



The Bridge



Volume 11, Issue 1

Fall, 2019



Important Dates

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| Oct. 9 | 2-hour early dismissal
for PLC Meetings |
| Oct. 11 | 2-hour early dismissal
for Faculty Senates |
| Oct. 14 | Bd. Of Education Mtg.
@ BOE Office; 6 p.m. |
| Oct. 15 | Last Day of 1st Nine-
Weeks Grading Pd. |
| Oct. 22 | 1st 9-Week Report
Cards Are Distributed |
| Oct. 23 | Parent-Teacher Conf.
—Elementary School |
| Oct. 24 | Parent-Teacher Conf.
—Middle School |
| Oct. 25 | Parent-Teacher Conf.
—High School |
| Oct. 28 | Bd. Of Education Mtg.
@ Philippi MS; 6 p.m. |
| Nov. 11 | Veterans Day Holiday
No School |
| Nov. 12 | Bd. Of Education Mtg.
@ BOE Office; 6 p.m. |
| Nov. 15 | Progress Report Day |
| Nov. 18 | Bd. Of Education Mtg.
@ BOE Office; 6 p.m. |
| Nov.
25-29 | Thanksgiving and
OS Days::No School |

A Tale of Two Dennys

There were only two, so they're easy to remember... During my first five years in the Barbour County school system, I taught English 9-10 at Philip Barbour High School. This was during the 1970's and more than 1000 teenagers circulated the crowded corridors in the days before the existence of the vocational center. While there was the occasional fistfight or smoking in the restroom, most disciplinary matters were at the level of running in the hallway or raw ramp-eating in the spring, often bringing tears to the eyes of fellow students. With a course enrollment of 201 across six periods one year, I recall that my classes were filled to the point that some kids had to sit on the radiator cabinet in room 14. So, effective classroom management was a high priority, and there were just two times, once in each of my first two years at PB, when I "escorted" students to the office, and both involved boys named Dennis.

In the first case, it was the last period of the day during my rookie year when I heard an angry exclamation of what today is referred to as the "f bomb" from an unlikely source, an easy-going, squat, heavy-set boy in the back who was red-faced and emotional. His classmates were astounded because he had a reputation for being mild-mannered, someone who they could kid with, a willing target of good-natured teasing. It caused such a stir that I took him into the hallway and, seeing how upset he was, decided to let the administrators work with him so that I could tend to the class and finish up the school day. After dismissal, I found out what had happened. Back in those days we had a weekly vocabulary/spelling list and one entry from the previous week was "obesity." Some of his buddies decided that it would be a fun nickname for good ole Dennis: "Hey, Obesity, whatcha have for lunch today?" Apparently, he took it for a few days, but when it appeared that it might stick, he exploded like a kettle full of steam. *Lesson Learned:* Sometimes people, especially youngsters, who are injured don't show physical signs on the outside; sometimes the pain from hidden cuts and bruises festers deep within.

During late-fall of the next year, another Dennis was having a bad day. Though not necessarily a great student, he did enough to get by and caused no problems. On this occasion, however, he made it clear that he had no intention of participating in class: slouched in his seat, legs in the aisle, book closed and a scowl on his face. I tried to draw him into the discussion a time or two but received silence or surliness in return – out of character for sure. I finally decided to leave him alone for the rest of the period, but later, out of the blue, he blurted out some comment (I don't remember what) that was both disruptive and disrespectful. Losing my cool, I admit, I took him to the office by the scruff of the neck (can't do that today!) and let the assistant principal deal with him. In the aftermath, it was discovered that Dennis had his father's wallet in his pocket and had planned to run away from home after school. It occurred to me that maybe he had pushed the envelope just hard enough to force an intervention. Maybe he didn't really want to follow through on his plan. *Lesson Learned:* People, again children especially, display a range of behavioral ups-and-downs that become familiar to those around them, but when they go wildly beyond normal boundaries, it's likely a signal that something's not right, and it might indeed be a cry for help.

I taught freshmen and sophomores way back then and realized later that I too was a freshman and sophomore myself in many ways. But I was open to learning as I went, and was fortunate to have some experienced colleagues on staff with whom I could talk things over and seek guidance. Those on our faculties or in our departments who have been around the block a few times have accumulated knowledge and insights that they will likely share, helping us to understand issues and fix problems that we encounter - if we're willing to reach out. And then, if we're lucky, someday each of us in the education game will be regarded as one of the mentors, one of those with wisdom worth listening to. - Doug S.

2019-20 County Representatives Honored at Annual Celebration Program***Diana Bibey Named Teacher of the Year; Kent Phillips Is Service Person of Year***

Culminating a distinguished career of some 30 years as an educator within Barbour County Schools, Diana Bibey was named the district's 2019-20 Teacher of the Year in a ceremony held at Philip Barbour High School in May. Prior to her retirement this summer, Diana spent her final two years as a Mathematics Interventionist at Junior Elementary School for grades K-4.



Mrs. Bibey graduated from Fairmont State University in 1987 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education, and earned her Masters of Science credential in Adult Edu-

cation from Marshall University in 1991.

Though her career included a wide variety of roles, students and locations, she cited two recent projects that exemplified her approach to education. First was the excitement she saw in children who began to solve math problems by finding new ways to learn the skills, e.g. "If you don't understand a word problem, draw a picture!" Second was assisting in Junior's successful new Robotics program, which she learned along with the students. The hands-on teamwork approach of the program has generated great interest among children and the community, providing "a spark to get the fire going."

Despite her "retirement" Diana continues to promote the importance of math and STEM learning to youngsters as the county's new contracted elementary math coach for 2019-20.



Carl "Kent" Phillips was named Barbour County's Service Person of the Year for 2019-20 at the annual end-of-year celebration in late-May by Superintendent Woofter. The proud dad and grandfather, above, is in his 12th year of service as a bus operator. Known for his strong work ethic, he previously worked at a local service center and Southern States, missing only two days of work over some two decades.

Kent has served as an unofficial mentor to newer drivers, answering their questions with patience and courtesy, and regularly offers a helping hand to fellow drivers who may be in need of assistance. A native Barbour Countian, he is a Philip Barbour High School graduate and earned certification in both welding and electrical engineering at the Fred Eberle Tech Center.

Experience Learning Project Takes Junior Students to Tygart River

Junior Elementary School's 3rd and 4th grade classes took advantage of great weather and low water levels to conduct health and science lessons at the Tygart River recently. The students worked with Experience Learning staff to determine the health of their local river. After a short walk to the learning site, students got their feet wet and their brains busy with new robust vocabulary terms, math conversions, and then activated prior knowledge by using the scientific method.

The youngsters split into three teams to rotate through a series of learning stations, which included: 1) chemistry, where students learned to take water samples for alkalinity, PH, and nitrate; 2) using screens to collect and classify benthic macro-invertebrates from the stream's ripples; and 3) a study of the physical attributes of the river, analyzing the rocks, banks, plant and tree growth on the river to add to their stream health study data. The 3-hour projects followed weeks of math and science preparation in the classroom and will be used to supplement those subject skills and state standards, while providing real world lessons on the health of their local river and the importance of clean water.



Barbour CTEC Represented at Recent Culinary "Boot Camp" at Morgantown

Members of the Pro-Start program at Philip Barbour High School participated in the 2019 edition of the West Virginia Culinary Boot Camp on September 18 at Waterfront Place in Morgantown. A Governor's Initiative sponsored by the Department of Education's Technical Education division, the annual event serves as a workshop for secondary students in which they gain knowledge and technical skills from industry leaders.

The second year CTEC students joined colleagues from around the state to learn techniques such as forming chocolate dessert cups (right) and garnishing. The PB students also had opportunities to interact with their superhero, "Simulated Workplace Man" at the conference.

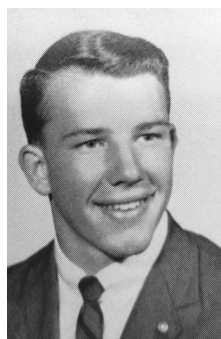


Dates Set for Board of Education Presentations by County Schools

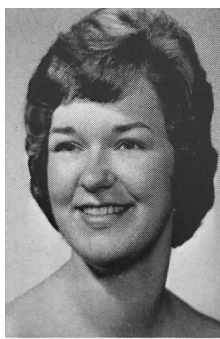
A series of eight dates have been established for the 2019-20 school presentations to the Barbour County Board of Education. The annual reviews, previously conducted by each school's LSIC, are designed to provide a forum for direct communication between schools and board members in which they can provide statistical overviews of the state of the school, along with recent accomplishments and challenges. Presentations will be made according to the following schedule:

October 28, 2019:	Philippi Middle @ School
November 12, 2019:	Belington Elem. @ BOE
December 16, 2019:	Kasson Elem/Mid. @ School
January 13, 2020:	Belington Middle @ School
January 27, 2020:	Career-Tech Center @ BOE
February 10, 2020:	Junior Elementary @ School
February 24, 2020:	Philip Barbour H.S. @ BOE
March 9, 2020:	Philippi Elem. @ School

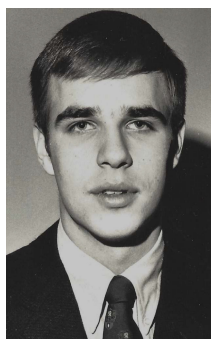
Philip Barbour Hall of Fame Welcomes Six New Members in September



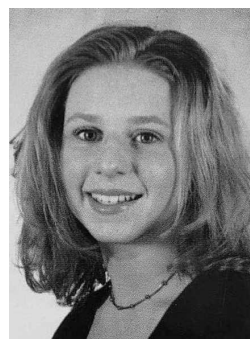
Scott Criss



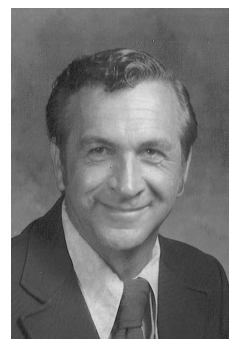
Jane Daugherty



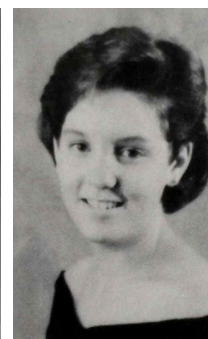
Rick Shearer



Elizabeth Sweet



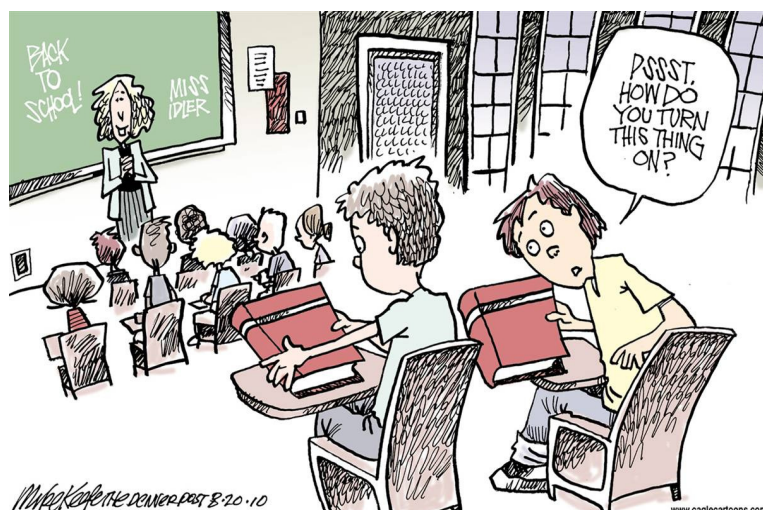
Russell Wagner



Lisa Withers

Membership in the Philip Barbour High School Hall of Fame swelled to 24 with the induction of the latest class of honorees on the evening of Thursday, September 5, at the high school. The six new members were selected from a pool of more than 50 nominees earlier in the year and included: Scott Criss, Class of 1965; Jane Daugherty, Class of 1964; Richard Shearer, Class of 1968; Elizabeth Sweet, Class of 2000; Russell Wagner, Retired 1989; and Lisa Withers, Class of 1989. In addition to being feted at the dinner program on September 5, the HOF Class of 2019 was also introduced to the audience prior to the season's first home football game the following evening at George Byrer Field.

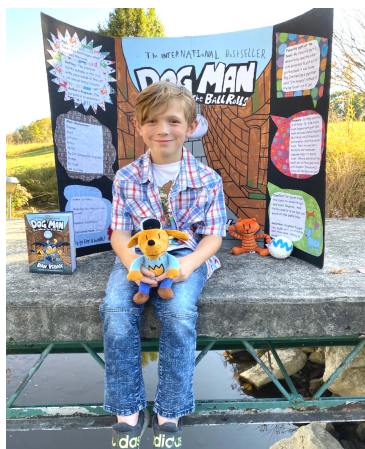
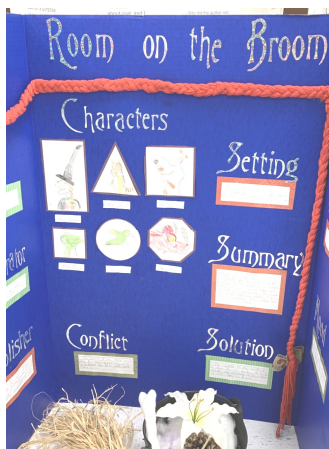
The annual induction program was held in the commons area at PB and featured a catered dinner, music entertainment by T.J. Dalton and Anna Ruf, and remarks by guest speaker, Rich Mace. Upon their respective introductions, each honoree was invited to say a few words upon the occasion. Fittingly, the program closed with the singing of the Philip Barbour High School Alma Mater, led by Jane Daugherty, the anthem's composer back in 1963-64. Each inductee received a plaque and a gift of an inscribed pen set made from the wood of the original bleachers at PBHS. The plaques are in the process of being added to the school's Wall of Fame in the commons area. The nomination window for the 2020 Hall of Fame cycle has been announced as January 1 to February 15, 2020, with forms available during that period at the school office or through a tab at the top of the front page on the PBHS website.



2019 Literature Fair Winners Named: Regional Next for Two Local Students

All eligible schools participated in the 2019 edition of the Barbour County Literacy Fair during recent weeks, with winners named in early October. The 6th annual event is sponsored by the West Virginia Reading Association in concert with Glenville State College. Participating contestants are judged on presentation-style book reports and represent a great way to promote reading among young students.

Local winning entries in the two categories were presented by: Taylor Stutler, Philippi Elementary School, for *Room on the Broom* in the K-2 division; and Hayden Dalton of Junior Elementary for *Dog Man* in the Grades 3-5 group.



Others earning runners-up recognition in the county included: Grades K-2 Division: Madelyn Phillips of KEMS; and Carter Morrison of KEMS; Grades 3-5 Division: Kendra Stalnaker of Philippi Middle; Owen Hart of Belington Elementary; and Gabriel Dalton of Philippi Elementary School.

The two Barbour County winners will have chances to win prizes and awards at the upcoming regional event, scheduled for the Waco Center at Glenville State College in Gilmer County on Saturday, November 2.

State Nutrition Grant Provides New Gas Oven for Belington Elementary School

Barbour County Schools was awarded a competitive Child Nutrition Grant in September for the purchase of a new natural gas oven at Belington Elementary School. The \$6700 funding provides for the installation of a double-stack convection oven that replaces the 40-year old model which had become inefficient and unreliable. The new piece of equipment will improve safety, cost-effectiveness and conserve time as it allows cooks to bake with confidence at uniform, dependable temperatures.

New Mindfulness Grant Program at KEMS

Kasson School has received word that the Pallotine Foundation has awarded the school a \$5000 grant for its innovative Mindfulness initiative. The program is designed to quickly get students on task, remain attentive and tune out distractions to learning. The grant would fund training, supplies and materials for the KEMS staff, and the possible expansion of the philosophy to other schools in the county during a second year of implementation.

Eagles Enjoy Cool Mid-Term Treats

After enjoying a special lunch at Kasson School with students during Grandparents' Week, Mr. and Mrs. Jenkins, owners of the Philippi Dairy King, returned the favor by treating the entire school to frozen custard treats. The youngsters were served in shifts at the end of the day on September 25th at the KEMS Matlick Pavilion as a "thank you" for their efforts during the first six weeks of school.



— Odds 'N' Ends —



Interested in Nat'l Board Certification?

For teachers that are contemplating National Board Certification, plans are being made for awareness and support sessions to be held early next summer. The certification is a voluntary process open to all West Virginia PreK-12 educators. West Virginia is one of 24 states to provide incentives for National Board Certification. The WVDE offers all PreK-12 teachers support through the National Board Awareness and Support sessions prior to their decisions about the certification process, and then offer continued support through regional cohorts or one-on-one mentors.

At the request of teachers wanting to make plans to attend during the summer of 2020, tentative dates for both northern and southern West Virginia have been made. The sessions will be held in Bridgeport on June 16-18, 2020, and in Charleston on June 30-July 2, 2020. Further information will be released once registration becomes available. More details can be found at <https://www.nbpts.org/>.



Local, State Policy Input Sought: The Barbour County Board of Education welcomes comments on the current draft of the new attendance policy for the district. It has been crafted to include revisions that reflect recent language changes made by the state legislature. You may make comments or suggestions by emailing or dropping them off at the board office. The Policy is filed under 8210 and copies have been forwarded to all personnel via email. If you have any specific questions, please contact David Neff at the BOE office.

Teachers and professional support staff have also received notice of new requirements in code that have resulted in amended qualifications policy language, including the random selection process. Policy 2220 is also available for public comment and questions. Please send your input to Mr. Neff at the board office.

PBHS Receives Grant for Water Bottle Filling Stations Across the Campus

The Highmark Foundation has selected a grant proposal submitted by Philip Barbour High School for funding this fall. Entitled "Clean Water: Every Drop Matters," the project will allow the county's secondary school to install up to six new water bottle filling stations across the high school and CTEC campus.



By strategically retrofitting existing water fountains, PB's more than 600 students and staff will benefit several ways, including: effective extra filtering of the public water source; better tasting water for its consumers; healthier hydration for young learners; reduced waste and water conservation; and environmental sustainability (especially with plastics).

With the project slated for completion prior to the holiday break, plans call for stations to be located on each of the high school's three academic floors, the commons area, the athletic wing and the career-technical center.

High Tunnel Honors for KEMS

For the second straight year, students and staff at Kasson Elementary/Middle School earned the *Best in Show* award for the school's garden produce. They also won four blue ribbons in other fruit and vegetable categories during judging in late-August at the Barbour County Fair. The approved products also find their ways onto the Kasson lunch menus in season.

