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If Passed By Congress

Reagan's Budget Proposals Will Be Felt In The Pamlico Area

President Reagan has proposed many cuts to the budget of the United States - "getting rid of the waste" he calls it. But what is this going to mean to the residents of Pamlico County and Richland Township?

The Pamlico News has talked with several county agencies who may be affected.

The proposals still have to pass thru Congress and there may and probably will be changes made by them. The state may decide to take over voids left by budget cuts. No one really knows for certain yet.

DSS

The Department of Social Services will probably be seeing several changes. Although it is difficult to determine at the present time exactly what the changes will be, Jim Baluss, Director of the Pamlico County Department of Social Services (DSS), expects the largest cuts to be in the Medicaid program. Baluss said that he didn't believe that any of the changes could be implemented before October of 1982.

The Medicaid program provides medical services to those meeting certain criteria - aged, disabled, blind, etc. - and unable to afford medical services. Baluss explained that the State of North Carolina will receive 100 million dollars less for the next funding year from the federal government and only a 5 percent increase the next. Medical costs grow at a rate of about 20 percent per year. Either the state and counties make up the 100 million dollars or services will be cut. Baluss said that he felt it was safe to say that the funds would not be made up by the state. He added that the cuts are likely to be in the non-medical emergency outpatient areas of medical services such as buying eyeglasses or dentures and chiropractic and podiatrist services. "In addition," said Baluss, "we will probably have to cut out or reduce service in a category known as "medically needy". This category includes those people who are disabled for a period of at least 6 months, own less than \$1000 of property and have an income at the poverty level.

The Pamlico County DSS's 1980-81 fiscal year Medicaid budget is \$118,604 - \$613,726 in federal money, \$228,246 in state money and \$76,632 in county money. The great majority of this money, explained Baluss, goes to hospital inpatient services, nursing homes and rest homes and to the state mental retardation center. Smaller portions go to the local health department, pharmacies, local doctors and the mental health clinic. So, should the Medicaid program funding be decreased, area programs and businesses may feel some effect. Commented Baluss, "What is an expense for us shows up as revenue for someone else."

Changes may also occur in the Aid to Families with Dependent Children program (AFDC). Part of Reagan's proposal, said Baluss, was to make stepparents financially responsible for their stepchildren. At the present time, a stepparent's income is not used in determining how much aid is received. This would save Pamlico County DSS \$12,000-\$15,000 per year in recipient payments. Currently 166 families receive AFDC in Pamlico County and Baluss said that this number remains fairly static from year to year.

The Food Stamp Program will also, in all probability, be another of the programs that is reorganized under the Reagan Economic Recovery Plan. About 625 families are presently receiving food stamps in Pamlico County. Said Baluss, "I look for very significant cuts in the Food Stamp Program."

The changes, continued Baluss, will probably be in increasing higher eligibility requirements.

Baluss said that he has heard a lot about eliminating

waste in the food stamp program but, under the present guidelines which he has to follow, someone would have to show him where the waste was. He added that DSS supports some of the changes proposed. For example, he said, if a mother comes to the DSS requesting food stamps saying that since her son (who lives with her and earns \$1000 per month) does not contribute to her support or to the household she needs the assistance, under the definition of a household (a person or persons who live as an economic unit and purchase and prepare their food together) she is eligible.

Baluss said that no cuts were expected in Medicaid for the aged, handicapped and recipients of Supplemental Security Income or AFDC.

Food Stamp recipients in Pamlico County receive the equivalent of a total of \$51,000 per month.



The Pamlico County Science Club Fair was held on February 17. Winners for science projects are as follows: Left to right - Mack Rice and Keith Poole, Earth Science; Robbie Whorton, Life Science; Rhonda Willis, Technological Science; Michelle Harris and Joy Connett,

PAMLICO COUNTY

Should the CETA program be entirely abolished, Pamlico County will lose nine CETA-funded positions; this year \$93,280 was budgeted for these nine positions (a small portion of that is for administration). Five of the CETA slots are with the county-wide clean-up truck, one with Forestry, one with the Recreation Department and two with the schools.

The county, said County Manager Bill Rice, will not be able to "Pick-up" these positions.

The only other federal funds which the county receives directly are Revenue Sharing funds and Rice said that he had understood that these would not be affected.

Indirectly, however, the county's revenues may be affected by loss of revenue from sales tax and building per-

mits. The county expects to collect \$145,000 in sales tax this fiscal year - a drop from the \$162,000 collected last year. Building permits are running about the same as last year. But, said Rice, should Farmers Home Administration loans be affected, the county could lose building permit revenues since less families would be able to build a home.

FmHA & CROPS

Lee Whorton of the ASCS office said that he expected the Farmers Home Administration program to be "hit hard". The program provides low interest loans which have enabled several hundred Pamlico County residents to purchase or build a home in the past few years.

Loans for rural water and sewer systems will probably also be affected.

Whorton said that his office did not expect any effect on the tobacco programs except that price supports would not be increased. There probably will not be any price support increases for corn, soybeans or wheat, either, he said.

ELECTRIC RATES MAY RISE

Loan programs for rural utility companies may also feel the pinch. Louise Muse of Tideland EMC in Grantsboro said that should the loan programs, begun in 1935, be cut then Tideland would have to go into the open market where interest rates would be higher. If the utility company has to pay higher interest on loans for new construction, then the electric rates charged to customers will have to go up. "It will hurt us," she said.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The Pamlico County Health Department received \$9,122.80 in federal monies for the current fiscal year. \$6,027.30 was earmarked for the Maternal and Child Health programs with the remaining \$3,095.50 supporting the general health programs. It has not yet been determined if there will be cuts in this aid or how much they would be.

SCHOOLS

The school system may also be affected by the proposed changes. The school lunch program, funds for disadvantaged students and a recently begun migrant program may be affected.

(Cont'd on Page Seven)

Free & Reduced

Eligibility For School Meals Changed

Family Size	For Free Meals			For Reduced Price Meals		
	Year	Per Month	Per Week	Year	Per Month	Per Week
1	\$5,700	475	110	\$8,350	696	161
2	\$7,220	602	139	\$10,730	894	206
3	\$8,750	729	168	\$13,110	1,093	252
4	\$10,270	856	198	\$15,490	1,291	298
5	\$11,800	983	227	\$17,870	1,489	344
6	\$13,320	1,110	256	\$20,250	1,688	389
7	\$14,850	1,238	286	\$22,620	1,885	435
8	\$16,370	1,364	315	\$25,000	2,083	481

Pamlico County Board of Education announced recently that, due to the passage of Public Law 96-499, the family size and income eligibility criteria for free and reduced price meals for children served under the National School Lunch, School Breakfast, and/or Special Milk Programs have changed for the remainder of the school year.

Children from families whose income is at or below the levels shown are eligible for free or reduced price meals. However, the four special hardship conditions (unusually high medical expenses, shelter costs in excess of 30 percent of income, special education expenses due to the mental or physical condition of a child, and disaster or casualty

losses) have been eliminated. A standard deduction for each household has been incorporated into the income scale instead.

The applications which are currently on file are being reevaluated to determine whether children are eligible for free benefits, for reduced price meals, or for paid meals under the new criteria. Families of children whose benefits are reduced or terminated will receive written notice of the change at least 10 days before the effective date of the change.

Families who wish to submit a new application may obtain an application form from each school's office. The information provided on the application is confidential and will be used

only for the purpose of determining eligibility. A simple statement of income and family size is required, plus a signed certification by

an adult household member that the information provided is correct.

(Cont'd on Page Seven)

Grantsboro - Silverhill Area New Landfill Site In Limbo

The proposed Silverhill landfill for Pamlico County may be in jeopardy of being granted state approval. The countywide landfill, located in Reelsboro, will be filled up sometime this summer and so the county has been searching for another location.

Last year, the county proposed locating the landfill in Arapahoe but due to Arapahoe citizen static, the county commissioners decided to try to find another location. The commissioners decided on some Texasgulf owned land in Silverhill for the next countywide landfill, contingent on state approval.

The state has approved the Arapahoe site and the county may have to fall back on this site if the state will not approve the Silverhill site.

Gordon Layton, environmental engineer with the state solid waste department, told *The Pamlico News* yesterday in a telephone interview that the Silverhill site was still being evaluated. Said Layton, "We (the department) haven't made a formal or informal decision (on the site) yet." "I would expect," said Layton, "the decision to be made by next month."

The law requires that a landfill be operated to provide reasonable protection to health and the environment. It is the state's job to determine what criteria are involved. According to Layton, the best soil for treatment of landfill by-products is a landfill with a clay bottom and a clay top. The ideal, Layton said, is to find on-site clay. He conceded, however, that this type of soil environment is difficult to find in coastal counties.

(Cont'd on Page Seven)

Corn Growers' Referendum Scheduled



Planning Corn Referendum...Members of the Board of Directors of the Corn Growers Association of North Carolina met recently in Raleigh to make plans for the March 3 N. C. Corn Referendum. Corn growers will be voting on an assessment to provide continued funding for research, education and market development. Four members pictured from left above are: Jack Williams of Faison, Duplin County; Durwood Laughinghouse of Pantego, Beaufort County; William V. Griffin of Pollockville, Jones County; and Pat McCotter of Vandemere, Pamlico County. Williams and McCotter are newly elected board members, while Laughinghouse is a holdover member on the board. Griffin is immediate past president of the association and a current member of the board.

A Corn Grower's Referendum has been scheduled for Tuesday, March 3, 1981. The purpose of this referendum is to "authorize initiation of collection of 1/4 cent per bushel of corn marketed to be used in initiating or improving programs in marketing, production, research, education, and general welfare of corn in North Carolina by the Corn Growers Association of North Carolina, Incorporated." This Authorization is for a (6) six year period beginning crop year 1981.

Ballot boxes have been set up in the following locations in Pamlico County for the convenience of all Corn Growers in the county:

- Agricultural Extension Office - Bayboro
- The Village Restaurant - Oriental
- Charlie's Cafe - Bayboro
- The Hurricane Restaurant - Stonewall
- New Bern Oil Mill - Grantsboro
- Pamlico Chemical Company - Alliance
- Belangia's Clover Farm - Arapahoe
- Pinedale Food Mart - Reelsboro
- Hunnings' Repair Shop - Olympia
- MGM Clover Farm - Vandemere
- Lionel Willis Grocery - Kennel's Beach
- Sally's Marina - Hobucken
- Eari Sadler's Store - Lowland

Should you have questions concerning the referendum, please call the Pamlico County Extension Office at 745-4121.

Coming Meetings

- Oriental Town Board, March 3, 7 pm
- Stonewall Town Board, March 2, 7:30 pm
- Arapahoe Town Board, March 5, 7:30 pm
- Vandemere Town Board, March 2, 7 pm
- Bayboro Town Board, March 3, 7:30 pm
- Mesic Town Board, March 5, 7 pm
- Aurora Town Board, March 2, 7:30 pm
- Beaufort County Commissioners, March 2, 9 am, Courthouse, Washington
- Pamlico County Commissioners, March 2, 10 am, Courthouse, Bayboro
- Pamlico County Board Of Education, March 2, 7:30 pm, Board of Education Building, Bayboro
- Pamlico County Board of Health, March 4, 7:30 pm, Health Department (tentative date)