

# Courthouse Journal

W W W . W A C O U N T I E S . O R G

Washington State Association of Counties  
Washington Association of County Officials

May 11, 2001  
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## Inside the Courthouse Journal

••• 2 •••

Item one

Item two

••• 3 •••

Item one

••• 4 •••

Item one

Item two

Item three

••• 5 •••

Item one

••• 6 •••

Item one

Item two

## Special Session reaches mid-point with little progress

While there has been some activity by the Legislature in the first half of the special session, there has been no agreement on the substantive issues of the operating budget, transportation budget and the capital budget.

The operating budget is stalled over the use of LEOFF 1 surplus funds, an issue that directly impacts counties. The House has insisted that any use of the LEOFF 1 funds be limited to one-time expenditures and a much smaller amount than the \$250 million in the Senate budget. Even if the Senate agrees to such a provision, there is no guarantee the House will accept it.

If the House agrees to the use the LEOFF 1 surplus as one-time only expenditures, it is likely that it could include the 695 backfill funds for counties and cities. There are now substantiated rumors that the only way local

governments will get the same 695-funding as agreed to in the 2000 Supplemental Budget, is if we accept language in the budget that makes it one-time. In subsequent biennia, there would be no funds identified for 695 backfill. If this position is unacceptable to local government, then the House budget level, which cuts \$25 million from counties and cities, will prevail.

The WSAC Legislative Steering Committee are meeting today to discuss budget developments and recommend a strategy. WSAC's position has been to fund 695-backfill at same level promised in the 2000 supplemental operating budget with a growth factor. The Senate budget does that, and WSAC and WACO staff has been lobbying that position. Please call your Senators and urge them to support full funding for 695 backfill as provided in the Senate budget.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Scholarship winners announced

**C**ongratulations to the winners of the 2001/02 Washington Counties Scholarships!

### NACo Presidential Scholarship David Davenport Award

\$2500 renewable for four years totaling \$10,000

**Renata Rollins**, daughter of Martin Rollins, Spokane County Deputy Prosecutor.

\*NACo will reimburse up to \$1500 of travel expenses to Renata and her parents to attend the NACo Annual Conference in Philadelphia where the award will be presented.

### NACo Presidential Scholarship CH2M Hill

\$1000 renewable for four years totaling \$4000

**Jennica Chudek**, daughter of Paul Chudek, Whatcom County Environmental Health and Debbie Chudek, Whatcom County Health Department.

\*NACo will also reimburse up to \$1000 of travel expenses for Jennica and her parents to attend the NACo Annual Conference.

### Five \$1500 Washington Counties' Scholarship Winners

**Brenda Buckner**, daughter of Pauline Coleman, Stevens Co. Commissioners' Office

**Megan Cartwright**, daughter of Diana Cartwright, Whatcom Co. Clerk's Office

**Christian Lloyd**, son of Cecelia Lloyd, Whatcom Co. Public Works Dept.

**Daniel Riley**, son of Cheryl Riley, Clark Co. Sheriff's Dept.

**Amanda Viebrock**, daughter of Sid Viebrock, Douglas Co. Cooperative Extension, and his wife Margaret

Details and a listing of the finalists will be included in coming editions of the Courthouse Journal.

## Special Session reaches mid-point with little progress

(Continued from page 1)

The Transportation Budget is not nearly as close to agreement between the two houses as the Operating Budget. The Senate and House have fundamental differences on the level of a state tax package and the regional governance. In spite of a full regular session and half of a special session they don't appear to be any closer than they were in January. Last week the governor presented his proposal, but the Transportation budget writers have not exactly received it with open glee. See article below.

Of the three budgets, there is hope that progress is being made on the capital budget as there are indications that the committee chairs are working toward

solutions.

What all this means is that there is little to do by the rank and file members of each house and it is rumored that a rolling recess could go into effect next week. If that happens most members would go home while the budget writers try to negotiate solutions. With the tie in the House it will be very difficult as each caucus must provide 25 votes for any final budget and many members said they were only voting for the House

budget to support getting negotiations started. It remains to be seen if they will support a final budget.

In the Senate, Senator Tim Sheldon has been supporting several bills that have passed with the 24 republicans and him in one-vote majorities. He has indicated he will not support a Senate budget that uses the LEOFF 1 surplus.

Will this lead to a second special session in June? Stay tuned.

## Transportation agenda gridlock in Olympia is alive and well

House Republicans publicly criticized the Governor's proposed \$17.2 billion dollar transportation plan that was introduced last week.

Representative Mary Ann Mitchell, co-chair of the House Transportation Committee, during an interview with a Seattle radio station stated that the Governor's plan lacked the three-tiered House Republican efficiency plan. She further stated that these reforms must be enacted by the Legislature before a funding package is submitted to the voters. The three-tiered approach includes streamline permitting, contract out services for Department of Transportation maintenance work and adjusting the prevailing wage rates in local areas to be in line with local market.

In the meantime, the four committees representing members from both sides of the aisle and rotunda are still attempting to hammer out unresolved issues in order to get a transportation package out of the legislature.

The committees are still addressing the following issues:

- Governor authority over the Secretary of Transportation
- Statewide revenue package
- Regional revenue package
- Environmental Streamline Permit Process and other efficiency issues such as contracting out and prevailing wage

The four working committees of appointed Senate and House Transportation Committee members are: Environmental Permit & Streamlining, Revenue committee, Regional Issues, and Accountability, Efficiencies & Governance. This week there was very little progress made towards a final transportation package.

As we head towards the end of this special session many legislators believe that the operating and capital budgets will pass without the transportation package and that a second session will occur to continue the discussions on transportation.

For questions or comments, please contact Jackie White (WSAC staff).

## The Courthouse Journal

*The Courthouse Journal* is published weekly by the Washington Association of County Officials (WACO) and the Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC).

We welcome your suggestions and contributions. The weekly deadline is noon Thursday.

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## Pension rates likely to drop - final rates await budget compromise

The debate over the LEOFF surplus is the key issue in the House - Senate negotiations on a state operating budget. As we noted in our budget summary, the budgets are fairly close on another pension issue - the actuarial assumptions used to set employer pension contribution rates. The table below shows the positions in the three budgets. The rates shown are charged for Plan 1 and 2 and include the Department of Retirement

	Employer Rate	Governor	Senate	House
PERS		1.58%	1.81%	1.77%
TRS		2.87%	3.08%	2.98%
LEOFF State		1.56%	1.80%	1.80%
LEOFF Employer		2.38%	2.95%	2.95%

Some rate reduction in this range is likely, given the pressure on state budget

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## WSAC's 95th Annual Summer Convention

# Transportation and Natural Resource issues to take the lead at the WSAC Summer Convention in Yakima

Transportation and natural resources issues set the tone for the 95th Annual Summer Convention in Yakima.

The convention will begin with a plenary session featuring transportation issues - where we stand and where we are headed. Additional sessions on transportation related issues are scheduled throughout the convention agenda.

Douglas MacDonald, new Secretary of the Washington State Department of Transportation, has been confirmed as keynote speaker for the Wednesday luncheon. MacDonald, who took over the helm just last month, has pledged to make a "commitment to improving Washington's transportation systems by working in collaborative and accountable partnerships with public officials, communities and citizens."

Former Pierce County Executive and WSAC member, Doug Sutherland, Commissioner of Public Lands will be joining us on Friday morning to share his perspectives on natural resources in Washington. Following his remarks, we will take a look at how counties are responding to the natural resources issues facing them - including water resources and water quality.

Visit the WSAC website for more information, [www.wacounties.org](http://www.wacounties.org). If you have any questions or concerns, contact Kim at the WSAC office, (360) 753-1886 or [kzydek@wacounties.org](mailto:kzydek@wacounties.org).

### "Grow Your Nest Egg" NACo Retirement Education

America's demographics have changed. People are retiring earlier and living longer. This good news means that long-lived folks will need to accumulate even more money than in past decades for their eventual retirement. And this means an impact on counties.

As one of the nation's largest employers, county governments must acknowledge that people in the county workforce are eventual retirees. The people who make local governments hum today are the very people in need of financial planning know how for a secure tomorrow.

WSAC, in conjunction with the Na-

tional Association of Counties, is offering a workshop at the Summer Convention on retirement planning called "Grow Your Nest Egg."

This workshop is aimed at county officials and those who administer county retirement plans, such as county human resources administrators and personnel directors. The sessions are presented by NACo and members of the International Foundation for Retirement Education (InFRE). InFRE's certified trainers are seasoned financial educators and workshop leaders with "train-the-trainer" backgrounds. Participants will share what has and has not worked and "best practices." Customized workbooks for attendees to take back home and use as a resource are included.

Although this education program is underwritten by NACo's Deferred Compensation Program funds, the workshop does not endorse a particular plan. Instead it covers the basics of retirement and financial prep work and the role of county officials and plan administrators in helping the county workforce make sound retirement plans.

The workshop will cover the roles and responsibilities of the counties toward retirement education and the benefits of conducting it, and what employees expect from counties and many other topics.

As part of on-going retirement education campaign, several types of generic materials will be developed for later distribution within county workforces. These include presentations and workbooks for those within five years of retirement and for all other employees and officials; posters with educational messages; retirement education articles for use in county newsletters; statement stuffers with educational messages; and brochures on the value of planning for retirement.

A flyer was mailed out this week, please respond via fax before May 20 if you are planning to attend this session.

### "Beating the Budget Blues" Pre-Conference Workshop

The Washington State Association of Counties, Washington Association of County Officials, Washington Counties Risk Pool and the County Road Ad-

ministration Board, are partners in the effort to create the first workshop for the Certified Public Official (CPO) program.

This initial workshop is being held in conjunction with the WSAC 95th Annual Summer Convention in Yakima at the WestCoast Yakima Gateway Hotel, in Yakima, June 12, 2001.

The workshop will provide beginning and seasoned elected officials and public administrators with the fiscal awareness to confidently make good budget and financial decisions.

Topics include:

- Restricted revenues and how to keep them from restricting you
- Stretching your capital dollars without raising taxes
- Know your financial oversight responsibilities
- How to make budget and finance decisions with confidence
- Avoiding the 14 most common fiscal mistakes made by public officials

This workshop is targeted to county elected officials, department heads and other key financial staff and provides credit toward the Certified Public Official (CPO) program. Newly elected county officials are especially encouraged to attend.

The workshop program will start at 8:30 am and conclude at 4:00 pm. Lunch will be served at 12 noon. The registration desk will open at 8:00 am. The workshop registration fee is \$95 per person and includes lunch and workshop materials.

Instructor Len Wood, President of Len Wood & Associates, is a leading training and consulting firm to local government specializing in public management, budgeting and financial issues. He is the author of four local government books.

Other County officials will share in various segments of the program.

If you have questions on the workshop, contact Dema Harris by phone, (509) 658-2633 or via e-mail, [demagh@aol.com](mailto:demagh@aol.com). For registration questions, call Kim Zydek at the WSAC office, (360) 753-1886.

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# News in Brief

## NACo Steering Committee nominations open

It's that time of year again! Nominations for National Association of Counties (NACo) Steering Committees are open. As a NACo steering committee member, you are responsible for debating and creating national policies and priorities affecting counties and serve as NACo's front line in their grass roots efforts. Committees meet at the NACo legislative and annual conferences and one other time during the year. You will be responsible for your own travel.

Please call WACO or WSAC for nomination forms. Please be as thorough as possible in completing the nomination and grass roots forms and send it back to us by June 4. The nominations will be forwarded to NACo by June 15 for approval by NACo incoming president Javier Gonzales. NACo will announce your appointment in September.

## Blanket Primary

It appears the state Senate plans to take action on the primary issue Monday morning. Currently, there are a number of proposals being considered ranging from a qualifying primary to a single ballot primary where a voter would choose to vote by party or as an "unaffiliated" voter. County auditors are uncertain as to whether their election systems are capable of tabulating votes under the latter proposal. Counties using both punch card systems and optical scan systems would have to have those systems reprogrammed. Both the federal and state government must certify tabulating systems and this proposal would require recertification by both the federal government and by the state. It is not known at this time how long it would take to accomplish the reprogramming and the recertification of the systems.

## Snohomish County bowling centers limit smoking

Six bowling centers are voluntarily setting aside a block of hours one or more days a week when smoking will be prohibited. The businesses made the decision at the urging of the Snohomish Health District. The effort to encourage businesses to offer smoke free alterna-

tives is part of the Health Districts campaign to educate the public on the dangers of second-hand smoke. One business owner experimented with a smoke-free policy at another bowling center he owns in Mount Vernon and found it was welcomed. He also indicated he was disappointed that the Legislature didn't let a proposal out of committee to make bowling centers smoke-free.

Each participating bowling center will receive small table signs that explain the dangers of second-hand smoke. Some facts about second-hand smoke:

- 1) Bowling for two hours in a smoky room is equivalent to smoking four cigarettes.
- 2) Smoky rooms have up to six times the air pollution as a busy highway.
- 3) Second-hand smoke contains more than 4,000 chemicals, 43 of which are cancer causing.
- 4) Children exposed to second-hand smoke have higher rates of respiratory tract and middle ear infections.

## Second Notice regarding county position on the state Council on Aging

The State Council on Aging needs a county representative to replace former Commissioner Russ Wigley, Lewis County. The position can be filled either by an elected official, a staff member, or an ex-official or staffer who retains an interest in these issues and representing county government.

The Council serves in an advisory capacity to the Governor, the Secretary of DSHS, and the State Unit on Aging on all matters pertaining to policies, programs, and services affecting older persons. They are also charged with creating public awareness of the special needs and potential of older persons and providing for self-advocacy by older citizens of the state through sponsorship of training, legislative and other conferences, and workshops. They meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month but only about eight times per year, usually in the Sea-Tac area.

If anyone is interested, please contact Jean Wessman, WSAC staff at 360-753-1886.

## Cyber Center Open House

On May 24, Qwest Communications Government Solutions is conducting an open house in their new Tukwila Cyber Center. The Cyber Center is 50,000

square feet of state-of-the-art co-location, hosting and managed application computer space. The two sessions, one at 10:00 a.m. and one at 1:00 p.m., will consist of a tour of the facility and presentations of Qwest's government applications showing their powerful end-to-end capabilities. These include e-Solutions, hosting for mission-critical Web sites and hosted enterprise applications.

To reserve a place, please send an e-mail by May 15 to [pdwilli@uswest.com](mailto:pdwilli@uswest.com) indicating which session you would like to attend. The address is 6101 180<sup>th</sup> Street SW, Tukwila, WA 98188. Qwest will e-mail you a map upon request.

## Centenarian Superior Court Judge Johnson honored

Former Pierce County prosecutor and Superior Court Judge Bertil Johnson, turned 100 years old May 7 surrounded by relative and friends, in Tacoma.

Johnson earned his law degree in 1925 at the University of Washington and after less than one year in private practice, was appointed assistant U.S. attorney.

At 25, he represented the legal interests of the United States in federal court, and prosecuted the sheriffs of Grays Harbor and Lewis counties on Prohibition violations in the late 1920's. He was then appointed Pierce County prosecuting attorney, ran for the office in 1930, won, and served until 1935.

He returned to private practice for a number of years, and was appointed to the Superior Court Bench and served as a judge until his retirement in 1974. Accolades on his time as a Superior Court Judge still abound.

Chief Justice Gerry Alexander of the Washington State Supreme Court said recently "I've seen a lot of judges. He's one of the finest Pierce County, and maybe the state, has ever produced."

## Adams County Courthouse contains small fire

A small fire occurred in the Adams County Courthouse the last week of April. One person was in the building after work hours, when flames broke out on the third floor. When firemen arrived they found the fire in the ceiling and ceiling tiles were engulfed. The flames were quickly put out, and repairs have been made. Wiring in a light fixture was to blame for the fire.

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## Elections

# Annual Election Administrators Conference

The 2001 Election Administrators Conference was held in Yakima on May 7, 8 and 9. The Washington Association of County Auditors in cooperation with the Office of the Secretary of State sponsors the annual conference. The conference agenda provides for training opportunities not just for county auditors but for their staff as well.

This year there was discussion on the legal issues of the Bush vs. Gore, as

well as what the reaction has been by various governments in response to the Florida fiasco. Many, if not most, of the election reforms that have been proposed around the nation are already in practice in Washington State. Other topics that were covered were: redistricting, logic and accuracy testing, observers, poll worker training, and military and overseas voters. There was discussion about the different proposals being floated by

the legislature in response to the demise of the blanket primary.

Conny McCormack, who serves as the Registrar/Recorder/Clerk of Los Angeles County, kept the audience on the edge of their seats while relaying her stories about conducting elections in a county with 4.1 million voters registered voters, 5000 precincts, 88 cities and 100 school districts. She also shared some amazing experiences she has had while serving as an observer to elections throughout the world.

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## ACHS meets in Walla Walla May 16 -18

Association of County Human Services (ACHS) will be holding its bi-monthly meeting in Walla Walla on May 16 - 18. The meetings will be held at the Howard Johnson Inn at 325 East Main Street. All the meetings will begin at 10:00 due to the conflicting use of the room for the general continental breakfast prior to that time.

Wednesday, May 16, the Developmental Disabilities Section will meet beginning at 10:00 AM and running until 4:00 PM in the afternoon. In the morning, the discussion will include a report from the revenue expenditure monitoring team, an update on the stakeholders group and the role of government, and a briefing on the just completed regular session of the legislature and the status of the special session.

Right before lunch, there will discussion on the DSHS/WPAS Access Agreement. In the afternoon, the topics will include the county authorization forms, 01-03 DDD/County contracts, criminal background checks, Olmstead planning, and parent coalitions.

On Thursday, the Mental Health Section will meet from 10:00 until 4:00. A short cross systems/business meeting

will occur from 11:30 - 12:00 Noon. In Mental Health, the morning will include a legislative and budget update, 01-03 contracting issues, message delivered to CDMHPs at their recent conference, the no wrong door conference report, and an update on Behavioral Data Systems.

The business meeting will have the usual reports and also cover suggestions for the next Tim meeting's agenda and a DVR report.

Lunch on Thursday is in the Elks Club in the President's Room located across the street from the Howard Johnson Inn.

The afternoon session of the Mental Health Section will include Cathy Gaylord from the Community Mental Health Council and the group will begin addressing the following issues:

- What challenges and priorities do the RSNs have in the next 2-3 years?
- How can RSNs and providers have more effective relationships?
- What have we learned from JLARC and this legislative session that will change us in the next 2-3 years?
- Communications between MHD,

RSNs and providers

- How can the system switch from process to outcomes orientation?
- RSN reaction to data requirements evolving from PI/ISDEC groups
- HIPAA-MHD, RSN, provider roles

The final hour and a half of the day will be just the RSNs and the counties discussing among other items, a fitting memorial for Joanne Asaba.

On Friday, the Chemical Dependency Section will meet from 10:00 to 4:30. The morning's agenda includes work group reports from prevention, CODIAC, the legislative committee, the T-XIX workgroup, and ADATSA. DASA will cover entity inventory and Cammy will cover detox and Title XIX, SSI additional match funds for the new biennium, and PPW vs. TANF vs. DCFS. Finally DASA and the counties will plan for their yearly retreat. After lunch, the group will hear about DASA/County budget planning, an update from central office which includes TARGET, HIPAA, the state/county spending plan, background checks, and the ATTC CSA grant renewal. The day will end with the ACHS/CD roundtable.

If anyone has any questions, please contact Sharon Saffer or Verna Story at 509-527-3278 in Walla Walla County.

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## NACo project on healthy families

NACo wants to make all counties aware of their current Healthy Families Project. The Project is a collaboration between the NACo and Prevent Child Abuse (PCA) to increase the interest and replication of the Healthy Families America program. The program has three goals: to promote positive parenting; to encourage child health

and development; and to prevent child abuse and neglect. Healthy Families offers home visitation and related services to families currently in thirty-nine states with over 420 local community-based sites.

Participation in Healthy Families is entirely voluntary and aimed at supporting and assisting parents as they work

to meet their child development needs. The excitement generated by it has been unprecedented and represents a commitment by public and private entities as well as the general public, to focus on early childhood development and parenting. For every dollar spent on prevention at least two dollars are saved

*(Continued on page 6)*

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## NACo project on healthy families

*(Continued from page 5)*

that might otherwise have been spent on child welfare, special education, medical care, foster care, counseling and housing juvenile offenders.

NACo is offering the following services:

- Technical assistance to county officials who are interested in developing and expanding Healthy Families

lies home visitation programs;

- National and state training sessions on Healthy Families home visitation and child abuse prevention;
- Best Practices Guide highlighting successful home visitation strategies;
- An informational clearinghouse on child abuse, home visitations and families; and
- Peer exchange that matches experi-

enced county officials who have proven county programs on home visitation, parenting, and child abuse prevention with jurisdictions that need solutions to help solve these problems.

If you want additional information please contact Debbie Slack Katz, NACo/Healthy Families Project Coordinator, at 202-942-4246 or via e-mail at [dslackka@naco.org](mailto:dslackka@naco.org).

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## Kitsap County sees payoff to recycling

**K**itsap County saved more than \$159,000 last year because of a coordinated recycling effort and believes even more can be achieved. County Commissioners approved new waste-reduction goals for all departments. The county waste reduction program also shows businesses they can both help the environment and save money in the process. Some of that assistance is education to overcome concerns about using recycled products such as remanufactured toner cartridges in printer or copy machines.

The new goals emphasize purchasing environmentally protective products, reducing the generation of hazardous wastes and cutting down on the use of energy and water. Department goals include making double-sided copies, printing only necessary e-mails and turning off unused lights. These new goals are in addition to existing goals, which include purchasing only paper made with recycled content and a program whereby departments trade office supplies with each other. This last program,

known as "The Waste Exchange", saved the county \$3,700 last year. In addition to these goals, which apply to all departments, individual departments also have their own goals.

Other examples of waste reduction include posting the county newsletter on the intranet rather than printing and delivering it, setting back heating and water-heating thermostats, and removing 25% of the fluorescent tubes. Construction goals have also been identified.

For more information about Kitsap County's program, contact Vicki Bushnell, Solid Waste Program Specialist, at (360) 337-4678.

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## Attorney General's Task Force hears comments on liability

**T**he state Attorney General's Task Force on Risk Management reviewed tort liability issues in state agencies and took public comment at its meeting May 1, 2001.

Although the group's official mission is limited to dealing with state liability issues, the Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC) and the Washington

Counties Risk Pool (WCRP) have been attending the task force meetings. WSAC testified at the public meeting and submitted written comments asking the task force to expand its scope to include county liability issues as well, particularly where they are related to state agency issues and the county is operating as a subdivision of the state. WSAC urged the

task force to, at the very least, take care to not shift state liability to counties.

In the wake of several very costly cases, Governor Gary Locke and Attorney General Christine Gregoire formed the task force to examine programs that give rise to state tort liability and the manner in which Washington mitigates risk associated with government programs.

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## Byrne Grant Advisory Committee to prepare statewide strategy

**T**he state Byrne Grant Advisory Committee met at SeaTac May 8, electing new leadership and discussing how to develop a more comprehensive statewide strategy for use of federal Byrne Grant funds.

Committee members elected Larry Erickson as chair and Judge Tari Eitzen as vice chair. Erickson is the executive director of the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs. Eitzen is a Spokane County superior court judge. Clallam County Commissioner Mike Doherty is a new committee member, representing county elected officials. Also represented on the committee are the U.S. Attorney's Office, state Depart-

ment of Corrections, crime victims, defense attorneys, prosecutors, judges, law enforcement, juvenile justice, and drug treatment programs.

The Byrne Committee is advisory to the state Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development (CTED). The Committee makes recommendations to CTED on programs to receive the federal grants that are intended to reduce violence and drug-related criminal activity. Sixty percent of Byrne grants are designated for local programs. For example, most adult drug courts in the state were initiated with Byrne grants.

In subsequent meetings this year the

committee plans to prepare an inventory of existing state and local activities to combat illegal drugs and violent crime, then use this information to update its strategy for selecting programs to receive Byrne Grant funds.

The Edward Byrne Memorial State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance Formula Grant Program is a federal law and justice block grant that assists communities in their efforts to reduce violent and drug-related crime. The federal appropriation to Washington state for fiscal year 2002 is a little more than \$10.5 million.

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# Governor signs water bill; promises more to come

Governor Locke yesterday signed ESHB 1832, the first comprehensive changes to the state water code in 30 years. Legislative leaders, committee chairs and others who worked hard to pass ESHB 1832 joined the governor at the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge for the bill signing. Commissioners Mary Hunt of Douglas County and Leo Bowman of Benton County were among those attending the signing.

Locke specifically thanked committee chairs Rep. Kelli Linville, Rep. Gary Chandler, Sen. Karen Fraser and Sen. Bob Morton, along with legislative leadership. ESHB 1832 will:

- Create two lines for water-right applications - one for new rights and one for changing or transferring water rights. This will speed up the long line of 7,000 requests. Those people stuck in line shouldn't have to wait years for a simple, non-controversial transfer of a water permit.
- Allow local water conservancy boards to process all types of water-right changes and transfers and make them more efficient and accountable to the public.
- Create a tax incentive for water utili-

ties to conserve and reuse water.

- Revise the 1977 Family Farm Act, allowing family farm water permits in urban growth areas, or within city limits, to be converted to other uses - for homes, businesses and cities.
- Put firm timelines in place to get stream flows set - something that is vital to saving fish and providing certainty about how much water is available for farms and growing communities.
- Encourage donations of water to improve stream flows and benefit fish, through a trust water rights program. Donors don't risk losing their water right, and their donations are tax deductible.

Work remains to be done on the budget. The House put several million dollars in the budget to implement ESHB 1832 and must now work with the Senate and Governor to keep that commitment. "Water legislation without funding is inadequate. In the end, the Legislature must deliver on the budget and not leave the job half done," Locke said.

After signing ESHB 1832, the Governor asked lawmakers for their continued support in crafting proposals for the next legislative session. Locke cited his

three key objectives for 2002:

- Define and implement a strategy for meeting the needs of fish. Move beyond just setting minimum stream flows - and actually achieve those flows.
- Address the water needs of growing communities. Public water systems must have the certainty and flexibility to serve growth and maintain a healthy economy, while also meeting their environmental obligations.
- Fix the outdated "use it or lose it" policies to ensure that water users have better incentives to save water.
- Address requirements and incentives to conserve and reuse water.
- Define and implement a new water storage program. Storage of excess water during our wet season can help meet most of our goals for water.

The Governor hopes that the Legislature also will provide funding to enable his office to continue to use Jim Waldo as a facilitator/negotiator on future water law changes. He expects that a collaborative, bipartisan effort will move forward on 2002 water policy changes be-

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## Shorelines/GMA proposal

A new proposal for addressing the contentious Shorelines/GMA issues has surfaced this week. Developed by Rep. Gary Chandler (R-Grant County), it would include the following:

- An agricultural exemption;
- GMA/SMA/CAO integration;
- Clark, King, Kitsap, Pierce, Snohomish, and Thurston counties and their cities would move forward

with implementation of the December 2000 shorelines rules as a "pilot" program; the Legislature would establish a committee to oversee implementation, including cost, before any other areas are required to proceed;

- Timelines for above counties: conditionally adopt critical areas and shorelines by December 2003, GMA updates and final CAO/SMA decisions by July 2004.

- Put CAO/SMA revision on hold for the other 32 counties.

Questions remain about how much money would be available in the budget, whether timelines for GMA comprehensive plan updates for the other 22 counties would be delayed, and how the GMA/SMA integration would work, among others. A draft of the new proposal may be available as early as May 11.

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## WACO Affiliates to meet

All seven WACO affiliates will be meeting in the coming weeks for annual conferences and training.

**Assessors** - Annual June Conference at the Phoenix Inn, in Olympia, June 11-13.

**Auditors** - Annual Conference at the Quality Inn, in Clarkston, June 20-22.

**Clerks** - Annual Conference in Everett at the Howard Johnson Hotel, June 24-29.

**Coroners and Medical Examiners** - Spring Training in Moses Lake at the Hallmark Inn, June 18-20.

**Prosecutors** - Summer Training Program, June 20-22, Campbell's Lodge, Chelan.

**Sheriffs** - Meeting in conjunction with police chiefs (WASPC) at the Tacoma Sheraton Hotel, May 21-24.

**Treasurers** - Annual Conference at the Red Lion Hotel, Wenatchee, June 18-22.

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# Employment Opportunities

**DIRECTOR OF ELECTIONS, STATE OF WASHINGTON.** The Office of the Secretary of State is seeking a candidate to provide leadership and guidance for the administration of election processes and the development of election policies within the State of Washington. The job description, which includes the application procedure, is available at the Secretary of State's Office, 2nd Floor, Legislative Building, Olympia, and at <http://www.wa.gov/dop/bulletins/010501sec.htm> or by calling (360) 902-4150.

Requirements for this position include: demonstrated leadership skills; senior-level management skills; knowledge of the legislative and budgeting processes; political acumen; outstanding communication and presentation abilities; a thorough understanding of the complexity of issues facing elections administrators; the highest ethical standards and strong sense of fairness; and an ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with a wide variety of individuals and interest groups. The position will be advertised until filled, however,

application review is scheduled to begin June 1, 2001.

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**SENIOR PLANNER, YAKIMA COUNTY.** Annual Salary Range: \$38,411 to \$55,061. The Yakima Valley Conference of Government (YVCOG) is seeking a high energy individual to be a part of the team. The person chosen to fill this position will establish an excellent working relationship with YVCOG member jurisdictions and will advise and assist members in successful community development processes including comprehensive land use planning, land use regulation, and infrastructure funding. The Senior Planner provides day-to-day current and long-range land use planning assistance to smaller cities and supports the YVCOG transportation planning program. The Senior Planner also prepares Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and other funding applications on behalf of member jurisdictions. Requires equivalent to a Bachelors Degree in Planning or a related field and three years of progressively responsible current planning

experience. Knowledge of WA State land use and environmental law, ability to speak and understand Spanish, ARC/INFO and ARC/VIEW software experience, and AICP certification is desirable. Apply to: Yakima County Human Resources, 128 N 2nd Street, Courthouse Room 412, Yakima, WA 98909, Phone: (509) 574-2220, e-mail: [human.resources@co.yakima.wa.us](mailto:human.resources@co.yakima.wa.us). Visit the website at [www.pan.co.yakima.wa.us](http://www.pan.co.yakima.wa.us). Closing date: May 24, 2001.

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**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, SKAGIT COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION.** Entry salary range: \$4,220.52 - \$4,679.66 per month. Closing date: May 16, 2001. Performs a variety of complex professional and administrative work in assisting the Parks and Recreation Director to plan, develop, schedule, administer and supervise the county park and recreation system. May serve as acting Department Director in Director's absence. The Assistant Director may divide responsibility for specific divisions within the department with the Direc-

tor, depending upon interest, department need, and incumbent's skills, experience and education. Divisions include: Recreation, parks, Fair, Operations, Trails, Ranger, Administration and Planning. Minimum requirements: Bachelor's degree in Parks/Recreation Administration, Park Planning, Public or Business Administration or related field and five years supervisory experience in park and recreation administration or any equivalent combinations of education and experience which provides the skills, knowledge and abilities sufficient to demonstrate thorough competency necessary to perform the work required of this position. A valid WSDL and valid First Aid and CPR certificate required. Applications post-marked prior to the closing, but received after the closing date, will not be accepted. Cover letter and resumes are accepted, but must be accompanied by completed Skagit County application and received by the closing date. Submit applications to: Skagit County Personnel Department, 700 South Second St, #101, Mount Vernon, WA 98273. Applications also at web site: [www.skagitcounty.net](http://www.skagitcounty.net).

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## Coming Events

May 16-18

**ACHS** (Association of County Human Services) Meeting, Walla Walla

May 21-24

**WASPC** (Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs) **Spring Meeting**, Sheraton Hotel, Tacoma

May 23-26

**WIR Conference** (Western Interstate Region), County of Hawaii, Hilo, HI

June 3-6

**GFOA** (Government Finance Officers Association) Annual Conference, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

June 5

**Elections Law Seminar** (CLE credits), General Administration Building, Olympia, 8 am - 4 pm. 360-705-8388.

June 10-14

**International Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners Annual Conference**, Toronto, Canada

June 11-13

Washington State Association of County

**Assessors Annual June Conference**, Phoenix Inn, Olympia

June 12

**Beating the Budget Blues Workshop**, in conjunction with WSAC Summer Convention, Yakima, 8:30 am - 4 pm

June 12-15

**WSAC Summer Convention**, West Coast Gateway Hotel, Yakima

June 12

**WCIF** (Washington Counties Insurance Fund) **Board Meeting**, in conjunction with WSAC Summer Convention, WestCoast Gateway, Yakima, 4:30 pm

June 14

**WCRP** (Washington Counties Risk Pool) **Executive Board Meeting**, in conjunction with WSAC Summer Convention, Yakima, 4 pm

June 15-21

International Association of **Clerks, Recorders, Election Officials and Treasurers Annual Conference**, Billings, Montana

June 18-22

Washington State Association of County **Treasurers Annual Conference**, Red Lion Hotel, Wenatchee

June 18-20

Washington Association of **Coroners and Medical Examiners Annual Spring Training**, Hallmark Inn, Moses Lake (Business meeting on the 18th.)

June 19-22

**AWC** (Association of Washington Cities) Annual Conference, Bellevue

June 20-22

Washington State Association of County **Auditors Annual Conference**, Quality Inn, Clarkston

June 20-22

**WAPA** (Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys) Summer Training Program, Campbell's Lodge, Chelan

June 23-27

**National Sheriffs Association Annual Conference**, Marriott Marina, Fort Lauderdale, Florida

June 24-29

Washington State Association of County **Clerks Annual Conference**, Howard Johnson Hotel, Everett

July 13-17

**NACo Annual Conference**, City & County of Philadelphia

