

He said the system must be financially accountable to both taxpayers and the students, saying the students are what

disgruntled employees in any workplace with some issues.

"How well we handle those issues in the proper manner makes a whole lot of differ-

# Beaty pushes for Amendment 1

By ED HOWELL  
Daily Mountain Eagle

Walker County Superintendent of Education Vonda Beaty said she wants voters to approve Amendment 1 on the Nov. 4 ballot to help replenish the Rainy Day Account for schools.

Beaty, who spoke at the Walker County Democratic Party rally Tuesday in Jasper, also spoke of budget cuts and improvements in the system.

"Amendment 1 is very important for the children of Alabama," Beaty said. "This will provide for the Rainy Day Account to be replenished."

She said the state had to draw from the account this year to prevent proration in state schools.

"As of Oct. 1, our schools are expecting a 3 percent proration statewide. Next year, if Amendment 1 does not pass, we have been told by the state Superintendent of Education, Joseph B. Morton, that we can expect a 7 percent proration. That's as high as I ever remember it being," she said.

She said that level of proration would not just hit Walker County Schools, but also Jasper City Schools and all other public schools in the state of Alabama.

"I am asking you for the children of Walker County and the children of the state of Alabama to vote yes on

Amendment 1. That would just replenish our Rainy Day Account," she said.

Beaty said the county schools have made many budget cuts this year, including cutting Central Office supervisors by three or four people this year.

"Our budget looks good for next year, in spite of the economy. Last year's budget was based on like a 3 or 4 percent increase (in state revenue) and it came out to be 1.8 percent," Beaty said. "That's why the money's not there to fund the budget.

"As you are all aware, when I took over, we didn't have a month's reserve. That is mandated by the School Fiscal Accountability Act of 2006," Beaty said. "We brought that up about \$2.4 million even in this economic crisis, so for the first time in many, many, many years — and I'm not sure it has ever happened — the ending projected budget for the schools in Walker County will be about \$2.4 million higher than it will be on Oct. 1 this year."

Beaty said the county system's safety assessment has been adopted by the state Department of Education to be used statewide, "and it was developed right here in Walker County.

"We have a lot of good things going on here in Walker County," she said.



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