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1977-78 Budget Estimate Released For Yancey Co.

The Yancey County Budget Estimate for the 1977-78 year was released last week. A public hearing is scheduled for June 27, at 10 A.M. in the Commissioner's Room of the Courthouse.

The Formal Budget Ordinance will be adopted after the public hearing and on or before July 1, 1977.

The Budget Estimate recommends a tax rate of \$.50 per \$100 valuation for the fiscal year 1977-78 as compared to the \$.40 rate for the current fiscal year. This increase is the minimum amount on which the county can operate without a substantial decrease in services or a serious weakening of the financial condition of the county operations such as schools, social services, Health Dept., garbage collection, Library, Sheriff's Dept., Jail, and the many other county offices and operations.

This increase represents an increase of \$138,699 over last year's budget of \$1,208,79. Approximately 75 percent of

this increase or \$104,744 is for school capital outlay projects. Some of these expenditures are of maximum importance, such as for school buses and school repairs and must be appropriated this year.

Social Services 28 percent increase in the Budget estimate reflects increases in the Medicaid Program and Purchased Services.

The decrease in Revenue

Sharing and the small fund balance that could be appropriated this year has made the \$.10 tax raise mandatory in order not to cut services for the citizens of Yancey County.

Banks Concerned About Budget For Sheriff's Dept.

Yancey County Sheriff Kermit Banks is concerned about the recently released County Budget Estimate. The 1977-78 Budget Estimate for the Sheriff's Dept., has been cut to \$79,220. Banks requested \$115,396. Last year's budget was \$91,675.

Banks said that the budget he requested would have kept the present staff as it now stands and provide for one additional dispatcher for the office. The largest part of the cut was for salaries.

"I requested \$78,470 for salaries and the Budget Estimate allows only \$51,480. That figure not only does not provide for the hiring of an additional dispatcher, but it cuts out two of the present deputies," Banks said.

"It takes four employees to keep the office open 24-hours a day and take care of the jail as required by law (168 hours, 42 hours for each employee)," Banks said.

"Cutting out two deputies would leave only eight em-

ployees in the Sheriff's Dept., leaving only the Sheriff and three deputies to patrol and protect the county 24-hours a day, seven days a week," he said.

"The Sheriff's Dept. must provide law enforcement for the people of Yancey County. We investigate all crimes, serve all criminal and civil process, investigate all crimes in which a juvenile is either the victim or the accused, transport all mental patients to the hospital, and all other inmates to other detention facilities," Banks said.

He added, "We also provide 24-hour a day supervision for the jail, 24-hour a day routine patrol for protection of the citizens homes, businesses, and roads in the county. A radio dispatcher is on duty 24-hours a day to provide radio communication for the Sheriff's Dept., Police Dept., Burnsville Fire Dept., South Toe Fire Dept., Newdale Fire Dept., and acts as a back up for the Yancey County Ambulance Service."

Presently the Sheriff's Dept. consists of 9 employees paid by Yancey County funds - the sheriff, the chief deputy, 6 deputies and a dispatcher. One additional dispatcher, funded by the emergency jobs program, has been working since July 1975 and will be funded at least until Sept. 1978. It is not known at this time if this position will be funded beyond that date or terminated.

All these employees work a swing shift and rotate every four weeks. They work a 40-hour week on first shift and a 48-hour week on second and third shift. Two deputies and one dispatcher are on duty each shift to cover the entire county.

"Deputies are paid no overtime or court appearance time and often must spend their day off in court without pay," Banks said.

"However, I only requested overtime pay to be used for school functions. The high schools have requested two deputies for basketball and football games. With only two deputies on duty we cannot meet this request without leaving the county completely unprotected - especially on weekends. Overtime could be paid to off-duty deputies to work these school function but the overtime request was refused in the Budget," Banks said.

"This new budget for the Sheriff's Dept. would leave the people of the county with

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Wagon Train Stops For Lunch And To Water Horses



After Lunch The Wagon Train Rolls Again

Head 'em Up! Move 'em Out!

Wagons Ho! will be heard in a few short days as the Tri-County Regional Wagon Train Association pulls out on the morning of July 1.

Folks are making a list and checking it twice to try and remember to take all the things they'll need on the trip. Musn't forget the bonnet and overalls, the raincoat (just in case) and you might need a soft pillow to use for your head by night or your saddle Sores by day. Approximately 25 wagons are being readied for the big day, some are getting new paint jobs. Crops are being laid by as weather permits so the big horses can leave their work to pull the wagons. Riders are getting their horses shod and tack in shape for the four day trip. Some of the wagon trainers have already packed the bag of marshmallows in hopes of sitting around the campfire at night.

Wagons, horses and riders plan to meet at Curtis Creek on June 30, to make camp and finalize arrangements for the order of the wagons in the train. Wagon-Master Charles Letterman will be the number one wagon on the train. Ahead of all the wagons and horses will be Chief Scout Otis Honeycutt who will be directing traffic as necessary and riding back and forth along the train to keep things rolling smoothly. Members of the Tri-County Regional Wagon Train Association will be scouts for Mr. Honeycutt.

The train will meet at Curtis Creek in McDowell County. It is located 2 miles east from Old Fort on highway 70. July 1, the train will leave camp at Curtis Creek and pull up the mountain, across the Blue

Ridge Parkway into Yancey County. It will then come down by the old Fish Hatchery and Past Mt. Mitchell Lands Golf Course to Hwy. 80. The first night out the train will camp on Trop Eflers property at Busick. July 2, the train will travel to the Parkway and around to the Victor Place. This road will come out on the Seven Mile Ridge Road. The camp

site for second night will be at the mouth of Seven Mile Ridge and Hwy. 80. On the third day, the train will travel down Hwy. 80 to Micaville and onto the Double Island Road. The third campsite will be at the Vernon Presnell Property. July 4, the train will leave out on Doe Bay Road, across Jim Riddle Mountain and down School Creek Rd. at Windom, the train will turn

south on 19-E toward Burnsville. It will travel to Burnsville via the business district, around the square and back down the by-pass to the lot below Burnsville plaza Ingles and disbound.

Everyone is invited to come out and join in on the fun or just to stop by and see how old timers used to travel.

Region D COG Begins New Service For The Elderly

A new service for the elderly is to be started soon by Region D Council of Governments, contracting with Green Thumb, Inc. It will be a public service employment and training program for persons 55 years of age and older. Green Thumb, Inc. is underwritten by Title IX of the Older American's Act.

Persons employed by Green Thumb must have an annual income below the Federal maximum income level and pass a medical examination to qualify for the program which will pay the minimum wage and fringe benefits for up to 25 hours work per week.

Green Thumb enables older people to earn their way doing self-respecting work on a payroll rather than to be on welfare rolls. Although the program guidelines initiate employment at 55, Green Thumb rarely hires anyone under 60, and gives priority based on age.

Green Thumb crews and single placement workers can provide services such as home

repair and winterization to low income elderly homes, nutrition project aides, outreach workers, homemaker and chore service providers, transportation van drivers, home health aides, meals on wheels delivery, center aides, teacher aides, office aides and other community betterment services.

Region D is currently advertising for letters of intent from local non profit agencies and organizations, or local government agencies, to provide work sites. Letters of intent, must specify the number of employees desired and give a brief description of each job. Allocations will be made by Green Thumb on a first come first served basis. Interested elderly persons who feel they would qualify and desire employment should wait for an announcement by the Employment Security Commission as to which agencies in the county will be carrying out the program. Employment could begin as soon as July 1, 1977.

Green Thumb, Inc. which

came into being about 10 years ago as a five state effort to supplement the low income of elderly people by providing opportunities for them to use their skills, now operates in 29 states and the District of Columbia. Rural communities gain and save about \$10 for each \$1 used in Green Thumb projects.

Interested agencies should present a letter of Intent to Region D Council of Governments, P.O. Box 1820, Boone, N.C. 28607. Further information may be had by contacting Cheryl Earnhardt, Planner for the Aging at Region D, Telephone (704) 264-5558.

Men's Club To Meet

The Burnsville Men's Club will meet on Monday, June 27 6:30 p.m. at the Community Building. All members and interested men are urged to attend.

Two Burnsville Men Slain In Madison County

Four out-of-state residents have been charged in the shooting deaths of two Burnsville men Sunday, June 12, according to Madison County Sheriff E.Y. Ponder.

The bodies of Tommy Norton, 39, and Benny Hutchins, 26 - both of Burnsville, were found Wednesday one mile of Big Laurel Rock Quarry Rd., about 40 mile from Burnsville.

Madison County deputies who discovered the bodies said the men had been shot with high-powered weapons sometime Sunday. Officials believe robbery was the motive in the shooting.

Charged in the deaths are Phillip Eugene Turpin of Ft. Campbell, Ky.; his mother, Mrs. Evelyn Alemany of California; Deborah Romero of California; and Lonzo Crews Jr. of Dresden, Tenn.

Two of the suspects were stopped in a routine traffic check in Taylor, Colo. by the

Sheriff's Dept. When they could not provide proper identification for the blue Chevrolet truck they were driving, a check by the officers listed Norton as the owner. A further check revealed that Norton was on a missing persons list.

The suspects were questioned and Sheriff Ponder was informed by the Colorado Sheriff that two men had been murdered in his county.

The search for the victims began about 5 a.m. Wednesday. The Cripple Creek sheriff's department in Colorado reported Turpin, Mrs. Alemany and two minors were being held there for questioning concerning the case.

Sheriff's officers went to near the end of a old road in Madison County, largely used by fisherman and found it blocked with fallen trees. Deputies searched the area for several hours before locating the bodies near a car

and u-haul trailer abandoned by the suspects. The car had been burned. The Madison County sheriff's dept. said Norton's truck had been driven up the road by the suspects who dumped his personal belongings beside the road.

Hutchins body was discovered at 8:20 below the road. Frank Ogle of the Madison County Sheriff's Dept. found Norton's body at 1:20 p.m. Norton's body was located 350 feet above the road.

Shortly after Madison County officials notified the Colorado officials the bodies had been found. Crews and the Romero woman were arrested by Dresden, Tenn., police, Ponder said.

Mrs. Alemany and Miss Romero were charged with aiding and abetting the shootings. Crews was charged in the death of Hutchins and aiding the death of Norton and Turpin was arrested on charges of killing Norton and aiding the death of Hutchins.

Extradition hearings are to be held in Colorado and Tennessee to return the suspects to Madison County.

South Toe Fire Dept. Answers Call

Saturday, June 18, 3:45 a.m. South Toe Firefighters were awakened by the radio alert of a house fire at L.D. McIntyre's on Rt. 80, near Celso. The condition on arrival was heavy smoke with flames rolling out of the living room end of the house. A fire stop was made by Asst. Chief George Powers; the main part of the fire was knocked down in less than 20 seconds! Air Paks were needed to enter the house. Lt. Frances Murphy led a rescue-search team, and on finding no one in the house, started overhaul im-

mediately (looking for hidden fire in walls, attic, etc.) By the time her crew has their work mostly completed, they had used up four air bottles. Fire damaged to the inside of the house and its contents was substantial.

The McIntyre family had left Thursday morning for a weekend in Cherokee. Because the fire appeared to be of suspicious origin, Chief Morgan requested assistance from the Sheriff's office. Sheriff Banks and the SBI are investigating.



Man of the Week
Yancey County
Country Store

Rm-86°
Lm-60°