

# Courthouse Journal

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Washington State Association of Counties  
Washington Association of County Officials

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## Scholarship Deadline Looming

Children of county employees have only one more week to apply for one of five \$1500 Washington Counties Scholarships. All completed applications must be postmarked no later than April 8. Please call WACO or WSAC for an application and details or visit [www.wacounties.org/WACO](http://www.wacounties.org/WACO).

## Groundwater Exemption not Available to Developers, Supreme Court Rules

In a 5-4 decision, the Washington Supreme Court yesterday upheld the Department of Ecology's policy limiting the use of multiple exempt wells to provide water to homes in subdivisions. The decision parallels the reasoning of a 1997 opinion from the Attorney General's office interpreting the groundwater permit exemption to limit developers to drill only one exempt well per project, no matter how big the project.

In *Department of Ecology v. Campbell & Gwinn*, Justice Barbara Madsen wrote for the majority, stating that "[a]s a matter of the plain meaning of the statute, the exemption in RCW 90.44.050 does not apply where a developer proposes to use multiple wells collectively withdrawing over 5,000 gallons per day to serve a subdivision." In dissent, Justice Susan Owens, joined by Justices Bridge, Johnson, and Sanders, predicted "[t]he decision today tolls the bell for growth and growth management in rural Washington."

As it often has in water opinions in recent years, the Court admonishes the Legis-

lature for failing to adequately provide for water policy and funding:

[I]t seems apparent that developers seek to use the exemption in an attempt to bypass the permit system because obtaining new permits to appropriate water within a reasonable time has become virtually impossible. The backlog of unprocessed permits is due in part, it appears, to inadequate funding for Ecology to carry out its statutory duties. The problems faced by developers and others seeking to appropriate water could be ameliorated to a degree if the Legislature would provide adequate funding for studies, resources, and personnel necessary to carry out the water resource laws and regulations.

## Assessor Bills Signed by the Governor

The Governor has twenty days after the close of the Legislative Session to sign those Bills that passed the 2001-2002 Session. As of March 28<sup>th</sup>, the following bills have been signed:

**2SHB 1477 (C176 L 02)** allows counties to put to vote an additional sales and use tax for emergency communications systems. Counties could impose up to an additional 1% tax for the financing, design, acquisition, construction, equip-

ping, operating, maintaining, remodeling, repairing, reequipping, and improvement of emergency communication systems and facilities. **SHB 2015 (C 90 L 02)** requires destruction of personal information in records when disposing of those records. **HB2358 (C 76 L 02)** revises provisions relating to annexation of unincorporated territory with boundaries contiguous to two cities. **SHB 2466 (C146 L 02)** revises the multiple-unit dwellings property tax exemption. This bill reduces the minimum city population cap from 50,000 to 30,000 for the multifamily housing property tax exemption program. It also counts the cost of the rehabilitation or construction as new construction when calculating the maximum district property tax amount at the time the property is no longer exempt. Cities can limit the tax exemption to individual dwelling units that meet the city guidelines. **SHB2495 (C84 L 02)** allows fire districts to collect their third \$.50 levy if the fire protection district has at least one fulltime, paid employee, or contracts with another municipal corporation for the services of at least one fulltime, paid employee. It also allows the additional levy or any portion of the levy when dollar rates of other taxing units are released by agreement with the other taxing units from their authorized levies. **HB 2496 (C 180 L 02)** With a super majority vote, allows excess levies for fire districts for up to 4 years for general purposes & for up to 6 years for capital projects. The Constitutional Amendment **HJR 4220** has been delivered to the Secretary of State. **SHB 2557 (C88 L 02)** allows metropolitan park districts to be formed by cities, counties, or combinations of cities and/or counties. Provides an additional method for electing park commissioners and limits boundary review boards in the review of creations or annexations. **SHB 2592 (C 12 L 02)** this Bill clarifies that a fire protection district must agree to participate in order for a local government to proceed with community revitalization financing of public improvements. It authorizes a local government to issue non-recourse revenue bonds to finance revenue generating public improvements, or portions of public improvements that are located within a tax increment area and repeals the Community Revitalization Financing program's

July 1, 2010 expiration date. **SSB 6241 (C17 L 02)** exempts Christmas trees grown by agricultural methods from the Forest Practices Act. **SB6484 (C 66 L 02)** authorizes additional trust authority to take advantage of federal estate tax benefits for conservation easements. The bill allows a trustee to donate a conservation easement in order to qualify for federal estate tax exclusions or deductions. **SB6578 (C 44 L 02)** exempts land leases for personal wireless communication facilities from the subdivision act.

## PILT Funding Legislation - Appropriation Bill Needs Signatures

NACo is urging all county officials to rally their U.S. senators to sign an appropriation bill that asks for \$235 million for Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT). The President's budget request of \$165 million is a \$45 million reduction from the FY 2002 funding level. PILT provides compensation to local communities that have significant amounts of federal land in their counties.

Because counties are mandated by law to provide many critical public services that are often supported by PILT funds (e.g., search and rescue, law enforcement, and road maintenance), a loss in such funding to our counties will place an even greater fiscal hardship on us than we're already facing. As such, WSAC urges you to contact Senators Murray and Cantwell and ask them to sign onto the PILT funding legislation. Senator Murray can be reached at either (425) 259-6515 (home office) or in DC at (202) 224-2621; Senator Cantwell can be reached at either (206) 220-6400 (home office) or in DC at (202) 224-3441.

## 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.

Direct inquiries and correspondence to *The Courthouse Journal*, 206 Tenth Avenue SE, Olympia, WA 98501-1131.

### WACO STAFF

Phone (360) 753-7319  
FAX (360) 664-2812

Debbie Wilke, *Executive Director*  
Michelle Hagen, *Deputy Director*  
Christina Bridston, *Programs Coordinator*  
Brenda Bamford, *Financial Operations Manager*  
Kathie Houts, *Administrative Assistant*

### WSAC STAFF

Phone (360) 753-1886  
FAX (360) 664-2812

Bill Vogler, *Executive Director*  
Paul Parker, *Assistant Executive Director*  
Maureen Morris, *Deputy Director for Urban Counties*  
Sophia Byrd, *Policy Director, Law & Justice*  
Jean Wessman, *Policy Director, Human Services, Juvenile Justice, Housing*  
Jackie White, *Policy Director, Transportation and Land Use*  
Vicki Kirkpatrick, *Policy Director, WSALPHO Administrator*  
Tom King, *Associate, Research, Telecommunications*  
Jim Potts, *Housing Outreach Coordinator*  
Sally Harrington, *Business & Investment Manager*  
Ginni Peppert, *Secretary*  
Tom Robinson, *Timber Coordinator*  
Cynthia Sachs, *Policy Analyst*  
Beth Dubey, *Accounting & Business Asst.*

## A reminder About Funding Sources

Local governments and not-for-profit agencies can access Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) funds by applying directly to State agencies receiving OJJDP Formula Grant, title V Community Prevention, and Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant funds. Formula and block grant funds are awarded directly to designated State agencies, which establish funding priorities and select sub grant recipients. Contact information for OJJDP and other Office of Justice Program State administering agencies is available at [www.ojp.usdoj.gov/state.htm](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/state.htm).

## WSLJAC Needs a WACO Member

The State Law and Justice Advisory Council (WSLJAC) has a vacancy created by the retirement of Yakima County Prosecutor Jeff Sullivan. The position represents members of the Washington Association of County Officials. Interested county officials are asked to submit a letter of interest to WACO no later than April 8.

The mission of WSLJAC is to promote efficiency and effectiveness in the statewide law and justice system, balancing local and state perspectives by: fostering collaboration relationships between local law and justice councils, state agencies and the community; exchanging information between local law and justice councils to facilitate integrated planning and program; evaluation; providing support and technical assistance at the request of local law and justice councils; and providing a statewide forum for local and state interests to identify and address issues of mutual concern related to the criminal justice system.

WSLJAC was established in RCW 72.09.300 in 1994 and its membership consists of citizens, legislators, local and state government, various Washington State Associations. It has 37 members who are appointed by the Secretary of the Department of Corrections Joseph Lehman. More information is available at [www.wsljac.wa.gov](http://www.wsljac.wa.gov).

## State Grants Available for County Jails – Apply Now

The 2001-03 state capital budget appropriates \$3.5 million to assist with local jail expansion projects, including planning. The state Department of Corrections is managing these grant funds and recently sent an announcement of the application process to every county.

**The RFP request deadline is April 5, 2002 and the final proposal deadline is May 24, 2002. Late applications will not be accepted.**

RFP packets must be requested in writing. Fax or email a request for CRFP 5655 to Barbara Parry at 360-664-2009 or [blparry@doc1.wa.gov](mailto:blparry@doc1.wa.gov). RFP packets will be mailed. Eligible applicants are cities, counties, and Indian tribes responsible for incarcerating or detaining offenders within Washington state.

Of the state appropriation, a minimum of 75 percent may be awarded for construction and a maximum of 25 percent may be awarded for planning. Individual jurisdictions may receive up to \$500,000 each for construction and \$50,000 each for planning. Total funding is limited to \$500,000 per jurisdiction. All other factors being equal, priority will be given to multi-jurisdictional projects that result in added beds.

## Free Satellite Conference Addresses Mental Illness in Jails

As county officials in this state know, jails have experienced a dramatic rise in the number of inmates exhibiting symptoms of serious mental illness. Many jails are ill equipped to manage this population and have limited resources for providing services.

To help address these issues, the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) has scheduled a live interactive satellite/internet video-conference for April 17, 2002. Please register by April 15 at the NIC's web site at [www.nicic.org](http://www.nicic.org). Participating sites that register by April 15 will be able to download satellite coordinates and internet access information as well as agenda, handouts and recommended reading materials. Participants also may call in questions via a toll-free telephone number displayed on the screen during the conference.

The event is intended to help participants better understand the issues, identify essential components for managing mentally ill inmates, understand creative approaches to meeting inmates' mental health needs, and identify potential resources to help jails better serve mentally ill inmates.

The video-conference is available at no charge to any agency or facility nationwide with access to the internet or satellite dish or downlink (C-band or KU-band transponder).

Correctional agencies may be able to obtain a free satellite dish by contacting Anne Charles at 800-531-4288, ext. 2627.

## Feds Announce "Serious, Violent Offender Reentry Initiative"

Several federal agencies, under the leadership of the Department of Justice (DOJ) Office of Justice Programs, are announcing applications for the "Serious, Violent Offender Reentry Initiative."

Application information is available by calling the DOJ at 800-421-6770 or online at [www.ojp.usdoj.gov/reentry/solicitation/solicitation.html](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/reentry/solicitation/solicitation.html). Application deadline is May 15. This grant program is designed to address the issues related to violent offenders being released from correctional facilities into communities. The program aims to reduce recidivism by these returning offenders and thus enhance community safety.

Eligible applicants are states, local jurisdictions, or tribes that represent a partnership between institutional and community corrections agencies.

Although some new grants will be awarded, the focus of the initiative is not "new money." Rather, the federal partners are identifying funds from their respective agencies that are already available and suitable for the purposes of the initiative. The goal is to fund at least one sustainable program in each state. Each site would receive approximately \$500,000 to \$2 million.

## Kit Available to Help Protect Local Drinking Water

NACo has provided WSAC with a "Source Water Information Kit for Local Government Officials." The kit was developed to help county and local officials protect local drinking water supplies, and it provides information on tools, techniques, and strategies. The documents, fact sheets, and brochures provided in the kit contain examples in which public, private, and community interests are involved in the drinking water protection process. If you are interested in obtaining one of these kits, WSAC has five copies available on a first-come-first served basis. To obtain one of these copies, please contact WSAC staff Ginni Peppert. For further information on the kit or for information on ordering the kits, please contact NACo's James Davenport at (202) 661-8807 or [jdavenpo@naco.org](mailto:jdavenpo@naco.org) or email to [Jdavenpo@naco.org](mailto:Jdavenpo@naco.org).

## Federal Guidelines for Public Health Bioterrorism Preparedness

*(Submitted by Pat Libbey, National Association of County & City Health Officials and Director, Thurston County Department of Public Health and Social Services and M. Ward Hinds, WSALPHO Chair and Health Officer, Snohomish Health District.)*

The federal guidelines for public health bio-terrorism preparedness and capacity building were received from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the latter half of February.

The federal guidelines addressing hospital preparedness were received from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) earlier in February. Both guidelines and the expectations they set affect local public health departments. The guidelines obligate the State Department of Health to prepare applications describing how we will go about improving Washington's public health and hospitals preparedness and capacities. The applications must demonstrate "meaningful collaboration" between local public health agencies and the state. The applications must be signed off by the Governor and forwarded to the Secretary of Health and Human Services by April 15, 2002. It's important to note that the applications need not be a complete statement of priorities and action

steps leading to improved capacity and preparedness but rather a description of how we will go about setting those priorities and action steps. Most often, the guidelines call for a "timeline" for the development of plans, systems etc.

Since the receipt of the guidelines WSALPHO leadership has been directly involved with the State Department of Health in plan development. WSALPHO intends to assure that the intended improvement in preparedness and increased capacity envisioned as a result of the new funds occurs first and foremost in ways that directly improve and increase the capabilities of local public health to respond to "bio-terrorism, other infectious disease outbreaks and other public health threats and emergencies." In our interactions with the state we have consistently conveyed two key messages for the development of the State's applications. First, it is WSALPHO's position throughout this process that detection and at least initial response to any such events occur primarily at the local level and that this primacy of local detection and response must be reflected in the State's application. And second, that plans and priorities deriving from the applications must be built from the local level up. That is, local and regional preparedness needs are the primary driver of the State's approach. It follows then from these two messages, that a very significant amount of the resources needs to be allocated at the local level and improved capacity must be measured primarily in increased resources – staff and otherwise – at the local level. In the main, increased consultation and technical assistance to local public health agencies does not really constitute increased capacity to detect and respond. In addition we have been successful in assuring that local hospital planning has to be done in coordination with local public health and that local public health is the linking means for connecting hospital planning to local emergency management.

The guidelines describe "focus areas" that must be addressed in the application. They describe "critical capacities" that must be achieved in all of the focus areas, as well as "enhanced capacities" that may be addressed in the focus areas when the "critical capacities" have been addressed. The focus areas are as

follows:

1. Preparedness Planning and Readiness Assessment
2. Surveillance and Epidemiology Capacity
3. Laboratory Capacity – Biologic Agents
4. Laboratory Capacity – Chemical Agents
5. Health Alert Network/ Communications and Information Technology
6. Communicating Health Risks and Health Information Dissemination
7. Education and Training.

As part of preparing the State's application work teams in each of the above areas were formed. (Note – the two laboratory capacities were combined in a single laboratory work group.) There were also two additional work groups, one for Hospital Planning and one for rules and regulations. Multiple local health department staff served on each of the work groups along with state and in some cases private sector and other staff. The purpose of these workgroups was to prepare the preliminary timeline, benchmarks, and a gross budget approximation for the particular focus area. Recognizing that priorities are to be a reflection of local need, the workgroups are not tasked with developing statewide priorities (for the most part – recognizing that laboratory capacity and aspects of Health Alert Network may be different). This work is at or near completion.

Beginning the week of March 18<sup>th</sup>, work began to merge the individual focus area work into a single coordinated approach forming the basis of the State application. The various benchmarks were reviewed and changed as necessary to assure compatibility, timelines are synchronized and a comprehensive budget is rolled up from the focus area work groups. WSALPHO members participated in this work along with state health department staff and hospital representatives.

Later in the week there was a policy level review of the work and product to date. The purpose of the policy level review is to ensure the federal guidelines

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## Public Health and Human Services

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are being addressed, that gaps in focus areas are clearly identified, that time-lines between focus areas are complementary, and that the focus area budgets are appropriate and within the federal funds available. The policy review process also describes the basic organiza-

tional framework for implementation of the workplan. Again, WSALPHO leadership participated in this effort with state health staff, hospital representatives and staff from the Governor's Office/OFM. The final product of this effort will be made available for external stakeholder review and comment and

then must be reviewed by the State Emergency Committee on Terrorism before being forwarded to the Governor for signoff prior to April 15<sup>th</sup>.

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## Environment, Land Use and Resources

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### Counties Impacted by Revised Industrial Stormwater Permit

As the result of a legal settlement stemming from a lawsuit by environmental groups, the Department of Ecology is preparing to revise and reissue stormwater permits for about 1,200 industrial facilities in Washington. The "industrial stormwater general permit" describes measures that industrial facilities must take to keep their stormwater runoff from polluting streams and aquifers. Environmental organizations felt the 2000 update to the permit was not stringent enough and sued to force changes.

Some of the revisions called for in the draft permit include:

- Facilities owned or operated by counties, cities and other local governments are not exempt from obtaining the permit.
- Stormwater sampling, analysis and reporting is required.
- Mixing zones (the area where discharges and streams merge) are defined.
- Compliance with water-quality standards is required.
- Light industry must either apply for a stormwater permit or prove they don't need it.

The department will accept public comments on the draft permit from March 29 through May 17. People may submit comments in writing via fax or mail (see below), or verbally at one of six public hearings. All of the hearings will begin at 1:30 p.m.

**Tacoma** on Monday, May 6, at Bates Technical College auditorium, 1101 S. Yakima Ave.

**Mt. Vernon** on Tuesday, May 7, at Dept. of Social & Health Services, Skagit & Snohomish rooms, 900 E. College Way.

**Spokane** on Thursday, May 9, at Spokane Co. Cooperative Extension, Rm. B, N. 222

Havana.

**Yakima** on Friday, May 10, at Dept. of Ecology, 15 W. Yakima Ave.

**Bellevue** on Monday, May 13, at Dept. of Ecology, 3190 160<sup>th</sup> Ave. S.E.

**Vancouver** on Tuesday, May 14, at Dept. of Social & Health Services, DCS Conference Rm., 5411 E. Mill Plain Blvd. (Town Plaza Mall).

Information about the permit is available on Ecology's Web site at [www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/stormwater/](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/stormwater/) or by contacting Keith Johnson (360-407-6442 or [kjoh461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:kjoh461@ecy.wa.gov)).

Written comments may be mailed to Keith Johnson, Department of Ecology, P. O. Box 47600, Olympia, Wash., 98504-7600, or faxed to him at 360-407-6426. Comments must be received by Ecology no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, May 17.

### Supreme Court Will Be Asked to Reconsider Elimination of Petition Method of Annexation

In response to the Supreme Court decision two weeks ago that cities will have to get permission from all residents and not just the largest property owners in order to annex, a motion for reconsideration will be filed by the Association of Washington Cities and the defendant cities of Moses Lake and Yakima. The court ruled unconstitutional the petition method of annexation, in which owners of at least 60 or 75% of the property value must agree to be governed by the city. The percentage varies depending on the exact process. Under that method, one person who owned 60% of the property value in a given area could approve annexation against the wishes of his or her neighbors.

Cities use the petition method of annexation, which was initially established in 1945, about 90% of the time. The alternative method of annexation is by holding an election among all the residents.

"The petition method of annexation gives an impermissible privilege to owners of highly valued land, and therefore violates article I, section 12 of the Washington State Constitution," wrote Justice Bobbe Bridge in the court's 6-3 majority opinion.

The court's decision will not apply retroactively, but it will change the landscape for future city annexations and for implementation of growth management. The issue is certain to arise in the legislature next year if the court takes the unlikely step of reconsideration and reversal.

Fire districts opposed the annexations by Moses Lake and Yakima in court because annexation by cities means fire districts lose property-tax revenue.

### Salmon De-Listing Criteria Being Developed

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is drawing up conditions under which Pacific Coast salmon populations could be removed from the federal Endangered Species List. Bob Lohn, NMFS regional administrator, said the agency also will detail in its report how many fish will need to be living and breeding in the Columbia and Snake river systems before they can be taken off the list.

The action is partly in response to a federal district court decision last summer that called into question NMFS' policy of not including hatchery fish in its listings of threatened and endangered species. The report will not automatically delist any of the 26 listed salmon populations, said Brian Gorman, NMFS spokesman.

### Washington State Wins Blanket Primary Case

Federal District Court Judge Franklin D. Burgess, Thursday, ruled in favor of the motion of the Secretary of State, declaring Washington's Blanket Primary constitutional. Political parties challenged the primary election system in the summer of 2000 following a U.S. Supreme Court decision that found California's Blanket Primary unconstitutional.

"This is a victory for the people of Washington who overwhelmingly support the Blanket Primary," said Secre-

tary of State Sam Reed. "Our voters fiercely and rightly defend their freedom to choose any candidate on the ballot."

In a 30-page opinion, Judge Burgess ruled "The political parties' evidence that there is a burden on their constitutional right of association is, for the most part, incompetent and inadmissible, and at best, it is insubstantial and speculative; the political parties have failed to carry their burden of proof."

Washington State's Blanket Primary system was originally adopted by initiative in 1935. It allows voters to choose

any candidate on the primary ballot, regardless of party affiliation.

"I hope, in light of this decision, the parties will reassess their desire to derail Washington's primary election system," Reed said. "The Blanket Primary has worked in our state for more than sixty years. This ruling sends a clear message that in Washington State the primary belongs to the people."

Additional information and full text of the decision is available on the Secretary of State's website at [www.secstate.wa.gov](http://www.secstate.wa.gov).

## General Government and Miscellaneous

### Unexplained Critical Illness or Death Reporting in Washington State

*(Submitted by Rosalie Miller, MD, WA State Department of Health, Communicable Disease Epidemiology)*

Surveillance for unexplained death is a key public health strategy for detecting emerging pathogens and possible incidents of bioterrorism. For this surveillance system to be successful, it is important that unexplained deaths due to potentially infectious etiologies are reported to local health departments, even before establishing a final diagnosis. Collaboration between public health, death investigation, and health care professionals to promote and maintain surveillance for unexplained death are both a national and state priority.

Public health surveillance is the ongoing, systematic collection, analysis and interpretation of health-related data essential to the planning, implementation, and evaluation of public health practice, closely integrated with the timely dissemination of these data to those responsible for prevention and control. The records of medical examiners and coroners, which provide vital information about trends of mortality in the United States, are also an excellent source of data for public health surveillance. In 1986, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) established the Medical Examiner and Coroner Information and Sharing Program (MECISP)<sup>2</sup> to facilitate communication among death investigators and the public health community. We hope to build on this foundation as we strengthen existing surveillance systems in Washington State. Since medical examiners and coroners in-

vestigate approximately 20% of all deaths in the United States, they are an important part of the surveillance team that may identify deaths due to bioterrorism or emerging infectious agents.

Reporting of selected diseases and conditions in Washington is mandated by RCW 43.20.050. Under WAC 246-101, unexplained critical illness or death of potentially infectious etiology was added as a notifiable condition in December 2000<sup>3</sup>. An unexplained critical illness or death is defined in Washington by the following criteria: Critical illness or death in a previously healthy person 1 – 49 years of age with no pre-existing chronic medical condition likely to explain the illness or death, where the illness has the hallmarks of infectious disease, and preliminary testing has not revealed a cause for illness or death. Critical illness is defined as any illness requiring admission to an intensive care unit. Chronic medical conditions include: asplenia, chronic heart, kidney and liver disease, chronic lung disease, excluding asthma, diabetes, HIV/AIDS, immunosuppressive therapy or disease, long term care facility resident, malignancy, and nosocomial infection. Hallmarks of infectious disease are defined as: fever, inflammatory findings in an otherwise sterile site, e.g., CSF or pleural fluid, abnormal white blood count (high or low), and/or histopathologic evidence of infection. Preliminary testing for investigation of death would be an autopsy that does not reveal an obvious cause of death. In the case of unexplained death, reporting before the results of toxicology or histology reports are available is desirable. In addition, although not mandated, we would encourage the reporting of unexplained deaths in individuals meeting

the case definition, but younger than 12 months or older than 49 years of age. A list of all notifiable conditions listed in WAC 246-101 is available at: <http://www.doh.wa.gov/os/policy/246-101.htm>.

In January 2002, the, the Cowlitz County coroner contacted the Cowlitz County Health Department (CCHD) to report two deaths clustered in time, both with gastrointestinal symptoms suggestive of an infectious etiology. The decedents lived in separate households, and had no common contacts. Both were previously healthy, died within 4 days of symptom onset, and neither individual sought medical care prior to death. One individual was a postal worker.

Once notified, the CCHD reported these cases to the Washington State Department of Health (DOH). Based on the clinical symptoms in the postal worker prior to death, DOH recommended collection of specific specimens for evaluation of potential infectious causes. CCHD and the local hospital provided the collection materials that are not normally part of the morgue supplies. Specimens were collected in sterile fashion during autopsy and sent to DOH for testing. Although DOH was unable to establish a specific infectious disease pathogen as the cause of death, DOH was able to rule out anthrax as a cause. Neighboring county health departments were notified so that they could increase surveillance with medical examiners, coroners, and hospitals.

The Cowlitz coroner highlighted several issues in his attempts to identify a specific infectious etiology as cause of death: 1) neither individual was seen by a health

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## General Government and Miscellaneous

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care provider prior to death, so that no pre-mortem diagnostic testing was performed, 2) collection of post-mortem specimens was delayed (ideally, those obtained for investigation of a possible infectious etiology are collected within four to six hours of death), and 3) routine methods used at autopsy do not allow collection of specimens to evaluate infectious etiologies and collection materials are not routinely available at the morgue. Lessons learned from this collaboration are invaluable in our efforts to refine surveillance for unexplained death due to possibly infectious etiologies.

Washington State DOH is currently revising our case screening and investigation forms for unexplained critical illness and death. We look forward to working with health care providers and death investigators to improve our diagnostic capacities and preparedness for detecting emerging infections and potential bioterrorist incidents in Washington

State. Your feedback and suggestions are welcomed during this process. For questions or comments, please call Washington State Department of Health Communicable Disease Epidemiology @206.361.2914 or toll free @877-539-4344. Web addresses for Washington for Washington State local health departments and districts are included below<sup>4</sup>. Special thanks to Mr. Mike Nichols, Cowlitz County coroner, for his help in preparing this article.

### References

CDC Epidemiology Program Office, Division of Public Health Surveillance and Informatics, [www.cdc.gov/epo/dphsi/](http://www.cdc.gov/epo/dphsi/)

CDC Epidemiology Program Office, Division of Public Health Surveillance and Informatics, Medical Examiner and Coroner Information Sharing Program, [www.cdc.gov/epo/dphsi/mecisp/index.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/epo/dphsi/mecisp/index.htm)

Washington State Department of Health, *Notifiable Conditions Update: Unexplained Illness or Death from Potential Infection*, *epiTRENDS*, Volume 6, No. 3, May, 2001

Washington State Local Health Departments/Districts Maps, <http://www.doh.wa.gov/LHJMap/LHJMap.htm>

### Resource

State of Washington Department of Health, Communicable Disease Epidemiology, 1610 N.E. 150<sup>th</sup> St., Shoreline, WA 98155-9701, phone: 206-361-2914, fax: 206-361-2930

### Suggested Reading

Hajjeh, Rana A, et al., *Surveillance for Unexplained Deaths and Critical Illnesses Due to Possibly Infectious Causes*, United States, 1995-1998, *Emerging Infectious Diseases*, Volume 8, No. 2, February, 2002

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## Upcoming Events and Training

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### Certified Public Official News

Please take the time to check out the WSAC and WACO Web sites for the addition of current Certified Public Official) CPO information. You can learn about the program on-line and check for the latest training offerings and locations. The course announcement on “**Public Meetings, Public Disclosure and More**” was mailed last week. If you have not seen the

announcement, it is posted on the CPO Web site. This three-hour workshop is being offered as an Elective Course and is designed to provide specific training for elected officials in cities and counties as well as management staff, on a number of legal issues, which may get you into trouble and onto the front page of the local newspaper. In an effort to bring the training to more participants and cut travel

costs, the training will be held in Ellensburg, Davenport, Richland, Mt. Vernon, Tacoma, and Kelso. You may register to attend at any of the locations.

We welcome your comments and input about the CPO program and hope you will take advantage of the opportunities to participate in the program.

# Calendar of Events

April 4  
Retro Pool Meeting, Best Inn/RV Park,  
Ellensburg

April 11–12  
WSAC Western District Meeting, Rosario  
Resort, San Juan County

April 23  
Basic Contract Training, sponsored by the  
Washington Association of Prosecuting  
Attorneys (WAPA), Rodeway Inn,  
Leavenworth, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

April 25-26  
WSAC Eastern District Meeting, Sun  
Mountain Lodge, Winthrop

May 1  
Certified Public Official (CPO) *Public  
Meetings, Public Information and More:  
Do You Know the Rules?* Ellensburg—  
Cost: \$50 CPO Credits: 2 (Elective  
Course)

May 2  
Certified Public Official (CPO) *Public  
Meetings, Public Information and More:  
Do You Know the Rules?* Davenport—  
Cost: \$50 CPO Credits: 2 (Elective  
Course)

May 3  
Certified Public Official (CPO) *Public  
Meetings, Public Information and More:  
Do You Know the Rules?* Richland—Cost:  
\$50 CPO Credits: 2 (Elective Course)

May 6–10  
Washington State Association of County  
Auditors' Annual Conference, Red Lion,  
Port Angeles

May 8  
Certified Public Official (CPO) *Public  
Meetings, Public Information and More: Do You  
Know the Rules?* Mt. Vernon—Cost: \$50  
CPO Credits: 2 (Elective Course)

May 9  
Certified Public Official (CPO) *Public  
Meetings, Public Information and More:  
Do You Know the Rules?* Tacoma—Cost:  
\$50 CPO Credits: 2 (Elective Course)

May 10  
Certified Public Official (CPO) *Public  
Meetings, Public Information and More:*

*Do You Know the Rules?* Kelso—Cost:  
\$50 CPO Credits: 2 (Elective Course)

May 15–17  
ACHS, Spokane

May 20–23  
Washington State Association of Sheriffs  
& Police Chiefs' (WASPC) Spring Confer-  
ence, WestCoast Wenatchee Center Hotel,  
Wenatchee

May 22–24  
WIR, Yellowstone County, Billings MT

June 15  
American Board of Medicolegal Death In-  
vestigators certification testing, 8:00 a.m. -  
noon, Room 2605, Mt. Hood Community  
College, Gresham, OR.

June 16–19  
Government Finance Officers' Association  
(GFOA) Annual Conference, Denver,  
Colorado

June 17  
WSALPHO Meeting in conjunction with  
WSAC Summer Convention, Bellevue

June 17–20  
Washington State Association of County  
Assessors' Annual Conference, Rosario  
Resort, Orcas Island

June 18  
WCIF Board in conjunction with WSAC  
Summer Conference, 10:00 a.m.–noon,  
Bellevue

June 18  
Certified Public Official (CPO) *Financial  
Management: Understanding County  
Government Financing*, Bellevue—Cost:  
\$120, CPO Credits: 4 (Core Course). An  
additional elective course will also be of-  
fered at the Summer Convention, topic  
TBD

June 18–21  
WSAC Summer Convention, Bellevue

June 18–21  
Association of Washington Cities (AWC)  
Annual Conference, Yakima

June 19–21  
Washington State Association of Prosecut-  
ing Attorneys' (WAPA) Summer Training

Program, Campbell's Lodge, Chelan

June 22–26  
National Sheriffs Association's Annual  
Conference, Tulsa, Oklahoma

June 24–28  
Washington State Association of County  
Clerks' Annual Conference, Best Western  
Suites, Walla Walla

June 24–28  
Washington State Association of County  
Treasurers' Annual Conference, Lakeway  
Inn, Bellingham

July 9–12  
Northwest Regional Election Conference  
2002, Jantzen Beach Doubletree Hotel,  
Portland

July 12–16  
NACo Annual Conference, New Orleans  
Parish, New Orleans, LA

July 17–19  
ACHS, Clark County

July 24  
Certified Public Official (CPO) *Washing-  
ton Counties Risk Pool—Leadership Skills  
in Response to Current Issues*, Spokane—  
Cost: Free to Risk Pool Members, \$50  
non-members, CPO Credits: 4 (Elective  
Course)

August 22  
WCIP Board/Rate Setting Session, 9:00  
a.m.–3:00 p.m. SeaTac

September 10–13  
City/County Planning Directors, Lake  
Chelan

September 12  
WSALPHO Meeting, Spokane

September 18–20  
ACHS, Leavenworth

September 19  
WCIF/WCIP Boards/Insurance Advisory  
Committee (All Day Meeting), SeaTac

September 30–October 4  
WACO/WSAC Annual Conference,  
WestCoast Wenatchee Hotel, Wenatchee

*(Continued on page 9)*

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## Calendar of Events

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(Continued from page 8)

October 1

Certified Public Official (CPO) *Personnel/Human Resources—Understand the Laws; Maximize Your Personnel System*, Wenatchee—Cost: \$120, CPO Credits: 4 (Core Course)

October 2

Certified Public Official (CPO) *The Class-Act County Government Official—Building Courthouse Partnerships*, Wenatchee—Cost TBD, CPO Credits: 2 (Elective Course)

November 14

WCIF Board Meeting, 9:00 a.m.–noon, Eastern Washington Location

November 18–21

Washington Association of Sheriffs & Police Chiefs' (WASPC) Annual Fall Conference, Red Lion Hotel at the Quay, Vancouver

November 20–22

ACHS, Seattle

December 5

WSALPHO Meeting, SeaTac

December 10–13

Certified Public Official (CPO) *Newly Elected Officials Training—Understanding Your New Job at the Courthouse*, Olympia—Cost: TBD, CPO Credits: All newly elected officials **must** attend to become certified

### 2003 MEETINGS

June 24–27, 2003

WSAC Summer Convention, Spokane

July 11–15, 2003

NACo Annual Conference, Milwaukee County, Milwaukee, WI

September 29–October 3, 2003

Joint WACO/WSAC Conference, Doubletree Hotel Seattle Airport

### 2004 MEETINGS

June 22–25, 2004

WSAC Summer Convention, Sheraton Tacoma, Pierce County

July 16–20, 2004

NACo Annual Conference Maricopa County, Phoenix, AZ

October 4–8, 2004

WACO/WSAC Joint Legislative Conference, WestCoast Grand Hotel at the Park, Spokane

### 2005 MEETINGS

July 15–19, 2005

NACo Annual Conference, City & County of Hawaii, Honolulu, HI

# Employment Opportunities

## ADAMS COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, Ritzville, WA.

Sealed bids will be received by Adams County at the Office of the Board of County Commissioners located in the courthouse at 210 W. Broadway, Ritzville, WA 99169, until 10:00 a.m. Monday, April 15, 2002, and will then be open and publicly read for the following construction improvements:

To the Batum East Bridge #297-1 by replacement of the existing superstructure with precast prestressed concrete superstructure, reconstruct the bridge approaches and other work.

All bid proposals shall be accompanied by a bid proposal deposit in cash, certified check, cashier's check or surety bond in amount equal to five percent (5%) of the amount of such bid proposal. Should the successful bidder fail to enter into such contract and furnish satisfactory performance bond with the time stated in the specifications, the bid proposal deposit shall be forfeited to the County of Adams. All check and bonds shall be made payable to the Adams County Treasurer.

The Board of Adams County Commissioners reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive informalities or irregularities in the bids or in the bidding, if the best interest of Adams County will be served, or to accept the bid, which in their opinion best serves the interest of Adams County.

Maps, plans, specifications, and proposals may be obtained from the office of the Department of Public Works, 210 W. Alder, Ritzville, WA 99169, phone (509) 659-3276.

Informational copies of maps, plans and specifications are on file for inspection in the office of the Adams County Engineer in Ritzville, and the chapter office of the Associated General Contractors of America in Spokane, WA.

**TEAM LEADER/SUPERVISOR, The Rogers Counseling Center Substance Abuse Program.** MA to work with individual, family, teens, after-hours groups and ADASTA evaluations. Will supervise two other chemical dependency counselors. Share on-call duties. Salary: \$37,000 plus DOE. Great benefits. Apply to: The Rogers Counseling Center, 900 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Clarkston, WA 99403. Open until filled. Equal Oppor-

tunity Employer

**CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY COUNSELOR** - Masters preferred, but not required. Must possess Washington CDP credential or be able to obtain one. Will work in an IOP evening program case management, evaluations, individual, group and family therapy. Will work with adults and possibly adolescents. Occasional on-call duties. Salary \$30,000 + DOE. Great benefits in a beautiful valley with an abundance of recreation. Apply: The Rogers Counseling Center, 900 7<sup>th</sup> St., Clarkston, WA 99403. Fax résumés to (509) 758-8009, attention Anna. Open until filled. Equal Opportunity Employer.

**SECRETARY OR LEGAL ASSISTANT - Columbia County Prosecutor's Office** is seeking a self-starting individual with multi-tasking, secretarial and computer skills. Legal experience preferred but not required. Sole support staff for two-attorney office with diverse duties including criminal and civil. Salary DOE, range from \$1,420 to \$2,047 for secretary, or for Legal Assistant entry-level salary \$2,039/month. Send résumé to Conrad Hoskins, Columbia County Prosecuting Attorney, PO Box 270, 116 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Dayton, WA 99328. Phone: (509) 382-1197.

**SAN JUAN COUNTY PERMIT CENTER** seeks a Deputy Director to act as Deputy Building Official and manage building section. Serves as Acting Director when Director is not available. Develops and manages an efficient building permit review process. Supervises employees engaged in the review of building plans and construction for compliance with the Uniform Codes & local building regulations. Also directs work of planners and permit coordinators when Director is not available. Minimum qualifications include two years of college with five years of experience in the field of building inspection and five years experience supervising employees engaged in building inspection. ICBO certification as a building official, or an equivalent combination. Thorough knowledge of the Uniform Codes, including building, plumbing, mechanical, energy and fire codes. Excellent communication skills and the

ability to establish effective working relationships. Must be able to read and understand ordinances, blueprints and construction plans. Salary: \$4,161.69/month plus benefits. Submit application to: Administrative Services, 350 Court St. #5, Friday Harbor, WA 98250. Phone: (360) 378-3870. [www.co.san-juan.wa.us](http://www.co.san-juan.wa.us).

**WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES** is seeking an experienced manager to serve as the Forest & Fish Habitat Conservation Plan, Project Manager. We are looking for candidates with background in natural sciences and experience developing and negotiating an HCP. Salary up to \$75,000 annually plus benefits. Screening begins April 12, 2002. For more information: <http://www.wa.gov/dnr/jobs/4.12.2hcprjmgr.doc> or DNR's job page at [www.wa.gov/dnr/jobs](http://www.wa.gov/dnr/jobs).

## ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES MANAGER - Clark County, WA.

Clark County, one of the fastest growing and highly respected counties in WA is seeking a Department Finance Manager. This is an innovative opportunity for the right person to manage, plan and coordinate the financial, staffing and operational activities for the Finance & Grants Management Unit including payroll, accounting, information systems, grants, contracts and budget management functions. Develops significant linkages with program managers; negotiates contracts and conducts operational and financial audits; oversees contract management and monitoring of sub recipients. Processes financial transactions; provides financial reports; integrates financial information in development of the department budget; prepares financial plans, forecasts and staff reports. Bachelor's degree in accounting, business administration (Certified Public Accountant *strongly preferred*) *and* three years experience in public sector accounting and finance experience, with two years supervisory experience. This is a very dynamic environment; detailed position information and applications available at [www.clark.wa.gov](http://www.clark.wa.gov) and from Clark County HR, 1013 Franklin Street, Vancouver, WA. (360)397-6018; TDD (360)397-6032. Equal Opportunity Employer

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## Employment Opportunities

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(Continued from page 10)

**BUILDING, PLANNING AND SOLID WASTE MANAGER.** The Adams County Department of Public Works is seeking a professional with strong leadership and team-building skills to manage our Building, Planning and Solid Waste Division of Public Works. Salary: Starting Pay \$37,252–\$42,868 (DOQ) and benefits, Pay Range \$37,252–\$56,867. Closing Date: Open until filled. Initial screening will begin March 29, 2002. (faxed materials not suitable for submittal). Minimum Qualifications: Bachelor of Arts degree in planning or closely related field and four years of work experience with two years being at a supervisory level, or a combination of education and experience deemed equivalent. A valid Washington state drivers license is required. For additional information and an application packet, please call (509) 659-3276, visit [www.co.adams.wa.us](http://www.co.adams.wa.us) or write to Adams County Department of Public Works, 210 West Alder, Ritzville, Washington 99169.

**KITSAP COUNTY, SENIOR DEPUTY CORONER.** Performs technical work to investigate all deaths within the County, determine cause of death, locate, and notify next-of-kin. Requires two years of college courses in anatomy and physiology, bachelors degree desirable; and two years experience in quasi law enforcement, emergency services, medicine, health services, or related field involving investigative work; or any equivalent combination of experience and education that provides the applicant with the desired skills, knowledge and ability required to perform the work. Previous supervisory experience is preferred. This is an at-will position that

serves at the pleasure of the Kitsap County Coroner. Salary: \$21.55 to \$27.51/hr. Closes: 3/29/02. Call (360) 337-7185 for an application packet or download from our website: [www.kitsapgov.com](http://www.kitsapgov.com).

**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, PUBLIC WORKS/UTILITIES, KITSAP COUNTY.** This position plans, organizes, and manages the activities of the Utilities Division of the Public Works Department including the administration and management of the functions of the Wastewater Utility, Solid Waste Utility and Surface/Stormwater Utility. Requires a bachelor's degree in civil engineering, public administration, or closely related field, master's degree preferred, and five years of progressively responsible professional/administrative experience in planning, design, operation/maintenance, and construction of public works facilities, including two years of supervisory or management responsibilities; or any equivalent combination of experience and education which provides the applicant with the desired skills, knowledge and ability required to perform the work. Registration as a Professional Civil Engineer in the state of Washington is desirable. This is an "at will" position that serves "at the pleasure" of the Public Works Director. Salary: \$66,289 to \$84,593/annually. Closes: 5/03/02. Postmarks will not be accepted. Kitsap County is an Equal Opportunity Employer. For an application packet download from our website at [www.kitsapgov.com](http://www.kitsapgov.com) or contact Kitsap County Personnel, 614 Division Street, MS-23, Port Orchard, WA 98366-4676. (360) 337-7185 extension "0" – 24 hour job line at extension "1".

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WENATCHEE VALLEY TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL** has an opening for an Executive Director. Salary range is \$55,000 - \$72,000 per year depending on qualifications, attractive benefits package. Requirements include but are not limited to a completed application and résumé and a valid state issued drivers license. This position also requires a minimum of five years of planning experience beyond the trainee level and a degree in physical and/or regional planning, civil engineering, geography, or a closely related field. Applications and job descriptions available at Douglas County Transportation & Land Services, 470 Ninth N. E. East Wenatchee, WA 98802, (509) 884-7173, Monday - Friday 7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. or on our internet site: [www.douglascountywa.net](http://www.douglascountywa.net). This position is open until April 23 at 5:00 p.m. WVTC 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. Equal Opportunity Employer