popular request by student groups, are the formations of an elementary group and an all-girls middle school STEM team (shown below)



Last year, the KEMS VEX Robotics Team claimed the West Virginia Excellence Award as middle school champions. This accomplishment earned the Eagles a spot at the World VEX championships in Louisville, KY, during May, a feat they hope to repeat during the current school year.

Junior Fishing Adventure a Success

Students at Junior Elementary School took turns recently visiting a local "fishin' hole" (left) to enjoy a day learning about nature and aquatic life. With poles provided by Sentinel Mines and tackled up by staff member, Jeff Moss, the children stepped off the bus to be greeted by many volunteers ready to instruct and assist them during their well-earned break from daily studies. Principal, Ashley Workman, described the field trip as one of the most enjoyable she has ever seen, with over 100 youngsters participating, and 300 fish caught, petted and released.