



The

# Challenge

September 2001



## SBA lists proposed school closings

The West Virginia School Building Authority has compiled a list of 151 schools to be closed between 2000 and 2010. Some of them already have closed.

Of the 151 schools included on the list, 119 are elementary or primary schools.

Challenge WV fellows, meeting in August, said the list is not always consistent with the facilities plans submitted by the county committees on which they served.

Some schools not

recommended for closure in some county's CEFPP plans are on the SBA's list of closures. Some schools recommended for closure in the facilities plan are not included on the list.

One fellow pointed out that in his county elementary schools were scheduled to go into high school buildings but no high schools were on the closure list.

The list, by county, includes:

**Barbour:** Philip Barbour High School; **Cabell:** Barboursville, Pea Ridge,

Meadows, Miller, and Cammack elementaries; Beverly Hills, Enslow, Cammack and West Middle

schools; **Clay:** Ivydale, Valley Fork, Lizemore and

Please turn to page three

## Dr. Tompkins to keynote October 13 conference

Dr. Rachel Tompkins, Dr. Stan Maynard and Dr. Barbara Maynard will be the featured speakers at Challenge WV's annual fall conference.

The third annual "Our Communities, Our Schools" conference will be held on Saturday, October

13, from 10 to 3 p.m. at the Days Inn at Flatwoods.

Dr. Tompkins, director of the Rural School and Community Trust, will deliver the keynote address.

The Maynards will discuss their work with Hannan High School in

Please turn to page three

## Books, books, books!

Tractor trailer loads of books estimated at almost \$1 million have come into West Virginia communities thanks to a partnership between the Kentucky-based Christian Appalachian Project and Challenge WV.

Challenge fellows Paul Hamrick, Harrison County, Jana Freeman, Preston County and Bob Henry Baber, Nicholas County, applied for and received the books. Tim McCoy, Putnam County, and Cindy Miller, Webster County, have received confirmation that their communities also will receive books.

The books range in price from \$7 to \$125. They cover a range of subjects, including reading, science and geography, but are not religious in nature.

The only stipulation is that the books go to students in Title I schools. They can't be traded or sold. For more information, contact Bob Henry Baber at 304-846-6644.



Clarksburg Exponent photo by Paul Stephen

Paul Hamrick with some of Harrison County's books

# This 'n that from around the state

- Senate Education Committee Chairman Lloyd Jackson announced in August that he will not seek reelection in 2002. Jackson is considered the Legislature's top education policymaker and is credited with designing laws mandating higher standards for state schools.

Jackson cited family concerns for his decision. He told the Associated Press, "This was a real difficult decision for me to make. The last four years have been difficult. I have just not had time to spend with either my family or our business. My father is 83 and his health is not what it was. He can't continue to run the business so I can be in the Legislature." Jackson's family operates an oil and gas drilling business based in Hamlin.

Jackson told *The Charleston Gazette* earlier this month that he would run for re-election, despite rumors that Logan County Del. Joe C. Ferrell planned to move to Boone County to mount a challenge.

- Many state students returned to school in mobile classrooms after massive summer floods destroyed schools and many homes in southern West Virginia. Students at Kimball Elementary, in McDowell County, received a free meal, school supplies and the chance to talk with a counselor. The first floor at Kimball was gutted, and construction workers have begun a \$3 million repair job.

At Pineville Elementary, in Wyoming County, Principal Joseph Stewart said he will try to feed and educate 385 students in the existing school, five trailers and a former junior high school. Construction work will be going on at Pineville and two other county schools.

- Students at Northfork Middle School in McDowell County are being bused to Mount View High School because of asbestos problems at the flood-damaged school. The state Department of Health and Human Resources ordered that Northfork cannot be opened for students and staff until corrective measures are taken. Northfork students and staff will use the first floor of Mount View.

- Fayette County's new schools superintendent, Harry Hoffer, has proposed closing 11 schools and 19 buildings, according to a report in *The Charleston Gazette*. Hoffer, who has been on the job since July 1, said the changes are necessary because of dropping student enrollment. In May, Fayette County voters overwhelmingly defeated a \$39



million bond. Collins Middle School Principal David Perry, also a member of the State House of Delegates, said he wished the proposal had come from the community up instead of the administration down. "Fayette County is so diverse geographically. I would like to see as much of that geographic diversity maintained as possible," he said.

- The State Board Of Education has voted to scrap the Stanford Achievement Test. The test will be replaced with a variety of exams that will put more emphasis on what

students learn in class and less on how they compare with their peers across the nation.

- Sandra Chapman, an attorney from Wheeling, has been elected president of the West Virginia Board of Education. Paul Morris of Charelston was elected vice president and Jim MacCallum of Madison was elected secretary. The terms are for one year.

- Students returned to West Hamlin Elementary in Lincoln County, despite problems with the school's cooling and heating system, *The Lincoln Journal* reported. At the end of last school year, parents complained that something in the building was causing children and staff to become ill. During the summer the school became very damp and mold began growing on floors, desks, tables and books. The heating and cooling system is part of a major addition to the school two years ago.

- Social worker Phoebe Harless has been named to fill the vacancy on the Lincoln County Board of Education created when long-time board member Fred Curry resigned last October.

- Kanawha County's Capital High School will be getting its third roof in twelve years, according to a report in *The Charleston Daily Mail*. Board members devoted \$480,000 of their carryover budget to repair the leaking ceiling that floods hallways and classrooms when it rains.

- West Virginia's fourth and eighth grade students have made gains in math over the past decade, but only 18 percent are proficient in math, according to the National Assessment of Education Progress. The state's overall score was 225 on a scale of 500. The national average is 226.

# SBA list includes 119 elementaries

H.E. White elementaries and Clay County Middle; **Doddridge:** Carr, Greenbrier, Sedalia and West Union elementaries.

**Fayette:** Powellton, Danese, Beckwith, Fayetteville, Gatewood, Oak Hill East End and Oak Hill elementaries, Montgomery, Ansted and Nuttall Middle, and Gauley Bridge High; **Gilmer:** Normantown, Sand Fork and Troy elementaries; **Hancock:** Marland Heights, New Cumberland, Weirton Heights elementaries and Oak Glen Middle.

**Harrison:** Adamston, North View, Wilsonburg, Harden, Van Horn, Lost Creek, Norwood, Simpson and Johnson elementaries; **Kanawha:** Belvil, Fair-

view, Ford, Mound, Roxalana, Tyler, High Lawn, Valley Grove and Midway elementaries and Clendenin and Sissonville Middle; **Lewis:** Alum Bridge and Polk Creek elementaries.

**Lincoln:** Atenville, Ferrellsburg, Branchland, Pleasant View and Griffithsville elementaries; **Logan:** Amherstdale, Christian, and Mallory elementaries, and Man Junior High; **Marion:** Dunbar Middle and Miller Junior High; **Marshall:** Central, Limestone, Park View, Sanford and Sherrard elementaries and Union Junior High.

**Mason:** Central, Ordnance and Mason/Hartford elementaries;

**Mercer:** Memorial, White-thorn, Bluewell, Bramwell, Brushfork, Ceres, Melrose, Straley and Mercer elementaries; **Mineral:** Fort Ashby Primary, Wiley Ford Primary and Frankfort Intermediate; **Mingo:** Cline, Gilbert, Lenore, Varney, Burch elementaries and Lenore Middle.

**Monongalia:** Arnettsville, Waitman Barbe, Cass, Riverside, Central, Cool Springs, Summers, Easton, Westover, Wiles Hill and Woodburn elementaries, and Clay Battelle Junior/Senior High; **Morgan:** North Berkeley and Pleasant View elementaries; **McDowell:** Anawalt, Gary, Bartley, Berwind, War, Iaeager, and Panther elementaries; Northfork and Welch Middle, and Iaeager High.

**Nicholas:** Beaver, Craigsville, Mt. Lookout and Mt. Nebo elementaries; **Pleasants:** St. Mary's High; **Preston:** Tunnelton-Denver and Fellowsville elementaries and South Preston and

West Preston middle schools; **Putnam:** George Washington and Poca middle schools; **Raleigh:** Beaver, Central, Institute, Piney View elementaries and Marsh Fork Junior/Senior.

**Randolph:** Valley Head Elementary; **Ritchie:** Cairo, Ellenboro, Harrisville and Creek Collins elementaries; **Roane:** Spencer Middle; **Upshur:** Central, Hodgesville, Rock Cave and Washington District elementaries; **Wayne:** Wayne Elementary; **Wyoming:** Glen Rogers Grade and Baileysville and Oceana high schools.

These counties had no proposed closings: **Berkeley, Boone, Braxton, Brooke, Calhoun, Grant, Greenbrier, Hampshire, Hardy, Jackson, Jefferson, Monroe, Ohio, Pendleton, Pocahontas, Summers, Taylor, Tucker, Tyler, Webster, Wetzel, Wirt, Wood.**

## Conference . . .

Mason County.

Dr. Stan Maynard is a professor of Education at Marshall University. Dr. Barbara Maynard works with the Regional Education Service Agency (RESA II) serving southwestern West Virginia.

Hannan was scheduled for closure before small schools supporters took control of the County Board of Education.

Consolidation plans were scrapped and money for a consolidated high school were returned to the School Building Authority.

The Maynards worked with the county to provide the support and services

needed to make Hannan a model small school and to show how good small schools can benefit students.

Just two years into the process, the Hannan Project is showing amazing results – with student test scores and community involvement on the rise.

Cost for the conference, which includes a lunch meal, is \$10.

All community people interested in small schools or in learning more about the efforts of Challenge WV to save small schools are urged to attend.

Please fill out and return the form at right.

**Register now for the 2001 Challenge WV Conference!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Send completed form with \$10 to:

Linda Martin  
801 Gordon Drive  
Charleston, WV 25503



# The Challenge

The Challenge is published monthly by Challenge West Virginia, a statewide organization committed to maintaining and improving small community schools and reforming education policy in West Virginia so that all of our state's children have the opportunity to receive a first-class education and the promise of a bright future.

Challenge members believe state education policy, which has resulted in the closing of a fourth of West Virginia's schools during the past ten years, does not serve the best interest of many children, especially those from low-income families who live in rural areas.

Challenge West Virginia is a program of Covenant House, an independent, non-profit organization in Charleston, WV, which is not connected to any other program by the same name.

To start a chapter of Challenge WV, to inquire about the fellowship program or for more information, contact:

**Linda Martin**  
**801 Gordon Drive**  
**Charleston, WV 25303**  
**304-744-5916**  
**LBM94@aol.com**

**Beth Spence**  
**58 Frontier Road**  
**Alum Creek, WV 25003**  
**304-756-9191**  
**bandb58@aol.com**



# Challenge West Virginia

*A program of Covenant House, Charleston, WV*

Linda Martin                      Beth Spence  
 Education Coordinator      Rural Coordinator  
 801 Gordon Drive              58 Frontier Road  
 Charleston, WV 25303        Alum Creek, WV 25003

## We Support Small Schools!

Non-Profit Organization  
 US Postage Paid  
 Permit 2673  
 Charleston, WV 25301

## Challenge WV County Contacts

[www.wvcovenanthouse.org/challengewv/](http://www.wvcovenanthouse.org/challengewv/)

### Calhoun County

Eric Rogers  
 304-655-7134  
 Skiddy19@hotmail.com

### Clay County

Marge Bragg  
 304-286-2655  
 ijram@hawksnet.et

### Fayette County

Carolyn Arritt  
 304-484-7919  
 Carritt-McCune@citynet.net

### Hancock County

Roberta Taylor  
 TDTaylor63@yahoo.com

### Harrison County

Paul Hamrick  
 304-622-5664  
 LITCCHC@AOL.com

### Jefferson County

Paul Burke  
 304-876-2227  
 NumbersInstitute@Juno.com

### Lincoln County

Thomas Ramey Jr.  
 304-855-3930  
 tprameyww@hotmail.com

### Logan County

Chris Stratton  
 304-752-3258  
 cstratton@mountain.net

### McDowell County

Marsha Timpson  
 304-875-3418  
 marshatimpson@hotmail.com

### Monongalia County

Jon Frist  
 304-292-9599  
 jon.frist@pwc.ca

### Nicholas County

Bob Henry Baber  
 304-846-6644

### Preston County

Jana Freeman  
 304-735-3411  
 Janaf11@hotmail.com

### Putnam County

Tim McCoy  
 304-586-9823  
 tmccoy@dictaphone.com

### Ritchie County

Patty Deak  
 304-869-3462  
 pdeak@dot.state.wv.us

### Webster County

Cindy Miller  
 304-493-6369  
 KCACMiller@juno.com