

# Duplin Times

PROGRESS SENTINEL

VOL. XXXVII NO. 15

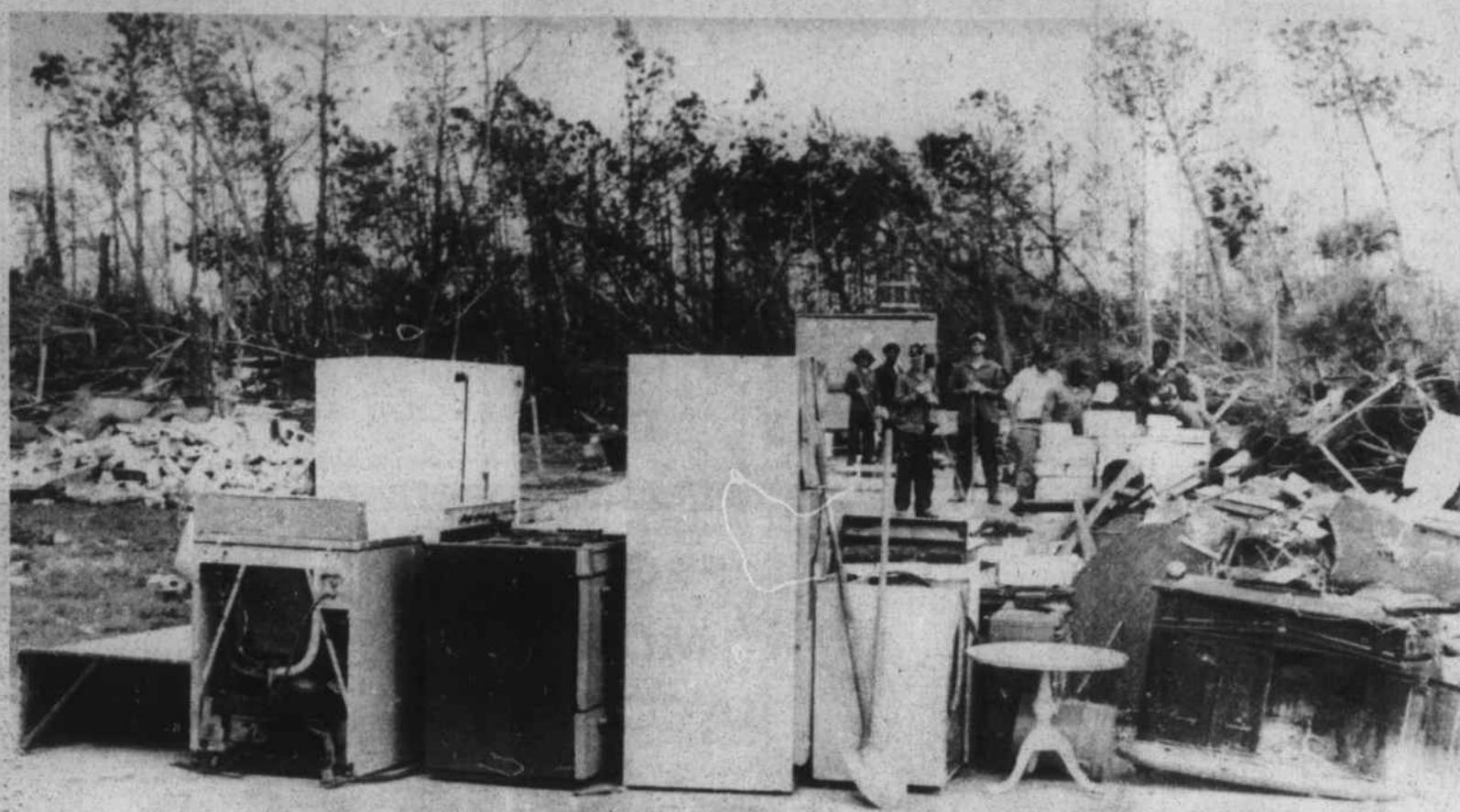
USPS 162-860

KENANSVILLE, NC 28349

16 PAGES THIS WEEK

APRIL 12, 1984

10 CENTS PLUS TAX



**Local Correctional Units Assist With Clean-up In Tornado Destruction Areas**

## Parents Want Son In School

**KENANSVILLE** — The parents of a student who was expelled from junior high school are asking the Duplin County Superior Court to order the board of education to allow the student to return to school.

The student was accused of bringing a weapon to the school and of telling another student he planned to shoot a teacher.

A superior court hearing has been scheduled for 10 a.m. Wednesday.

The petition on behalf of William Douglas Edge, 14, asks the court to order the school system to allow the student to make up all work he has

missed, provide necessary tutorial and other assistance and to allow the seventh-grader to be promoted to the next grade, all at no cost to the student.

His father, William Owen Edge and stepmother, Annette S. Edge contend the student was improperly suspended for 10 days from the seventh grade of Charity Middle School near Rose Hill on Feb. 15 by the principal, W. H. Gillespie.

The board of education, following a hearing with the parents and attorney March 6, expelled the student for the remainder of the school year.

In its expulsion order, the board reported the student brought a firearm stock and 11 shells to the school in violation of policy. The order also stated that the youth had been suspended for three days in May 1983 for bringing a can of beer onto the school playgrounds and had been placed in the "in school suspension" program twice in November 1983.

The board's order also states that Gillespie, "was advised by several students that William Douglas Edge was to have purportedly stated I'm going to shoot Mrs. Moore (a teacher) for what she called me."

The Edges contend in their petition that the board of education has not established policies and procedures governing suspension or expulsion of students as required by state law.

They further contend that evidence does not support the board's finding that William Edge had stated that he intended to shoot anyone because no student testified to that statement during the hearing.

Supt. L.S. Guy said Friday the Duplin school system has a written policy concerning suspension or expulsion of students. He believes it covers the Edge expulsion.

## Duplin School Budget Offered

**KENANSVILLE** — The Duplin County Board of Education received a proposed 1984-85 budget from the administrative staff Tuesday that calls for \$314,950 from the county general fund.

The school board is scheduled to present its proposed budget to the county commissioners April 16.

The proposed budget would increase county general fund requests from all departments to \$11,233,880 — \$993,175 more than the \$10,240,705 in general fund requests presented to the county commissioners Monday by County Manager Ralph Cottle.

The school board failed to include its 1984-85 budget request in the "wish list" from county departments that was presented to the commissioners. Cottle included an estimated school budget including \$2,321,775 for current expenses —

the amount requested by the school board last year. He had allowed nothing for capital outlay.

Cottle's estimate was \$993,175 short of the actual budget proposal presented to the school board Tuesday night.

Cottle said if the budget requests he presented Monday night were approved, a tax rate of more than 96 cents per \$100 assessed valuation would be required. The present county tax rate is 75 cents.

If the initial school request is approved, along with the entire budget request from other departments, the additional \$993,175 would require a further tax rate increase of more than 15 cents to bring the rate up to almost \$1.12.

The proposed school budget includes \$2,709,400 from the county general fund for current expenses and \$605,550 for capital outlay. The

schools' proposed current expense budget also includes \$150,000 in fines and forfeitures, \$25,000 from earned interest, \$123,464 in miscellaneous earnings and a fund balance of \$200,000 for a total current expense outlay of \$3,207,864.

The proposed capital outlay budget for the schools includes \$5,000 in interest and \$25,000 in fund balances in addition to the \$605,550 from the general fund.

Superintendent L.S. Guy first refused to allow a *Morning Star* correspondent to see a copy of the budget, but acceded to protests of board members to provide the reporter a copy to use while the budget was under discussion. He refused to allow the reporter to have a copy of the proposed budget for detailed study.

"I'm afraid that news stories and editorials may cause the commis-

sioners not to fund part of the request," Guy said.

Prior to the school proposal, Cottle estimated the commissioners would have to cut \$1,345,539 from county department budget requests to keep the tax rate at 75 cents per \$100 valuation. With the additional school proposal, the commissioners would have to cut \$2,338,714 from the requests.

The commissioners appropriated \$1,890,586 for current expense and nothing for capital outlay from the general fund for the school system in the current fiscal year. For the current fiscal year, the school system is expected to receive \$150,000 from fines and forfeitures, \$22,000 from interest, \$98,072 from miscellaneous sources and \$285,459 from carry-over fund balances, for a total from local funds of \$2,446,117.



**Streater Signs Autographs After Alcohol And You Meeting**

Steve Streeter, a former University of North Carolina athlete and spokesman for Students Against Driving Drunk organization, was guest speaker at the program Alcohol and You held April 5 in the Duplin County Superior Courtroom in Kenansville. The program, sponsored by the Duplin County Home Economics Program Committee, was attended by 200 people. Appearing along with Streeter were 1st Sgt. W.M. Autry of the North Carolina Highway Patrol, Assistant

District Attorney Dewey Hudson Jr. of the 4th Judicial District, Goshen and Plainview Medical Centers of Duplin, Internist Dr. Kenneth Lee, M.D., Director of Adult Service Rebecca Judge of Duplin-Sampson Area Mental Health, Human Development Specialist Dr. Leo Hawkins of North Carolina State University, and Athletic Director Kenneth Avent of North Duplin High School.

## Beulaville Town Receives Certificate From FFA

The East Duplin High School Future Farmers of America presented the town of Beulaville with a certificate of appreciation at the April 2 meeting of the Board of Commissioners for support in the park beautification project.

FFA president Henry Cavenaugh presented the certificate to Mayor Wilbur Hussey for the town's assistance with beautification and cleanup of the Beulaville park. The FFA students cleaned up and planted shrubbery and flowers at the town park.

Mayor Wilbur Hussey informed the Beulaville Commissioners of the designation of May 9 as the town's inspection date for the 1984 Community of Excellence award.

Town Clerk Carol Miller informed the Board of a proposed \$10 raise in rent for the building housing the Beulaville Library. According to Miller, the need for additional electrical wiring would result in the \$10 jump in rent. The wiring is estimated to cost Calvin Mercer, who leases the building, \$200. The Beulaville Library operates three days a week, Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 1 to 5 p.m. The Beulaville librarian will be salaried

## Red Tape Snare Tornado Victims

The federal government is running true to form in administering disaster relief programs in Faison and Mount Olive.

Forms are what officials in the five disaster relief centers are giving people who need help to rebuild. This storm-ravaged area has shortages of housing and building materials, but not of paper — five-page information forms and applications, each page with its own carbon copy.

The message many people are getting is: "A tornado doesn't make it any easier to get federal loans or grants."

No federal regulations have been waived. The forms are required and applicants must fit the criteria or they don't get any money, several officials at Faison and Mount Olive said.

Some of the 2,200 homeless people who need help are being told it will be 60 days or more before applications can be processed. Officials say 1,494 people had applied for aid by closing time Thursday.

An undetermined number could get help sooner. The anticipated backlog of applications and the normal review process mean many people won't.

The quick assistance that victims need has been left in the hands of relatives, the Red Cross and the Salvation Army.

The business of cleaning up the wind-ravaged areas is giving many residents of storm-damaged counties residents fits, tying them up in red tape.

People who need temporary housing must fill out a five-page application before a damage assessment team can view their property. Filling out another five pages will put the applicant's name on the Small Business Administration list for either home or business loans.

Most forms take about 20 minutes to fill out. Some relief workers help applicants complete the questionnaires. Others such as SBA employees will not, citing federal regulations.

Officials of the SBA and Federal Emergency Management Agency's Temporary Housing division would discuss the paperwork process only after getting approval from the directors of the FEMA-run centers.

In Mount Olive, volunteers from Wayne County Services on Aging helped elderly people deal with the forms and federal interviewers.

Doug Dexter, a Wayne County Department of Mental Health worker at the Mount Olive relief center, said more people were showing signs of anxiety over the tornado damage Wednesday, partly because of the lengthy interviews to get help.

"They had the tornado damage; then there's the trauma of telling the story over and over to all these people. It's the trauma of dealing

with the loss," he said. "The people I've seen traumatized worst are the old folks."

Dexter said 13 people were advised Tuesday and Wednesday to get counseling from the Wayne County Mental Health Department.

The Rev. David B. Jenkins, pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Goldsboro, said, "It was so traumatic an experience for so many of these people to come in and attempt to list all their losses that we've had a number of church people volunteer to come and read the questions to the people."

"A lot of the people couldn't understand the questionnaires because they were so technical," Jenkins said.

"I don't see how they've held up so well," said Nancy Collier, income maintenance representative for the N.C. Department of Health and Human Resources. She worked in the Faison center taking applications for the Individual and Family Grants division of FEMA.

The Whiteville resident said telling about the damage again and again seemed to tell on many tornado victims, particularly the elderly.

Some took the federal forms in stride.

If federal help is not forthcoming, "we'll find private ways to do it," said Chester Hinson of the Faison area.

"We'll have temporary housing by the weekend," the foreman for N.N. Ellis Produce Co. of Faison said. Hinson and his wife will be living in a migrant farm worker home owned by his employer.

Sharon Padgett, who lives outside Faison, was told Tuesday she could not get a loan from the Small Business Administration, but it would be six weeks before her formal denial would come through. That would delay her application for money from the Individual and Family Grant section of the Federal Emergency Management Administration.

"They made it look like it's easy to get money because of the disaster," she said. "It's not easy."

"I had a house paid for, I was working, I don't get child support, food stamps, nothing. Now when I apply for a loan they deny me."

"They tell me I don't make enough money to get a loan," Ms. Padgett said at the relief center at Faison. "It sounds to me like the federal government is for people that's got money."

After a story on her plight appeared in newspapers Wednesday, she was given an immediate denial, allowing her to apply for the IFG program.

"We can give them an immediate denial and refer them to the Individual and Family Grant people," SBA disaster loan specialist W.R. Vreeeland from Atlanta said.

## Kenansville Buys Tractor And Car

**KENANSVILLE**.

The town will pay \$6,000 and trade in an old tractor for \$2,750. The new machine will operate a bush-hog and a blade.

The board also appropriated \$2,000 to complete payment to the state for a used State Highway Patrol car. It appropriated \$2,500 for the 1982 Chevrolet during its March meeting. Sealed bids will be accepted on the town's 1976 model police car until the board's May meeting.

Marian Moore and Jimmy Wayne Stroud were appointed to the Planning Board.

Also, the board discussed possible purchase of George Kornegay's law offices as a town office. The building contains 1,148 square feet and stands on a 144-foot by 92-foot lot. Its assessed valuation is \$22,440.

## Disaster Information Hotline

Disaster officials established a toll-free disaster information hotline which provides necessary information for those affected by the recent tornadoes. Those needing assistance may call the following number between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m., seven days a week: North Carolina only: 1-800-682-2674.

Clothing, food and household goods are being distributed by volunteer relief agencies and volunteers at the following locations:

In Duplin at New Duplin Warehouse, Railroad Street, Wallace. In Lenoir, Union Tobacco on Highway 70 East, Kinston; and in Wayne, Carver Elementary School at Mount Olive.