

# School Calls For Budget Increase

The budget has not been approved by the Duplin County commissioners

A Proposed 1984-85 Duplin County school budget that could require a property tax increase of almost 18 cents per \$100 will be presented to the county commissioners this week.

The board of education last week approved a budget calling for \$3,866,414 from all local funds, an increase of \$1,195,297 from the \$2,671,117 in current expense and capital outlay funds received from all county sources last year.

If such an increase is approved and funded entirely from county property tax money, it will require an increase of about 18 cents per \$100 assessed valuation.

One cent on the Duplin County property tax rate, the main source of local revenue for schools, adds about \$67,000 to the county coffers. In contrast, one cent of property tax levy adds \$333,777 to New Hanover County's treasury. Duplin has a population of about 41,000 and New Hanover's is about 103,000.

The Duplin schools' 1983-84 bud-

get was cut \$608,875 from the school board's proposed \$3,279,992.

Despite pleas of school officials and board members that the money is needed to improve school facilities and quality of education, the county commissioners have emphasized that the rural nature of the county keeps the tax base at a much lower level than in industrialized areas. The commissioners have not disagreed about the need for money to improve the school system.

The current expense portion of the proposed Duplin school budget, \$2,709,400 to be met from county sources, would amount to the revenue from a tax levy of 40 cents per \$100 assessed valuation.

In addition to property tax money, schools receive money from court fines and forfeitures; specially funded state and federal programs, such as vocational agriculture and home economics; miscellaneous receipts; and whatever school fund balances remain from the preceding fiscal year.

Superintendent L.S. Guy said the proposed budget would provide the

money necessary to keep Duplin schools abreast of state and national standards.

He told the board members before the vote: "If you can't defend this budget, I wish you'd turn it down tonight. I'm sincere in this, too."

The budget provides \$200,000 in salaries and fringe benefits for 14 new positions, including a part-time principal-teacher, a junior Reserve Officers Training Corps post at East Duplin High School, nine teacher aides, a teacher for exceptional children, an attendance counselor and a guidance counselor. That amount would also add two paid weeks to the contracts of nine guidance counselors.

It includes \$206,886 for pay increases, based on the estimated state increase of 15 percent. If the state increase is less, the county increase would be dropped accordingly.

It includes \$635,550 in capital outlay items, an increase of \$411,550 from 1983-84. The commissioners cut the capital outlay request out of the 1983-84 school budget. A total of \$225,000 from interest was applied to capital outlay.

**BENEFIT BARBECUE**  
The Community Fire Department will sponsor a benefit dinner on Saturday, April 21 beginning at 11

a.m. and lasting until the food runs out. It will be at the Fire Department at Fountaintown. Barbecued pork and fried chicken will be \$3.50 a plate. The proceeds will go to help Arlis Fountain with medical bills for his wife, who has cancer.

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## Storm Victims Have Until June To Seek Aid

Victims of the March 28 tornadoes can apply for disaster aid through May 31. The disaster assistance centers have closed and applications for help must be made at the offices of federal agencies.

The major source of information on assistance is the toll-free number 1-800-682-2675. It can be called between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. weekdays.

Flyers will also be distributed in communities hit by the tornadoes, according to Russ Edmonston, spokesman for the N.C. Division of

Emergency Management.

Property owners can use the toll-free number to report housing for rent. Of the 2,083 people who visited the relief centers, 1,170 needed temporary housing. That is more than the number of rental rooms and homes available in the damaged areas.

More than 100 furnished, government-owned mobile homes have been brought into the state, but as many as 600 may be needed, according to Mike Polny, temporary housing director for the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Polny said the first families could be moving into mobile homes in a few days, but getting all the mobile home sites prepared and approved and people moved in could take several weeks.

Under the guidelines of federal disaster aid, storm victims can live rent-free in mobile homes for up to one year, until they find permanent housing.

The homes are being delivered to the Maxton-Launaburg Airport and Seymour Johnson AFB near Goldsboro. When they are no longer needed, the mobile homes will be returned to storage in Atlanta.

People who have applied for federal aid are being visited by officials from assistance agencies, Edmonston said. He said officials carry identification cards and tornado victims visited at home should ask to see the cards.

FEMA also has offices to assist disaster victims. In Duplin County, victims can apply for FEMA grants at an office on Seminary Street in Kenansville. The mailing address is P.O. Box 439, Kenansville 28349. The telephone number is 296-1457.

The American Red Cross is serving Duplin and Wayne counties from its office at 300 S. Williams St., Goldsboro; telephone 735-7201.

Duplin County farmers can get help at the Agricultural Stabilization and Control Service on Seminary Street in Kenansville; telephone, 296-0771.

The Commission on Aging in Duplin County can be telephoned at 296-1000.

The mailing address for the Community Action agency serving Duplin is Region "P" Human Development Agency, Inc.; 222 Georgetown Road, P.O. Drawer 796, Jacksonville 28541 or phone 347-2151.

Duplin County's Farmers Home Administration mailing address is Box 338, Kenansville 28349 or phone 296-0827.

Counseling can be obtained by contacting the Duplin-Sampson Mental Health Program, Duplin General Hospital, Kenansville 28349; telephone 296-1851.

The Salvation Army office serving Duplin County is at 2110 N. Queen St., Kinston; telephone, 527-2084.

For help from Social Security, contact the Duplin-Wayne county office at 134 N. John St., Box 2047, Goldsboro 27530.

The Economic Security Commission for Duplin can be phoned at 296-1478.

The Veterans Administration can be phoned at 1-800-642-0841. Duplin's Veterans Service office, 296-1616.

### Whitley Office To Visit Duplin

Congressman Charlie Whitley's Third District mobile office will visit Duplin County on Thursday, April 19. William McPhail, field representative, will be manning the office and available to persons having matters that they wish brought to the

Congressman's attention.

Locations and times are as follow: Wallace, 9:30 a.m. until 10:30 a.m., Post Office; Kenansville, 11 until noon, Old Elementary School; Albertson, 12:30 until 1:30 p.m., Post Office.

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## Duplin County Farm Bureau

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**DUPLIN COUNTY FARM BUREAU TEAM** - (Pictured, left to right) Jack Stephens, Linwood Worthington, Ronnie Williams, Carl Kornegay, Steve Rhodes, Brooks Boyette, Murphy Singletary, Kim Hatcher, Randy Edens, and Billy Knowles.

**Duplin County Farm Bureau** Kenansville, N.C.