

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

November 30, 2001
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Year-end Total of \$13,500 Raised at WSAC Meetings for Scholarship Fund

Thanks to the generous efforts of WSAC Members, nearly **\$7,000** was raised for county scholarships at the Biennial Washington Counties Scholarship Dinner & Auction during the 2001 WSAC Legislative Conference in Kitsap County.

Combined with the enormous efforts at the WSAC Eastern and Western District meetings, the generous donation from Matt Nichols of Nichols Brother Boat Building, Inc. of \$1380,

and the Nationwide Retirement Solutions donation of \$3,000, we have a grand total of \$13,500 for this year. Congratulations to all!

Many thanks to all of you for your generosity and goodwill. A special thanks to Spokane County Commissioner Phil Harris for providing us with not only an enjoyable entertaining evening but for his professional auctioneering expertise.

Allison, Moss, and Carey Elected New WSAC Officers

LeRoy Allison, Grant County Commissioner, was elected to become the 96th president of the Washington State Association of Counties at its annual meeting in Silverdale, Kitsap County. Allison has served on the Executive Committee as secretary/treasurer and vice-president during the past two years. Prior to that he served as president of the eastern district and was a co-chair of the legislative steering committee.

Harold Moss, Pierce County Councilmember, was elected vice-president, moving up from secretary treasurer. He has also served on

the County Road Administration Board. Moss lost his bid for mayor of Tacoma during the November general election, and while he was disappointed in that outcome, he was a landslide winner in this election. And it might be added that there were many happy members of WSAC knowing that he will be a leader in the Association for the next two years rather than working for the city.

Dave Carey, Walla Walla County Commissioner, was elected secretary-treasurer. Carey is also a past president from the eastern district

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Association Boards Meet in Silverdale

The Boards of the Washington Association of County Officials (WACO) and the Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC) met together on November 14 in Silverdale for the second time in as many years. WSAC President Mike Shelton, Island County Commissioner, and WACO President Barbara Cory, Whatcom County Treasurer, presided over the meeting.

The joint Boards discussed several endeavors that will change tradition for both associations. In the fall of 2002 in Wenatchee,

WACO and WSAC will host a joint conference. It will be the first time in the history of both associations that this will have occurred. In 2003, the joint conference will be held at Seatac in early October.

The most noteworthy of new joint projects is the Certified Public Official (CPO) program that was approved in Silverdale by both the WACO and WSAC Boards. The program, which has its first official offering set for Olympia on January 31, is a cooperative effort of

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Allison, Moss, and Carey Elected New WSAC Officers

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and served as co-chair of the Legislative Steering Committee. He is also a member of the County Road Administration Board.

In addition to election of officers the members adopted the 2002 budget, and dues providing for several new programs

Association Boards Meet in Silverdale

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WACO, WSAC, the Washington Counties' Risk Pool (WCRP), the County Road Administration Board (CRAB), and Washington State University.

including funding for the new Certified Public Officials education program, and a new position of timber coordinator. This new position will be partially funded by contributions from the 27 federal timber counties and the Department of Natural Resources.

We were also fortunate that both candidates for NACo 2nd Vice-President were able to attend our meeting. Bill Dennison, Plumas County California

Supervisor, made a presentation to the joint board meeting of WACO and WSAC on Wednesday and then participated in the Timber County meeting. Bill Hansell, Umatilla County Oregon Commissioner, made his comments during the membership meeting on Friday and then participated as a stand-in on the Emergency Preparedness Response in an Age of Terrorism workshop.

Over the past two decades, WACO and WSAC have worked to align the associations' efforts more closely to build on and to enhance those efforts to support Washington's 39 counties. The first milestone in the new partnership was reached when the Washington Counties Building was constructed and

completed in August of 1985. In 2000, the Boards collaboratively burned the mortgage to the building. In the meanwhile, the Washington Counties Scholarship Fund was formed and has since provided 36 scholarships to children of county employees. The publication you are reading is another joint venture.

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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WSAC Board of Directors Recommends Changes to District Meetings

Beginning in the fall of 2002 both WSAC and WACO will jointly hold their annual meetings together. The meeting will be held in the first or second week of October rather than during November, WSAC's normal annual meeting time. This has been in the works for two years and both the WSAC and WACO boards have directed staff to begin this joint meeting process next year.

As a result of changing WSAC's annual meeting from November to October it was apparent that it would require a change in the fall district meetings. Several ideas were discussed at the previous Board meeting in Long Beach and it was decided to defer it to the meeting in Silverdale.

The Board has decided that beginning in 2002 the fall district meetings will be conducted in the following manner. When the Joint Fall Conference is held in

the eastern district that district will hold its meeting in conjunction with the Fall Conference and the western district will hold a separate meeting in early September. The following year when the Joint Fall Conference is held in the western district they will meet at the fall conference and the eastern district will hold a separate meeting, again in early September.

This will allow the districts to hold a separate meeting every other year while reducing the number of meetings by one every other year.

This decision will result in the western district needing to find a meeting location for their fall meeting during the spring meeting, which will be held in San Juan County on Orcas Island, in Rosario Resort. If any western county is interested in hosting the fall meeting please call Paul Parker at the association office.

Courthouse Visits Complete

The executive directors of WACO and WSAC, Debbie Wilke and Bill Vogler, respectively, have finally visited the last three counties, Kitsap, Pierce and Clallam during the first part of November. In King County individual visits are being scheduled with each elected official.

Like most others these three counties are looking at ways to cut their budgets after passage of I-747 and the general decline in the state's economy. In Pierce

County officials have had to inform some of their citizens that they will not be able to provide 24-hour law enforcement for all neighborhoods. Kitsap has elected freeholders to create a new county charter that will be on the ballot in the coming year. And Clallam suggested they would like to know what user fees are being collected by other counties as a possible source of revenue in 2002.

Commissioner Mike Doherty took

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Courthouse Visits Complete

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both Debbie and Bill on a tour of the old courthouse clock tower. When Mike was

commissioner in 1977 he began a history project of restoring the tower. Today it is the centerpiece of a beautiful old courthouse that is joined on one side to the

new courthouse complex. When you are next in Port Angeles make sure you visit this beautifully restored courthouse.

News Briefs

MRSC Web Page on Updates

The Pipeline Safety page has been reformatted and now includes: documents from Bellingham and Whatcom County; an engineering assessment of the 16 inch Olympic Pipeline prepared for the City-County Pipeline Safety Consortium by Robert J. Eiber; and a list of gas and oil pipelines in Washington. The URL is www.mrsc.org/pubsafe/pipesafety.htm

The updated grants page includes information resources relating to grant writing, grant administration, grant administrators (job descriptions), locating federal government grants, locating grant resources in Washington State (public and private), information on grants & loan programs of the state, and selected MRSC Library holdings on grant administration available for loan to county staff. The URL is <http://www.mrsc.org/finance/grants/grants.htm>

Medicolegal Death Investigator Training

The Criminal Justice Training Commission (CJTC) is holding a Medicolegal Death Investigator Training Course, January 14-18, 2002, on the Central Washington University Campus, in Ellensburg. The course is to provide basic training in the field of medicolegal death investigation. It is intended for individuals who are employed as investigators for medical examiner, coroner, or prosecutor/coroner offices, and for law enforcement personnel who support these agencies by functioning as medicolegal death investigators. The training will cover Interacting with Federal, State, and Local Agencies; Communicating; Interacting with Families; Investigating Deaths; Identifying and Preserving Evidence; Maintaining Ethical and Legal Responsibilities; Demonstrating Scientific Knowledge; and Coping with Job-Related Stress.

Pre-registration is required. Please complete the CJTC general application form available at www.wa.gov/cjt and mail to CJTC, P.O. Box 40905, Olympia, WA 98504-0905. For further information, please call (360) 459-6342.

Government Records

The Secretary of State's (SOS) office reports that all local government general records retention schedules, records management guidelines and other miscellaneous records management publications are all now available, or will be soon (by the end of the year) on the SOS website: www.secstate.wa.gov/archives/

Stevens County Sheriff's Deputy and Former Deputy Receive Purple Hearts

The Stevens County Sheriff's office held a ceremony November 8 to bestow two Purple Hearts and Certificates of Commendation to Deputy Will Clark and former Deputy Dan Spring. Both suffered gunshot wounds earlier this year, in separate incidents, responding to calls. Other deputies, detectives, the corrections division and 911 dispatchers were also awarded certificates of recognition during the ceremony for their dedication to duty and long hours working through difficult conditions, as well as for successful investigations.

Former Yakima County Sheriff Passes Away

Richard "Dick" Nesary, 69, former Yakima County Sheriff, died at his home in Yakima, November 13. Nesary worked for the Yakima Police Department for 21 years before being elected sheriff in 1978. He was re-elected in 1982 and retired three years later.

Crime Lab Scientist Dies in Car Crash

Ray Pellegrin, a forensic scientist with the Spokane Crime Laboratory, died from injuries sustained in a motor vehicle collision in Louisiana, November 17. He was visiting family at the time.

Ray began his employment with the Washington State Patrol in 1990 following his previous experience as a forensic scientist in Louisiana. Ray has most recently been involved with DNA analysis and was a key participant in the development of DNA analysis in the Spokane Crime Laboratory.

Our sympathies go to the State Patrol Crime Lab and the family and friends of

Ray. He will be remembered for the expertise and dedication he brought to each scene he responded to as a member of the Crime Scene Response Team. He provided many valuable services to the county sheriffs and prosecutors and will be sorely missed.

Columbia County Sheriff to Retire

Jim LaTour, Columbia County Sheriff, will be retiring on December 31, because of health reasons. Doctor's orders say he needs to maintain his health while waiting for a liver transplant. Jim, a Vietnam veteran, started his law enforcement career in Columbia County in 1980 as a dispatcher for the city of Dayton, and joined the Sheriff's office in 1982. He has been sheriff since 1988. Jim has coped with serious illnesses before; as an insulin-dependent diabetic since 1992, he has survived a triple heart bypass and beat Hodgkin's disease. We wish him the very best now and when he undergoes the liver transplant.

King County Records and Elections Manager to Retire

Bob Bruce, King County Records and Elections Division Manager, will be retiring on December 31, 2001, after 20 years with King County, seven as a legislative analyst with the County Council, 11 years as Elections Superintendent, and the last two years as the Division Manager. He and his wife Sharon are looking forward to extended visits with their children and grandchildren and lots more volksmarching! A farewell celebration will be held on December 19, from 1:00 -3:00 p.m., in the King County Courthouse, 4th Floor Executive Conference Room, 516 Third Avenue, in Seattle.

Retirement Party for Skamania County Auditor

A retirement reception has been scheduled for Skamania County Auditor Gary Olson, who is retiring on December 31. The reception will be on Friday, December 7, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the Skamania County Courthouse Annex Meeting Room. Gary has served as auditor for 20 years and will be sorely missed by his colleagues.

Attorney General Calls for County-State Summit; Other Highlights of Legislative Conference

Keynote Speaker Christine Gregoire, our Attorney General, took up the theme of County-State relationships at the WSAC Legislative Conference. She suggested steps that counties and the state each must take:

- Better communication. She cited the new partnerships needed to effectively combat terrorism as an example of the gains that can occur through better communication.
- Share the load. She mentioned state and local cooperative efforts to combat computer crime and reminded us that partnership requires both sides to share the load.
- Fix the cracks in the system. Don't focus on fixing blame.
- Cut mandates as well as programs. She said that she is reminding agencies, that when proposing cuts, that reducing staff but not programs will not only hurt program delivery but often increase liability costs in the long run.

Finally, the Attorney General indicated that she had suggested to the Governor that a Summit on County-State Relations be held and that the Governor enthusiastically embraced the idea.

This timely suggestion, followed on the heels of a lively, but inconclusive dialogue on county-state issues ranging from how mental health services should be provided to implementation of the Growth Management Act. Senator Betti Sheldon (D-Kitsap County), Representative Joyce Mulliken (R-Grant County), DSHS Secretary Dennis Braddock and Office of Community Development Director Busse Nutley freely shared thoughts and viewpoints with Commissioners Mike Shelton, LeRoy Allison and members of the audience. The dialogue served to confirm that counties, indeed, are "uneasy agents" of the state as Hugh Spitzer suggested in the opening presentation of the Legislative Conference.

Mickey Fearn, an organizational development specialist who opened the

Friday morning session, acknowledged the challenges of state-county relationships and talked about how leaders take advantage of complexity and change to make things "different and better" – as opposed to the alternatives of decay, more of the same, or band-aids on existing systems.

He emphasized that leadership is necessary to make new partnerships – as recommended by Christine Gregoire – a reality. His materials included the following copyrighted material, excerpted here in part:

"Leadership is the ability to use personal power to get people to do things they might not ordinarily do. ... A leader combines knowledge, skills and energy to propel followers toward a commonly accepted vision. Leadership is not about heroic activities of mythical dimensions. Leadership is about doing what ever you can do from whatever position you occupy in your organization to make your organization and the people around you better."

Certified Public Official Program Approved for 2002 Kick-off

The WSAC and WACO Boards gave approval for implementation of the Certified Public Official (CPO) program in 2002. The recommended program design was presented by Advisory Committee members Mike Shelton, Island County Commissioner, and Doug Lasher, Clark County Treasurer, in Silverdale on November 14. The program was developed as a result of requests from members to provide cost-effective and timely professional development and educational opportunities to county leaders. The Advisory Committee includes members from each of the Associations and partner agencies Washington Counties Risk Pool, County Road Administration Board and Washington State University.

Certification requirements for the two-year program include 16 credits from core curriculum courses and 16

credits from elective course categories for a total of 32 credits. Commissioners, Council members, county executives and other elected officials elected in 2002 and thereafter will also be required to attend the Newly Elected Officials training to be held in December 2002. (Those elected prior to 2002 are not required to attend but are welcome to participate).

It is expected that the program can be completed within a two year period. Core and elective classes will be held throughout the year. The core curriculum courses include: financial management, ethics and public service, risk management, county government structure; roles and responsibilities and personnel and human resources. All of the core classes are taught in full-day (6 hours of training) blocks and will be offered in conjunction with other Association meetings or conferences.

The elective course categories include topics such as: legislative relations, economic development, problem-solving/decision-making, effective meetings, leadership-professional development, strategic planning, communication, media relations and current issues. These classes will be taught in three or six hour blocks and may be presented as stand-alone classes or as part of conference programming.

The full 2002 training calendar is being finalized and will be published within the next several weeks to allow all members to plan their attendance. The first core course - **Ethics and Public Service** will be offered on **January 31**, in Olympia in conjunction with the Legislative Rally. Watch for the course announcement and registration form in upcoming *Courthouse Journals*, on the Web and in the mail.

Save the Date!

Tri-Association Legislative Reception, January 30, St. Martin's Pavilion

WACO 2001/2002 Committees Announced

WACO President Barbara Cory has appointed the following county officials to serve on WACO Committees for 2001/2002:

2002 BUDGET

Richard Lathim, Immediate Past President, Chair
Barbara Cory, President
Greg Zempel, President-elect
Mary Dodge, Vice President
Tom Fallquist, Secy/Treasurer
H. Steward Menefee, Past President

CERTIFICATION/EDUCATION

Doug Lasher, Clark County Treasurer, Chair
Karen Flynn, Kitsap County Auditor
Barbara Wagner, Benton Co. Assessor
Teri Nielsen, Cowlitz County Clerk
Nettie Jungers, Lewis County Clerk

Martha Reed, Mason Co. Coroner
Greg Zempel, Kittitas County Prosecutor
Joe Hawe, Clallam County Sheriff

LEGISLATIVE

Scott Noble, King Co. Assessor, Chair
Suzanne Sinclair, Island Co. Auditor
Pam Daniels, Snohomish Co. Clerk
Greg Sandstrom, Kitsap County Coroner
Russ Hauge, Kitsap County Prosecutor
Jim Nagle, Walla Walla Co. Prosecutor
Mike Kline, Adams County Sheriff
Larry Taylor, Benton County Sheriff
Rose Bowman, Lewis Co. Treasurer

PERSONNEL

Greg Zempel, Kittitas Co. Prosecutor, Chair
Dean Takko, Cowlitz County Assessor
Tom Fallquist, Spokane County Clerk
Judy Arnold, Thurston County Coroner
Siri Woods, Chelan County Clerk

Mary Dodge, Douglas Co. Treasurer
Jack Westerman, Jefferson Co. Assessor

TRAVEL

Ron Strabbing, Grays Harbor County Treasurer, Chair
Siri Woods, Chelan County Clerk
Tom Fallquist, Spokane County Clerk
Richard Lathim, Franklin Co. Sheriff
Stew Menefee, Grays Harbor Co. Prosecutor
Jack Westerman, Jefferson Co. Assessor
Judy Arnold, Thurston Co. Coroner

NOMINATING COMMITTEE
(To be announced, summer 2002)

AWARD SELECTION

Mary Dodge, Douglas Co. Treasurer, Chair
Jack Westerman, Jefferson Co. Assessor
Greg Zempel, Kittitas Co. Prosecutor
Dan Blasdel, Franklin County Coroner
Joyce Denison, Lincoln County Clerk

WSAC 2002 Legislative Agenda Adopted

At the WSAC Legislative Conference earlier this month, the membership adopted a 2002 Legislative Agenda focused on budget and finance issues with a set of principles for state budgeters emphasizing cuts to service

levels and mandates, and putting safety first. A complete list of the principles and the full Legislative Agenda is attached to this edition of the Court House Journal. A more "reader-friendly" version -- with charts and graphs -- is being

developed and will be sent next month.

Other WSAC legislative priorities are Transportation, GMA Timelines, Water and E-911 Funding. In addition, resolutions were adopted at the Conference asking the Legislature to amend the violent sexual offender transitional housing statute, and Congress and the President to take action to protect food safety.

NACo Needs Info About Security Costs for Counties

The National Association of Counties (NACo) Task Force on Homeland Security has been discussing county security issues and priorities with federal Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge and members of Congress. NACo hopes to secure federal funds to help offset counties' increased emergency management activities since the terrorist attacks September 11.

In response, federal officials are asking NACo to provide specific examples of financial investments counties are making in homeland security, as well as financial hardships counties are experiencing as a result of heightened security.

NACo research staff will conduct a detailed survey in the next few weeks to help quantify the security needs of counties nationwide. In the meantime, NACo is requesting that county officials (including WSAC members) provide information about the situation in their home counties. Complete answers to NACo's questions might not be attain-

able at this time, but they would appreciate any information that can be provided.

Please respond to the following questions with an email to NACo's associate legislative director Stephanie Osborn at sosborn@naco.org or fax to 202-942-4281, and a copy to WSAC staff at sbyrd@wacounties.org or 360-753-1886.

1. **Is the county experiencing added law enforcement and public safety costs** post-September 11 associated with homeland security? If yes, please provide an estimated dollar amount and indicate the time period. If yes, are the costs associated with: Increased security at federal or state facilities? Overtime pay? Increased volume of calls to 911? Other? As a result of shifting resources, is there evidence in your community of an increase in crime.
2. **Is the county experiencing increased public health and/or emergency medical costs** post-

- September 11 associated with homeland security? If yes, please provide an estimated dollar amount and indicate the time period. If yes, are the costs associated with: Responding to actual public health emergencies? Responding to hoaxes? Investing in ramped-up public health preparedness? Other?
3. **If the county has made budget adjustments** to compensate for increased costs associated with homeland security efforts in law enforcement, public health or any other area, where have the cuts or adjustments occurred? What projects or programs are affected? What purchases or projects will be delayed or canceled?
4. **In the longer term, does the county plan to make additional capital investments** in emergency preparedness? If so, estimate the cost. In what programs, projects or equipment will you invest?

Congress Approves Salmon Recovery Funding

Congress allocated \$110 million on Thursday to boost dwindling populations of salmon and ground fish in Pacific Northwest waters. Of that total, \$34 million is destined to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board for salmon projects in Washington State in fiscal year 2002, the highest level to date.

The money was part of a spending bill to fund the Commerce Department, which oversees the National Marine Fisheries Service. The bill provides the money to the West Coast Salmon Recovery Program, to help salmon populations in Washington, Oregon, California and Alaska. That's an increase of \$20 million from last year, Northwest law-

makers said. The bill also provides \$47 million to implement the U.S.-Canadian Pacific salmon treaty, which in 1999 established long-term fishing agreements and funding commitments between the countries.

The measure allocates more than \$14 million for ground fish recovery, community assistance programs and research in Washington, Oregon and California, where the coastal fishing industry has been struggling to build up ground fish numbers. The bottom-dwelling fish include lingcod, rockfish and bocaccio. The new Puget Sound Nearshore study was funded at \$200,000 in the Corps of Engineers

budget, allowing this promising partnership with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and many other agencies to get started. Study projects in the Lake Washington/Cedar River and Green/Duwamish basins were also funded. Another bright spot is further funding of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's salmon grant program at \$3 million. This program has been very helpful in supporting smaller scale habitat restoration projects. Keep an eye out for the availability of grants at their web site, http://www.nfwf.org/programs/grant_apply.htm.

Shoreline Hearings Board Proposes Procedural Changes

The Shorelines Hearings Board has proposed new rules regarding the appeals process to the Shorelines Hearings Board from a local decision. The intent of one rule change (WSR 01-20-021) is to provide appellants certainty

about whom they should serve and to avoid service to inappropriate personnel within the local government being appealed. Another rule change (WSR 01-20-022) clarifies that the scope of review is *de novo* and the standard of review is

preponderance of the evidence.

Written comments on the proposed changes should be submitted to the Shorelines hearings Board by December 21, 2001.

Local Parks Task Force Recommends More Local Flexibility

The Legislative Task Force on Local Parks and Recreation Maintenance and Operations adopted a set of recommendations to the 2002 Legislature this week. The main message is that counties and cities need greater authority and flexibility to meet local needs.

The Task Force, chaired by Chris Smith Towne, specifically recommends

changing state laws governing Metropolitan Park Districts to make it easier for cities and counties – or a combination of them – to create MPDs; a local option sales tax for parks maintenance and operations; allowing a portion of the Conservation Futures to be used for maintenance and operations. All but one Task Force member recommends allow-

ing the local Real Estate Excise Tax to be used for maintenance and operations.

Counties were represented on the Task Force by Craig Larsen, Director of King County Parks and Recreation, and Dave Veley, Director of Yakima County Parks and Recreation.

Timber Counties Recommend Elimination of Substitution Rule

The Timber Counties of Washington, an informal gathering of the counties with federal, state and/or private timberland, voted on November 14, 2001 to support the elimination of the substitution rule that prohibits any

company exporting timber overseas from bidding on state forest land. The Timber Counties took this action in response to review of the substitution rule by a Joint Legislative Task Force that met this fall. Legislative action is ex-

pected in the 2002 session.

The Timber Counties also selected Dan Cothren, Wahkiakum County, as Chair and Al McKee, Skamania County, as Vice-Chair.

Columbia River Regional Initiative Underway

Tom Fitzsimmons, Director of Ecology, met with seven legislators and about a dozen interested people from counties, agriculture, hydropower, and the environmental community this week to discuss the Columbia River Regional Initiative.

The goal is work over the next 18 months to develop a management plan for the mainstem Columbia and Snake Rivers that the Department of Ecology would adopt and use to determine future withdrawals. Attendees discussed the goals, the process, the desired out-

comes – all of which appear to be still in flux.

Initiatives That Never Flew

We noticed some past initiative ideas in the most recent newsletter published by Representative Sandra Romero, 22nd District, that we thought our readers might get a kick out of. For further information about all sorts of interesting tidbits about initiatives, visit www.secstate.wa.gov/inits/.

I-187 - Permitting a modified coloring of

oleomargarine.

I-288 - Outlawing divorce for couples with children.

I-317 - Prohibiting evidence of speeding collected by radar guns, electronic devices or unmarked cars.

I-362 - Banning the possession, construction, transportation or sale of nuclear weapons.

I-389 - Making it a crime to drive between the hours of one and two o'clock on Sunday afternoons.

I-461 - Requiring businesses to pay bills using gold coins.

I-462 - Asking Congress to sell lottery tickets for rides on the space shuttle.

I-521 - Banning lawyers from serving as state representatives or senators.

I-615 - Requiring lobbyists to buy licenses for \$1 million.

I-726 - Making a list of all vehicles with "irritating daytime running lights" and placing a fee on vehicles with those lights.

Good Things: Kitsap County Wins Budget Presentation Award

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) is pleased to announce that Kitsap County, Washington has received the GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its budget. The award represents a significant achievement by the entity. It reflects the commitment of the governing body and staff to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting. In order to receive the budget award, the entity had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. These guidelines are designed to assess how well an entity's budget serves as:

- a policy document
- a financial plan
- an operations guide
- a communications device

Budget documents must be rated "proficient" in all four categories to receive the award.

When a Distinguished Budget Presentation Award is granted to an entity, a Certificate of Recognition for Budget Presentation is also presented to the individual or department designated as being primarily responsible for its having achieved the award. This has been presented to William D. Nogle, Director, Department of Administrative Services.

Since the inception of the GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Awards Program in 1984, approximately 800 entities have received the Award. Award recipients have pioneered efforts to improve the quality of budgeting and provide an excellent example for other governments throughout North America.

The Government Finance Officers Association is a nonprofit professional association serving 13,000 government finance professionals throughout North America. The GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Awards Program is the only national awards program in governmental budgeting.

Opinion Thursday, November 29, 2001
The News Tribune

A Good Start on Court Reforms – Superior Court Cases Moving More Swiftly Now

A determined effort by Pierce County Superior Court judges and staff to relieve court congestion is starting to pay handsome dividends. In less than a year, the court has managed to speed up a judicial system that had slowed to a crawl.

In January, a preliminary report by the Justice Management Institute in Denver hammered the superior court for inefficient case management, court congestion and other glaring flaws. Among other

things, the report said the court needed to shed its "small-town" mentality to better serve a large urban population. It also criticized judges for not taking responsibility for managing caseloads.

A major part of the problem stemmed from the large number of criminal charges filed in Pierce County. Criminal cases make up about 48 percent of the superior court's annual load of more than 14,000 cases. Because criminal charges can be subject to dismissal for trial delays caused by court congestion, criminal trials get first crack at available courtrooms. This has forced civil litigants to wait months - or even years - for an available courtroom.

These problems weren't a secret to the judges, who immediately began developing ways to respond to the audit's criticisms. In February, the court created the position of criminal division presiding judge to manage criminal caseload. The results have been dramatically successful. Through October of this year,

the presiding judge has slashed the backlog of criminal cases by 60 percent over last year.

The court has also clamped down on a practice contributing to court congestion: repeated trial delays requested by defense attorneys and prosecutors. Pierce County judges had routinely granted continuances as a matter of courtesy.

Although continuances often helped attorneys juggle busy schedules, they eroded public confidence in a judicial system plagued by seemingly endless delays that discouraged witnesses and challenged their memories. The presiding judge now scrutinizes the reasons for the requested continuances - and grants fewer of them. From January through September, 1,303 continuances were granted, or 374 fewer than the year before.

Establishing a presiding criminal judge is just one of several improvements undertaken by the superior court. Judges and court staff are also develop-

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

ing criteria for determining the complexity of cases and setting deadlines for trial, exploring ways to evenly distribute criminal and civil caseloads, and establishing protocols to inform attorneys what to expect at each legal proceeding.

Improved efficiency in managing criminal cases has helped reduce the per-

centage of civil and domestic cases not assigned to trial. For example, from February through September this year, only 32 civil cases weren't assigned a courtroom, in comparison to 74 cases last year - a 57 percent reduction. The number of unassigned domestic cases fell by 76 percent.

Although some attorneys are chafing

under the stricter rules on continuances and other matters, there's no doubt the changes at the court were badly needed. The judges have taken commendable steps to speed up a legal system that was moving much too slowly to serve a full measure of justice.

State of Washington Office of the Attorney General

Date: November 30, 2001
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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State asks federal judge to dismiss blanket primary challenge

OLYMPIA -- The Attorney General's Office today asked a federal judge to dismiss a case brought by state political parties challenging the constitutionality of Washington's primary election system. The state contends the blanket primary is constitutional, and that the political parties have failed to show they can present sufficient evidence to win their case at trial.

Lawyers for the political parties informed state attorneys that they planned to file their own summary judgment motion prior to a Friday court deadline. The parties' motion would ask **U.S. District Judge Franklin Burgess** to declare Washington's blanket primary unconstitutional, based on a U.S. Supreme Court

decision last year involving the California primary election system.

The state contends that Washington's existing blanket primary - established in 1934 by citizen initiative - differs significantly from the system thrown out in California by the Supreme Court.

If Burgess grants summary judgment for either side, the case would be decided without a trial, based on legal arguments presented by both sides. If the motions are denied, the case would proceed toward trial, now scheduled to begin on March 11, 2002.

Gregoire said the state is prepared to defend the blanket primary at trial if necessary. But she added, "We believe that the case presents legal issues that can be resolved by the court without a trial. We hope Judge Burgess will agree with our analysis and uphold an election system that has worked well in Washington for the past 65 years."

"Washington's primary clearly differs from the California system that the Supreme Court invalidated last year," said **Secretary of State Sam Reed**, the state's top elections officer.

"Additionally, the parties have failed to show how they are being harmed by an election system that has been used for decades and which has helped to keep the parties vigorous and competitive in our state."

Under Washington's blanket primary system, citizens voting in partisan elections may cast primary ballots for candidates of either party, without de-

claring party affiliations. The candidate from each party who receives the most votes then advances to the general election. The political parties are seeking to invalidate Washington's blanket primary in light of last year's Supreme Court decision in California Democratic Party v. Jones.

In July 2000, the state Democratic Party filed suit seeking to bar future blanket primaries in Washington. The state Republican and Libertarian parties quickly joined the case on the side of the Democratic Party, while the Washington State Grange joined Secretary of State Sam Reed and the state in defending the current system.

In the motion for summary judgment, the Attorney General argues that the California decision does not invalidate Washington's primary because, unlike California, Washington does not register voters by political party. Therefore, Washington's primary does not constitute a party nominating process in the same sense that California's primary did. The state also argues that the parties have not shown sufficient harm from the blanket primary to win their case at trial.

Last July, Judge Burgess denied the parties' motion for a permanent injunction barring the state from holding future blanket primaries. The judge said it was the Legislature's role to implement any changes in the existing system, but said the court could still rule on the constitutionality of that system at a later date.

Sunday, November 11, 2001
Tri City Herald by Janine Jobe

Victim Restitution Frustrates Counties

Every couple of months or so, Barb Edens gets a check for 20 cents or maybe a few pennies more. It's not worth an extra trip, so she carries it in

her wallet until the next time she passes her bank, then dutifully deposits it. The check is restitution for damage caused by teen-age vandals who were caught spraying paint on the business she owned with her husband, Reuben. The couple are among thousands of people in Benton and Franklin counties owed restitution by criminals who harmed them or their property.

In addition to paying damages and

other costs associated with their crime, the juveniles who vandalized the Edens' business were ordered to scrub off what paint they could. But often the checks are almost more trouble than they're worth. "The only reason I even bother with it is because I used to own a business and I know how important it is to keep the books straight," Edens said. "If this helps (Benton County) keep its

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books straight, it's no big deal to me."

In Benton County, nearly 8,000 people owe more than \$19 million, up from \$7 million in 1994. "The victims are the first to get paid," said Kay Staples, Benton County Superior Court clerk. "That's before court costs, filing fees and attorneys." Money paid toward restitution is put into a countywide pot and dispersed based on how much each person is owed, Staples said. "It seems a little silly to send out checks that aren't worth as much as it costs to mail them," she said, "But the system is set up so that every three months we have to mail out all the restitution that has come in." That might be changing, however, Staples added.

It already has in Franklin County, where convicted criminals owe \$7.5 million in restitution. Officials there changed the payment system so only

checks for \$5 or more are mailed. "We have 4,334 cases with outstanding balances," said Michael Killian, Franklin County clerk. "But half a million has been paid so far this year, which is a big improvement from years past." Part of the reason for the improvement, said both clerks, was about three years ago the collection duties were moved to the court clerks' offices from the Department of Corrections. "We can be more aggressive in collecting and focus on the financial aspect of their obligations," Staples said.

Besides restitution to their victims, offenders are typically ordered to pay a \$110 filing fee, \$500 to the Crime Victims Compensation Fund, \$400 to \$700 for attorney fees, depending on whether the case went to trial, plus other miscellaneous court costs. An additional \$1,000 is tacked on if it's a drug offense. "Some people have significant financial obliga-

tions and they can get themselves into quite a mess if they don't keep up," Killian said. Some of the highest debts -- and the most difficult to collect -- are accumulated by juveniles. "They simply don't have the earning power," Staples said.

One of the largest restitution orders against juveniles was for \$775,000 when three boys were playing with fireworks and scorched 3,880 acres near Horse Heaven Hills near Prosser in July 1998, destroying the young cherry orchard of Bob and Shirley Walker. The couple estimated the actual damage at \$1 million but the boys were ordered to pay them half of that. As a payment plan, the court ordered the boys to pay \$25 dollars a month or 10 percent of their income if they had jobs, which ever was greater. The other \$275,000 the boys were ordered to pay went to various firefighting agencies, and individuals with lesser damage to their property.

Washington State Department of Information Services

Date: November 27, 2001

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Shannon Whiteaker, Washington State Department of Information Services, 360-902-3520

Washington state Web portal offers expanded city, county search capabilities on 'Ask George™'

OLYMPIA - Citizens looking for answers on the Washington state Internet portal can now also find answers from city and county Web sites using *Ask George™*, the "plain-English" search engine on Access Washington™.

The expanded Ask George searches an extensive array of Washington city and county Web sites to help citizens find the information and services they need across the entire face of government. This highly-targeted tool quickly points to hundreds of government services regardless of whether those ser-

vices are offered by state or local government. The new Ask George search function builds on the success of the original Ask George service, which focused on state government sites.

"When citizens have questions, they want answers. When they have problems, they want solutions," said Gov. Gary Locke. "We designed our new Ask George search engine to link seamlessly across government jurisdictions so that citizens can more easily find what they need, when they need it."

In addition to combing approximately 300,000 state agency Web pages covering a broad spectrum of government services, Ask George now provides answers to questions across all of the state's 39 county Web sites and more than 200 city and town sites for information on 23 topics. Ask George will locate information related to property assessments, zoning, elections, environmental, health and sheriff's services on county Web sites and police and fire information on city sites. Information regarding the arts, building codes and permits, parks and recreation, utilities, employment opportunities, laws and regulations, social and human services, business and visitor services span city and county sites.

"Soon after launching Ask George in February, we realized we were getting thousands of requests for local government information in addition to state government requests," said Gary Robin-

son, acting director of the state Department of Information Services. "It was clear that our citizens wanted a simple way to find state and local government services from a single point of access."

DIS contracts with **Jeeves Solutions™**, a division of Ask Jeeves Inc.™, to provide Ask George search services from Access Washington. The Ask Jeeves technology behind Ask George interprets questions for word meaning, context and grammar and directs the user to a Web page where the answer will most likely be found. The **Association of County/City Information Services** collaborated with DIS and Ask Jeeves to select the 23 topics related to city and county government services included in the Ask George database.

Washington state leads the nation in using technology to help citizens access state services, complete business transactions and obtain information. Named the nation's digital state for the third consecutive year by the Progress and Freedom Foundation and the Center for Digital Government, Washington is the only state to be so recognized to date. The state recently won the prestigious Civic 50 award for exemplary use of technology to help government operations run smoothly and improve service to citizens.

OUR VIEWS: Use Meth Funds Wisely

Sheriff Gary Edwards says his deputies could probably bust five illegal methamphetamine labs a day if he had sufficient resources to do the job. Help may be on the way.

Congress has passed, and the president appears poised to sign, an appropriations bill that will provide Washington state with \$4 million to fight meth production -- twice the sum that the state received last year.

Credit for the influx of federal dollars goes to 3rd District Congressman Brian Baird, who founded and is chairman of the Congressional Meth Caucus. Baird, a family psychologist and former college psychology professor, understands the addictive nature of meth and the debilitating consequences of addiction. "Right now our state is second to California in number of meth labs," Baird said. "Every year, our sheriffs see more and more labs cropping up, and we need to provide them with resources to keep up with the meth cooks. This year, we

secured twice as much money for fighting meth in Washington state -- and this money will go directly to law enforcement officials throughout the state."

The federal legislation lists Thurston, Lewis, Clark and Cowlitz counties among the top 15 meth counties in the state. The federal dollars will go to the governor's office for distribution to the counties.

Congress strongly recommends the money go to the top 15 counties.

While Baird and the bipartisan caucus are increasing national awareness about methamphetamine, South Sound officials are working diligently to control the meth plague in this community.

Earlier this year, Dr. Diana Yu, the county's top health officer, pulled city, county and state officials together for a meth summit to get a handle on the spread of the illegal drug.

That group has since broken into four subcommittees: prevention and public outreach; treatment; law enforcement; and environmental cleanup.

By January, the committees should have identified existing gaps in service in Thurston County. Committee members should be able to sift through the list of needs and set funding priorities.

Perhaps it will be the formation of a hazardous materials disposal team. Per-

haps it will be more law enforcement officers and prosecutors. Yu thinks the biggest hole in the system is treatment options, especially for low-income individuals.

It's critical that the subcommittee members do their work quickly. The local meth caucus needs to meet early in 2002 to set clear goals and funding priorities. Then the local officials must file an application for the federal dollars.

To delay is to subject more South Sound residents to the scourge of meth addiction, the associated crime related to funding an addiction and the potential environmental damages from the hazardous chemicals that are the main ingredients in meth.

Undersheriff Neil McClanahan puts the problem in perspective.

"We've dealt with a lot of drugs in this county, but we've never seen anything like this," McClanahan said. "It's not just an illegal drug; it turns people into zombies. It totally takes over their lives, almost instantaneously. They don't care about money. They don't care about their kids. All they care about is the drug. They can't see past it."

The sooner the meth epidemic is halted, the better.

December County Calendar

	31	The county prosecuting attorney shall make an annual report to the Governor. RCW 36.27.020(12)	31	By this date, every special purpose district shall file a statement with the auditor of each county in which it lies including the following information: name of special purpose district; location; statutes under which it operates; name, address, telephone number and remaining term of office of each member of its governing authority; and the functions that the district is presently performing. RCW 36.96.090(1) NOTE: This information shall be forwarded by the county auditor to the State Auditor by January 31. RCW 36.96.090(2)	
1	Property taxes not paid to county treasurer by this date are subject to an additional penalty of 8% on the total amount of the tax delinquent. RCW 84.56.020	31	The county prosecuting attorney shall report to the State Liquor Control Board all state liquor law prosecutions during the calendar year. RCW 36.27.020(13)		
1	County assessors to begin preliminary work for assessing property. RCW 84.40.040	31	Last day to apply for January 1 (coming year) open space classification on qualifying properties. RCW 84.34.030		
3	Alternate date for budget hearing. County legislative authority may meet for purpose of holding a budget hearing. RCW 36.40.071	31	By this date, applications for classification as eligible historic property shall be approved or denied by the local review board. If the property qualifies as eligible historic property, the review shall record these certificates with the county auditor. RCW 84.26.050, .060	31	On or before this date, the Department of Revenue sets stumpage values for January through June (of coming year). RCW 84.33.091
11	Election date for irrigation district directors. RCW 87.03.080				
25	Christmas Day - Legal Holiday. RCW 1.16.050				

Coming Events

December 6

Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials (WSALPHO) Meeting, Wyndam Garden Hotel, SeaTac

December 13-14

Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys' Annual Winter Meeting, Crowne Plaza, Seattle

2002 Meetings

January 11, 2002

WACO Board Meeting, Washington Counties Building, Olympia

January 14-18, 2002

Medicolegal Death Investigator Training Course, Central Washington University, Ellensburg. For information call the Criminal Justice Training Commission at (360) 459-6342.

January 16-18, 2002

ACHS Meeting, Olympia

January 30 - February 1, 2002

Legislative Reception, Olympia

January 30, 2002

Tri-Association (WSAC/WACO/AWC)

Legislative Reception, St. Martin's College, Olympia

February 7, 2002

WSALPHO Meeting, Olympia

March 20-22, 2002

ACHS Meeting, Tacoma, Pierce County

April 11-12, 2002

WSAC Western District Meeting, Rosario Resort, San Juan Islands, San Juan County

April 25-26, 2002

WSAC Eastern District Meeting, Sun Mountain Lodge, Winthrop

May 15-17, 2002

ACHS Meeting, Spokane

June 17, 2002

WSALPHO Meeting, Bellevue (In conjunction with the WSAC Summer Convention)

Employment Opportunities

DOUGLAS COUNTY TRANSPORTATION & LAND SERVICES, GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION SYSTEM COORDINATOR - This opening for a GIS Coordinator is based in the East Wenatchee office. Salary range is \$3,495 to \$3,950 per month, depending on qualifications. Attractive benefits package. This is a technical position requiring skill and competence in GIS development and maintenance, engineering design, computer aided drafting (CAD), land surveying, and graphic communication. Requirements include but are not limited to a completed application and resumé and a valid Washington State drivers license.

Applications and job description are available at Douglas County Transportation and Land Services, 470 Ninth NE, East Wenatchee, WA 98802, (509) 884-7173, Monday - Friday 7:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m. or at the county shops in East Wenatchee, Waterville and Mansfield, Monday - Friday 7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. or visit our website at www.douglascountywa.net. Position is open until filled. Douglas County does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, treatment or employment in its programs or activities. ADA accommodations available

upon request. EOE

WASTEWATER RECLAMATION MANAGER, SPOKANE, WA. - Spokane County Utilities Division is seeking a highly skilled professional to a fill challenging new position developing and implementing the new Spokane County wastewater treatment program. This position will successfully perform all facets of project planning, design, construction, permitting, and operations management. Requires related BA/BS and five years of progressively responsible relevant technical and managerial work in water quality management, water/wastewater treatment, etc. Masters degree desirable. \$45,360 - \$61,200/year plus excellent benefit package. Closes 12/21/01 at 5:00 p.m. For complete description and application materials, please contact Spokane County Human Resources at (509) 477-5750 or email gnewnham@spokanecounty.org or www.spokanecounty.org. Equal Opportunity Employer.

LEWIS COUNTY SYSTEM ANALYST I, Salary: \$3,439.92 - \$4,105.67/mo. Closing: December 14, 2001 at 5:00 p.m. Duties: network administration, project management, business analysis, systems evaluation, infrastructure maintenance, long/short term system planning. Requirements: BS in Computer Science and/or 2 years experience with focus on data communications, network

design, and installation. Novell CNE preferred. Apply to: Lewis County General Administration Department, 360 NW North Street, Chehalis, WA 98532, telephone (360) 740-1408. Complete package available at www.co.lewis.wa.us. Lewis County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

KITSAP COUNTY, PLANNER III, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT - Salary: \$20.84 - \$26.60/hour. Opening Date: December 3, 2001, Closing Date: December 21, 2001. Application packets are available in the personnel office. The following items are required: 1. Supplemental Questionnaire; 2. If you would like your technical school or college-level education considered, please attach copies of transcripts or certificate/diploma. Verification of education must be received by time of appointment; 3. Application must be received by the personnel office prior to 4:30 p.m. on December 21, 2001. Postmarks will not be accepted. Minimum Qualifications: Bachelor's degree in planning or closely related field, and 3 years of progressively responsible work experience with a planning process related to community development, urban or regional plans; or any equivalent combination of experience and education which provides the applicant with the desired skills, knowledge and ability required to perform the work. Experience in current planning is preferred. Kitsap County

is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

BENTON COUNTY TREASURER'S OFFICE, CHIEF DEPUTY TREASURER - Salary Range: \$4,213 - \$5,283 per month plus benefits. Opened until filled. Performs professional accounting work and supervises accounting and financial computer activities within the Treasurer's Office. Oversees tax collection, cash management and investments. Provides treasury and tax collection services to various governmental entities and junior taxing districts. Minimum Qualifications: Bachelor's degree in accounting or related field and 6 years of progressively responsible experience in government accounting; or any combination of education and experience which would provide the applicant, in the opinion of management, the desired job skills, knowledge and ability to perform the job. Desired Qualifications: CPA or graduate level course work in accounting and extensive experience using Microsoft Access and Excel. Previous experience with accounting software development. For Application: Contact Personnel Resources Department, (509) 737-2777 or 786-5626, 1766 Fowler, Ste. B, Richland, WA 99352 or, FAX (509) 737-2778 or visit our website www.co.benton.wa.us. Selection based on qualifications, background check and oral interview. Equal Opportunity Employer.