



# The Bridge

**Volume 7, Issue 4**

**December, 2015**



## **Important Dates**

<b>Dec. 4</b>	"Winning Culture" Training at Bd. Office
<b>Dec. 14</b>	Board of Education Meets, 6 pm, JES
<b>Dec. 21</b>	Board of Education Meets, 6 pm, PBHS
<b>Dec. 23</b>	End of First Semester and 2nd Nine-Weeks
<b>Dec. 23</b>	Faculty Senate Day: 2-Hour Early Release
<b>Dec. 24 to 31</b>	Christmas Holiday Break: No School
<b>Dec. 28</b>	Paychecks Available at BOE: 9 am to 3 pm
<b>Jan. 1</b>	New Years Day Holiday: No School
<b>Jan. 8</b>	Report Card Distribution
<b>Jan. 11</b>	Board of Education Meets, 6 pm, BOE
<b>Jan. 12</b>	Parent-Teacher Conf. at Elementary Schools
<b>Jan. 14</b>	Parent-Teacher Conf. at Middle Schools
<b>Jan. 18</b>	Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday: No School
<b>Jan. 25</b>	Board of Education Meets, 6 pm, BOE

Greetings Everyone,

I hope that you've all gotten back into the groove of being back to work and that you are also looking forward to celebrating the holiday season that is fast approaching. I can remember being a child and looking forward to Christmas Day and to the presents that my family and I would gather around and open early Christmas morning.

When I became older and had my own children, I quickly learned that what my mother had told us for years was correct: that it was much more enjoyable to be able to give than to receive. Yes, there was a much greater gift in being able to give and then see the looks on my children's faces when they opened their presents.

Believe it or not, I think that, in the education business, we have the opportunity to see that same look on the faces of the children we serve on a regular basis. If we take the time to acknowledge the kids and point out something good that they are doing or have done, it is amazing to see their faces light up. Maybe it is not as good as Christmas, but it just may be.

The absolute best thing about my job is having the opportunity to go into the schools, talk with the students and staffs, and getting opportunities to learn so much about the wonderful families here in Barbour County. I am a man of faith and it is easy to see and believe that we are doing some wonderful things in our schools. We are not perfect, but we are trying to make a difference in our schools.

I was at an educational conference this summer and the presenter was talking about how so many people feel that our schools are suffering because we have taken God out of the schools. He went on to point out that more of God's work is done in our schools on a daily basis than in any other institution in America. We clothe the needy, feed the hungry, love the neglected and protect the weak every day we are in session.

I am thrilled to be able to have the opportunity to work with such a committed group of people who are willing to go above and beyond in service to the students in Barbour County. I am looking forward to working hard to help improve the quality of education that our students receive in Barbour County, just as much as I am looking forward to spending time celebrating the holidays later this month.

Thanks again for all that you do for our students!

*Alfred P. Wagter*



## West Virginia's Best!

### PB Volleyball Squad Takes 2015 AA Title



The Philip Barbour Lady Colts claimed the 2015 West Virginia Class AA state title in convincing fashion on November 14, sweeping three games from Oak Glen in the championship match. The accomplishment marked the second crown in the program's history, with the first occurring in 2005. PB has become an annual fixture for the past 14 years at the Charleston Civic Center under the leadership of head coach, Heather Halfin.

PB finished its stellar season with a final record of 48-7-2, having claimed Big Ten Conference, sectional and regional titles along the way. Seniors, Cori Carpenter and Jezeray Casto were named to both the All-Tournament and the Class AA All-State First Team, while sophomore, Maddi Carpenter was selected to the Second Team, and freshman, McKenzie Carpenter earned Special Honorable Mention.

### Ronald Phillips Appointed Interim Board of Education Member

Philippi resident, Ronald Phillips, was sworn in as a member of the Barbour County Board of Education at the board's November 9 meeting at Belington Middle School. He will complete the term of Reggie Trefethen, who resigned in accordance with election policy after relocating to a different district of the county. Mr. Phillips will serve through June of 2016. He is shown below, with his wife, Lilah, and granddaughter, as he takes the oath of office from Homer Talbott (left), the board's notary public.



## Kasson Students Participate in Various November Activities



Students at Kasson Elementary/Middle School had a chance to experience enrichment activities in the areas of science and social studies during the month of November. The mobile Clay Center Science Laboratory visited the school on November 5, bringing interactive games to teach children lessons on energy. The school has also been chosen to participate in the James Webb STEM innovation project for space exploration. Miss West Virginia visited the school on November 10 to mingle with the students and talk to them about her role in representing the state. November 12 saw the school host a luncheon and reception (left) to honor local veterans on their special day with a skit, music, poems and World War II love letters to share with their special guests.



### Volga-Century and Junior Schools Host Late-Fall Programs for Students



Pupils at both Volga-Century and Junior Elementary Schools recently participated in a number of activities designed to both educate and entertain. First, to commemorate Veterans Day, the staff and students welcomed area vets (shown above) to share lunch, along with stories and advice with the youngsters.

The schools have also been emphasizing anti-bullying strategies and incorporated them during a special assembly entitled “We Take a Stand,” which also featured a number of eye-catching tricks to keep the students engaged. Finally, as thoughts turned to the Christmas season, the Candy Cane Elf kept a recent tradition alive as he made visits to each classroom.



### “Lemonade Day” Can Spark Kids’ Entrepreneurial Spirits

Middle school and secondary level students across West Virginia are being encouraged to explore “Lemonade Day” for 2016 in an effort to learn about the basics of small business. This community-based educational program is designed to teach youth the entrepreneurial skills necessary to start, own and operate their own businesses.

Students or classes that participate will learn 14 lessons from a special workbook with the help and guidance of their parents, teachers or youth organization leaders, who serve as mentors.

Upon successful completion of the lessons, they will be ready to open their first business...a lemon-



ade stand. Communities work with local health departments to request special one-day waivers for the projects.

Participants will learn important life lessons as they learn the steps and planning necessary to launch a business. They’ll also learn first-hand about leadership, collaboration, responsibility and teamwork.

With the events set at various times in the spring, usually May, each youth or team decides what they will do with the profits earned: spend it on something they’d like, put some in the bank, or donate to a local charity. It’s up to them.

For more information about “Lemonade Day,” please visit: [lemonadeday.org](http://lemonadeday.org).

## — Odds 'N' Ends —

➤ **Finance Office Reminder:** School personnel who receive paper paychecks should take note that the second check of the month will be available at the Board of Education office from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on December 28th. Any not picked up will be mailed at the end of the day.

➤ **Retirement Notice:** The Finance Office has issued a final 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.

Also, although 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 for the necessary form, interested staff may contact the Finance Office at 457-3030 (ext. 136).

➤ **TASC Exam Dates Set for Coming Months:** The county's Department of Adult Education has announced the upcoming dates for the TASC diploma-equivalency testing to be held at the Barbour County Career and Technical Education Center. For more information, contact Angie at the CTEC. Those planning to test should arrive at the center by 3:15 p.m. to prepare for the 3:30 p.m. starting times on the following dates:

- December 15 and 16, 2015
- February 17 and 18, 2016
- April 13 and 14, 2016

## A Few Fun Facts About Christmas

\*If you received all the gifts from the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas" you would have 364 presents.

\*In 1836 Alabama became the first state in the US to declare Christmas a legal holiday. Oklahoma became the last state to declare Christmas a legal holiday in 1907. In June of 1970 Christmas became a federal holiday in the US.

\*There are three towns in the USA that are named Santa Claus: one in Georgia, one in Arizona and one in Indiana.

\*Christmas trees were first decorated with foods such as apples, nuts and dates. In the 18th century Christmas trees began being decorated with candles. Electric Christmas tree lights were first used in 1895.

\*The song "Jingle Bells" was written by James Pierpont in 1857. It was originally called "One Horse Open Sleigh" and was made for Thanksgiving.

\*The Candy Cane is one of the most familiar symbols of Christmas. It dates back to 1670 in Europe but didn't appear in the U.S. until the 1800s. The treat we see today, where the shape is Jesus's hook to shepherd his lambs and the color and stripes hold significance for purity and Christ's sacrifice, became common in the mid 1900s.

\*The French gave the *biggest* Christmas present ever in 1886. It was the Statue of Liberty, and they gave it to the United States of America. (The French have one too, a smaller one, in Paris.)



"My school holiday concert has been cancelled. Frosty the Snowman has the same name as a drug dealer, Rudolph is a victim of bullying, Jingle Bells denies global warming and White Christmas is racist."