

# The Bridge



*Historic Carrollton Covered Bridge*

Volume 5, Issue 3

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## **Important Dates**

November 4	Elem. School Parent-Teacher Conferences
November 5	Middle School Parent-Teacher Conferences
November 7	High School Parent-Teacher Conferences
November 9	GED Examinations at CTEC beginning 8 a.m.
November 11	Holiday: Veterans Day (No School)
November 12	Board of Ed. Meeting; 6:00 p.m. @ BOE Office
November 18	Board of Ed. Meeting; 6:00 p.m. @ BOE Office
November 20	Two-Hour Delay Schedule Observed
November 25 to 29	Thanksgiving Holiday and OS Days (No School)
December 2	Board of Ed. Meeting; 6:00 p.m. @ BOE Office
December 16	Board of Ed. Meeting; 6:00 p.m. @ BOE Office
December 20	ISE Day (tutoring avail) No School for Students
December 21	GED Examinations at CTEC beginning 8 a.m.
Dec. 23—31	Holidays and OS Days (No School)

Hi Folks,

Mother Nature is moving in with colder weather. I truly enjoy the snow, but I really don't want to see another "Sandy" nor as many snow days as we did last year!

I do try to keep these letters short, but there is one item that I feel needs to be addressed: bomb threats at our schools, and what we do to avoid them and how we handle each situation.

ALL threats are taken very seriously and appropriate action is taken, but from my 40+ years in education, I have learned that there are certain key words within a threat that merit special attention. When those words are present, we evacuate the building. I have also learned that most threats are made for avoidance of a test, because the student was mad at a teacher, or because the student was trying to get another student in trouble, etc. Our best measure to avoid a threat is to educate our students to be responsible for all their actions – yes, that's easier said than done, but we are constantly working with our students to be accountable, and to want to be accountable, in all that they do. It is a fact of life: sometimes we succeed and, regrettably, sometimes we don't.

When threats are received, the appropriate action is taken in assessing each one according to the Emergency Response Manual that our State Department of Education has provided. When we are able to determine who authored the threat, our Board of Education has been extremely supportive of my recommendations for expulsion. At this time I am seeking legal advice concerning our ability to pursue restitution from the parents of those students caught in the threat. When you take into account the lost instructional time, the man-hours from law enforcement and emergencies services, and the resources from the Central Office with investigations and then a "special" Board Meeting, the price tag is considerable.

Please rest assured that ALL threats are taken very seriously. Our number one concern is always the safety and well-being of the students. With that said, once the investigation is completed, any student involved has to be held accountable and the appropriate steps taken with our Board. Those steps are not taken to be punitive, but as a deterrent to further threats and for the protection of all our students.

As always I welcome your input, and my door is open to all!

My best wishes to you and your family for Thanksgiving – I pray that we all have special reasons for the Thanks we give.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mr. F. L. Luper".

## Lady Colt Runners Make History With Fourth Straight State Title



The Philip Barbour girls cross-country team set a new standard for excellence in Class AA-A on Saturday, November 2, when the Lady Colts edged Charleston Catholic to claim the school's fourth consecutive state championship at Cabell Midland High School. The happy team members are shown above, with coaches, Melissa Kaiser and Jim Seaton.

Top finishers for PB included: Marissa Long, Allison Villers, Marley Dib, Brianna Williams, Cara Kirk, Haley Truman and Katie Mahoney.

The PB boys squad, meanwhile, turned in a solid second-place showing in AA-A, trailing only Bridgeport in claiming the runners-up honors. The Colts were paced by Scott Nesland, Trevor Matko, Tyler Baldwin, Dustin Williams, Ian Nuzum, Bryce McGee and Jesse Austin during the meet.

## State FFVP Grant Provides Healthy Snacks for Elementary Students

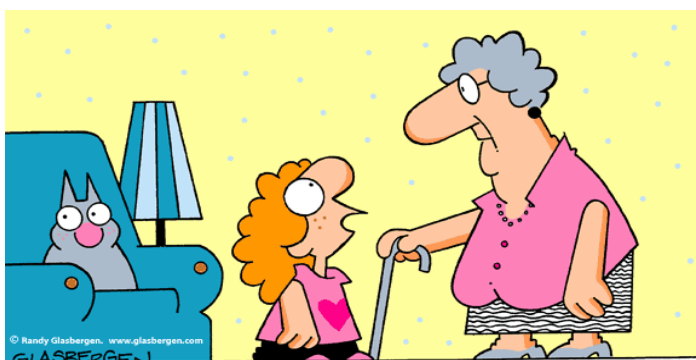
For the fifth consecutive year, Barbour County Schools has been selected for participation in the West Virginia Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP). Following the annual application process, grant funding in the amount of \$34,450 was awarded to the district to conduct the program at Philippi Elementary, Mt. Vernon Elementary and Junior Elementary Schools.

Within its basic requirements, the FFVP gives each school the flexibility to develop its own implementation plan and involve teachers and other school staff. Each school decides when, where and how to implement the FFV program. The three county schools each include nutrition education in the regular classroom, with teachers sometimes coordinating certain snacks with units of academic study.



The program provides regular, energizing breaks for the students and requires only a few minutes of class time. Junior Elementary principal, Andy Sigman, commented that "within this program, the students have the opportunity to try new food items that are beneficial to their growth and development. They also realize that these foods are tasty and a great alternative to junk or processed foods that too often make up a large portion of our diets."

Shown above during the annual kickoff celebration at Philippi Elementary School on October 9, Superintendent, Dr. Joe Super, joins teachers in promoting good nutrition and healthy eating. The staff members, volunteers and Food Service secretary, Ronda Jones, helped to coordinate the event and served PES students fruit trays consisting of a blend of fresh strawberries, blueberries, blackberries, raspberries, cantaloupe, honeydew melon and pineapple.

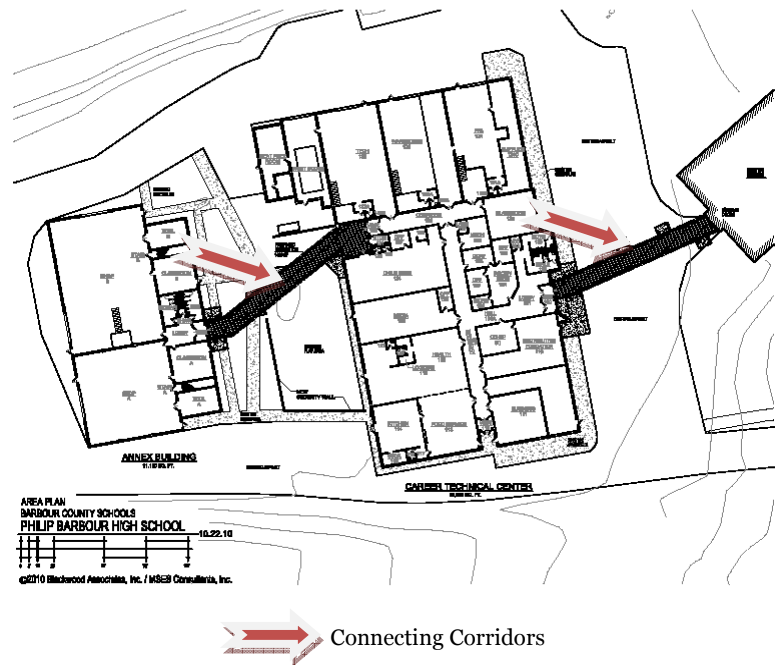


"My teacher says little girls can grow up to be anything they choose! Why did you choose to be an old lady?"

## Local SBA Proposal Addresses PBHSC Student Safety

Barbour County Schools has submitted a \$709,118.00 Major Improvement Project to the West Virginia School Building Authority for consideration during the 2013-14 round of funding. During the past years, the county has benefited from SBA grants that have allowed major renovations to occur at Kasson School, Junior Elementary School and the PBHSC.

The new proposal emphasizes health, safety and security needs at the Career and Technical Education Center at the PBHS Complex by calling for the construction of enclosed connecting corridors between the CTEC and PBHS, as well as the center and its annex.



## Future Administrators Sought for Workshop Series

Barbour County Schools has initiated a program for 2013-14 to help grow its own aspiring future administrators. The innovative series of workshops is designed to offer professional staff members an opportunity to explore beyond textbook and theoretical career approaches and see, from a practical perspective, the day-to-day responsibilities and duties of principals and other school administrators.

There are no textbooks, no tests, no charges, and no attendance taken. Those interested can just come and see if administration in a public school setting is for them. The program is open to all, including those currently in administrative positions, as well as those who might be thinking about getting involved. Thus far, between six and ten employees have participated in the informal programs.

Meetings thus far have been held in September and October, with Greg Bailey, attorney from Bowles Rice, recently sharing information and advice about the pitfalls and issues related to school law. State Superintendent, James Pharis, is slated to address the group at a future session. Personnel will be notified of the date and location of the next meeting, tentatively scheduled for January of 2014.

## Gene Hovatter Selected to Participate in National XLR8 Institute Program

Gene Hovatter, Agriculture Education teacher at the Career Technical Education Center on the campus of Philip Barbour High School has been selected as one of 18 educators from across the country to take part in the 2013 XLR8 Institute program. He has received a scholarship to pay for expenses related to the National Association of Agricultural Educators convention in Las Vegas, NV, from December 3-7. Upon his return, Gene will conduct staff development services which will include three virtual learning experiences, at least one social media engagement event, submission of at least one blog post, and hosting at least one state or regional workshop for fellow agriculture instructors on topics related to the XLR8 program.

Retaining quality experienced teachers is important to the future of agricultural education. In 2013, NAAE developed XLR8, a professional development program to meet the needs of mid-career agriculture teachers. NAAE partnered with the National Teach Ag Campaign to create the content for this year-long professional development program that targets agriculture teachers in their 7th-15th year of teaching.

The XLR8 program includes participation in an intensive professional development experience (multiple sessions) during the NAAE convention, recurring virtual learning experiences, and online collaboration using the NAAE professional learning community, Communities of Practice, as well as other social media tools.

## — Odds 'N' Ends —

➤ **Retirement Notice:** The Finance Office has issued a reminder that the date for classroom teachers to submit early written notification of their intent to retire in order to receive the \$500 bonus authorized by WV Code 18A-2-2(g) is **January 15**. In completing this process, please remember that a county board may consider the position of a classroom teacher who has provided notice of retirement as vacant and the board may immediately post the position as an opening to be filled at the conclusion of the school year. If another teacher is hired to fill the position prior to the start of the following school year, the retiring classroom teacher is disqualified from continuing his/her employment at that position. Though not required in code, Barbour County Schools is also offering a \$250 early notification bonus to service personnel who notify the board by January 15 of their intentions to retire at the end of the school year. For more information about the early notification process or to secure the necessary form, interested teachers may contact the Finance Office at 457-3030 (ext. 136).

➤ **PEIA Hosts Public Hearings:** The Public Employees Insurance Agency (PEIA) is conducting its annual public hearings during November to take comments on the proposed financial plan for the upcoming plan year. The finance board has proposed minimal changes and plan details will be made available at the hearings and on the website [www.wvpeia.com](http://www.wvpeia.com). Registration at each site begins at 5 p.m. with the hearing to begin at 6 p.m. Those wishing to speak must indicate so at the registration. The hearing sites and dates include: November 4, Martinsburg; November 5, Morgantown; November 6, Wheeling; November 11, Beckley; November 12, Charleston; and November 13, Huntington. PEIA will also provide customer service at each location from 5—6 p.m. for those who have questions about medical, prescription or life insurance benefits.

➤ **BCCF Grant Program:** The Barbour County Community Foundation grant window for 2013 closes on November 30. The BCCF focuses grant priorities in the areas of: arts and culture, education, health and human services, youth and community services and recreation. For more information, check the organization's website. For assistance, contact Doug Schiefelbein at the Board of Education office (ext. 110) or via e-mail.



### *Try The Colts' Corner: It's Informative and Entertaining!*



A new elective class at Philip Barbour High School is producing weekly taped telecasts that have proven to be popular with the student body, and now you can view them too! The Colts' Corner is a mid-day project-based course called "Current Events in the Digital Age" in which class members take on the roles of a television production team. The crew creates a new 9-12 minute program each Friday that is viewed by PB students during AA classes via the school's computer/video system. With a "This Week in Review" type format, the students look back at happenings across the world, country, state and school in an imaginative and sometimes humorous way. The recent quirky Halloween special was a great example.

As part of the high school's New Tech curriculum, the elective allows students to take the lead in the program's content and production ideas. The course is co-sponsored by staff members, Allyson McNaboe and Gerald Furby, who lend support and advice as needed.

To view the program, visit the school website at <http://pbhs.barb.k12.wv.us/> and follow the link to The Colts' Corner. Simply create a Webtop account to keep up with the events in Colt Country!