

Courthouse Journal

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Washington State Association of Counties
Washington Association of County Officials

May 16, 2002
Issue No. 19

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Washington Counties Scholarship Winners

As mentioned in last week's edition of the *Courthouse Journal*, the five winners of the Washington Counties Scholarships have been named and will each be awarded \$1,500 to the school of their choice. Two hundred and fifteen applications were received from across the state; each was reviewed by a team, and all of the finalists were rated by a committee of three independent panelists. The five winners include three from Chelan County, one from Island County, and one is a two-time winner from Stevens County. All of the applicants were outstanding, and the choices were difficult to make, but one thing for certain is that the county officials and employees whose children applied should be absolutely proud of such well-rounded and accomplished young adults.

The scholarship winners are:

(1) **Mitzi Walter**, the daughter of Chelan County Commissioner Ron Walter, and wife, Deborah. Mitzi is a graduate of Wenatchee High School and is attending college at Arizona State University (ASU). She was very active in varsity track during high school, until a serious back injury and subsequent surgeries put her on the sidelines. She credits that experience for her perseverance through adversity, her courage, and her character. Mitzi is studying both nursing and Spanish at ASU and would love to someday be part of mission work in Latin America. This summer she will be in the summer intern program with Young Life, of which she has been a member for several years.

(2) **Griffin Thornock**, the daughter of Kathy Thornock, Chelan-Douglas County Health District, and husband, Dave, is a graduate of Wenatchee High School and is just finishing her sophomore at the University of Washington. Griffin is a math and science whiz with a long list of honors and awards. Physics is her passion, and she is

majoring in Civil Engineering; upon graduation she wants to "concentrate on solving traffic and congestion problems at airports, on highways, or in downtown areas." Washington State needs her!

(3) **Kelsey Schmidt**, the daughter of Alan Schmidt, Chelan County Public Works, and wife, Judy, will be graduating from Entiat High School. She is involved in athletics, music and art, is part of the Running Start program and achieved the title of Queen Entiat 2001-02. Long thinking about a career involving helping children, Kelsey will enter the Psychology Department at Western Washington University this fall. Her goal is to become a child psychologist.

(4) **Chelsea Combest-Friedman**, the daughter of Cheryl Combest, Snohomish County Health District, and husband, Bob Friedman, will be graduating from St. Michels University School, in Victoria, B.C., and heading on to college in the fall. Chelsea is described as "socially and environmentally conscious" and "globally aware" most likely because of her varied background. She has lived in Canada, the United States, West Africa, and Madagascar. Chelsea is interested in pursuing a degree in Environmental Science/International Relations.

(5) **Brenda Buckner**, the daughter of Pauline Coleman, Stevens County Commissioners' office, won a Washington Counties Scholarship for the second year in a row. Brenda, a graduate of Colville High School will be a senior at the University of Washington next fall in the School of Architecture. She is currently vying for a space on a trip to travel to Mexico with a group of her peers and instructors during the winter of 2003, where they will be working with various architects and contractors on an extensive design-build project. With her tenacity, we are sure she will be making the trip!

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The two runners-up for the scholarships were Jared Rylander Barnhill, whose mother Mary Ann works in the Kitsap County Auditor's office, and Brett Christensen, whose mother Mary is employed by King County Transportation and Road Services. Barnhill holds

two positions at the Battle Point Astronomical Association, takes astronomy photos, and he and his father have just finished completing construction of an observatory at their home. He is headed for the field of astrophysics. Christensen says he is "quite obsessed with the science that lies on the brink between real-

ity and fantasy." He is a high school senior and is in the Running Start program at Highline Community College. Christensen's goal is to become a Ph.D in Physics and to become an inventor.

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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More Washington Counties' Scholars

Good job! The following students were considered in the final round of review for Washington Counties' Scholarships. Counties take note—these students would be excellent summer employees if jobs are available in your jurisdiction. There were 215 applications received for the awards, but unfortunately, only five awards were available.

Tricia Bays, daughter of Gayle Zeller, Thurston County Development Services

Wesley Cameron Brenner, son of Barbara Brenner, Whatcom County Council

Anthony Brown, son of Robyn Brown, Thurston County Health Department

Trisha Bury, daughter of Kay Bury, Clallam County Auditor's Office

Roger Caliman, son of Jan Caliman, Wahkiakum County Human Services

Angela Michelle Callas, daughter of Thomas Callas, Lewis County Sheriff's Office

Kerri Lynn Cook, daughter of Cheri Cook-Blodgett, Skagit Co. Administrative Services

Samantha Ferguson, daughter of Sharon Ferguson, Clark County Clerk's Office

Chase Gallagher, son of Cathy and Ross Gallagher, Mason County Clerk's Office

Jennifer Gill, daughter of Charles Gill, Yakima County Sheriff's Office

Cassandra Giudice, daughter of Sherry and John Giudice, Whitman County Sheriff's Office

Darcey Goelz, daughter of Mary Goelz, Pacific Co. Health Dept., and Douglas Goelz, Pacific Co. District Court Judge

David Clayton Grochowski, son of

Stan Grochowski, Pierce Co. Geographical Information Services

Amanda Hanks, daughter of Cindi Buchanan, Cowlitz County Juvenile Department

Andrea Rachel Hennings, daughter of Debora Hyde, Pierce County Executive's Office

Erica Hopper, daughter of Kathy Chittenden, Kitsap County Sheriff's Office

Jessica Isono, daughter of Michael Isono, Snohomish County Information Services

Theresa Klaassen, daughter of Diana Yu and Anthony Klaassen, Thurston County Public Health and Social Services

Kimberly Carol Klein, daughter of Jan Klein, Lincoln County WSU Extension Youth Program

Lindsay Erin Lashbrook, daughter of Dale Lashbrook, Snohomish County Sheriff's Department

Robyn Lee, daughter of Darlene Lee, Whitman County Prosecutor's Office

Erin Maynard, daughter of Jeanne Maynard, Snohomish County Prosecutor's Office

David F. Meland, son of Larry Meland, Kitsap County District Court
Matthew T. Miller, son of Kevin and Melody Murray, Okanogan Co. Sheriff's Office

Nicholas J. Mueller, son of Rudy and Shirley Mueller, Douglas County Dept. of Transportation and Land Services

Denise Myers, daughter of Dennis Myers and Marilyn Myers, Pierce County Sheriff's Office

Carrie Marie Nastansky, daughter of Dawn Nastansky, Thurston County Clerk's Office

Heather Osborn, daughter of William

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Osborn, Benton County Sheriff's Office

David Pendle, son of Carolyn Pendle, Pierce County Council Office

Keith Russell, son of Cori Russell, Skagit County Records Department

Elena V. Sanchez, daughter of Linda Sanchez, King County Records and Elections

Scott Seroshek, son of Debbie Seroshek, Cowlitz County Treasury

Nicole Shelton, daughter of Craig and Beth Shelton, Cowlitz County Sheriff's Department

Cameron Sorensen, son of Lori Wolford, Klickitat County Personnel Department

Danielle Spear, daughter of Nanette and Delbert Spear, Spokane Co. Auditor's Office

Micah B. Spellman, son of Linda Spellman, Pierce County Juvenile Court

Katy Summers, daughter of Dan and Cathy Summers, Garfield County Treasurer

Kylie Swisher, daughter of Robert and Nilea Swisher, Benton and Franklin County Courts

Cory R. Tonks, son of Steven Tonks, Benton County Dept. of Public Works

Nathan Walker, son of Alan and Kathleen Walker, Pierce County Human Services

Tabitha Whitehall, daughter of Marty Whitehall, Douglas County Licensing

Jessie Lee Williams, daughter of James Williams, Cowlitz County GIS

Nellie Nichole Williams, daughter of Isabelle Williams, Lewis County Sheriff's Office

Zach Womack, son of Robert Womack, Pierce County Ramen Hall

Jennifer Woodward, daughter of Laura and Steve Berry, Pierce County Corrections

White to Leave WSAC; Merriman to Join

Jackie White, WSAC Transportation and Land Use Policy Director, announced this week that she will be leaving WSAC after nearly two years on the staff. White has accepted a position with the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) and will continue to lobby for transportation issues. The decision was unexpected, although AWC had a vacant position when their previous lobbyist accepted a job with the Department

of Transportation earlier this spring.

Moving quickly to fill this key position, Executive Director Bill Vogler has hired Scott Merriman to replace White. For the past two years, Merriman has been the lobbyist for the Office of Community Development, and for two years prior to that he did a similar job for the Department of Natural Resources. Merriman has also worked for the former state Energy Office and was a lobbyist

for the Washington Environmental Council. Merriman will begin employment on July 1st and will cover the transportation and land use policy areas. He plans on visiting counties this summer to acquaint himself with county engineers, planning directors, and the members. We are pleased to have Scott join the staff.

Letter from WSAC President LeRoy Allison

Over the last two weeks, I have written to county commissioners, councilmembers and county executives asking that you come to Bellevue from June 18–21 to participate in the WSAC Annual Convention. By joining together with other levels of government, and working smarter, we will accomplish more.

We have assembled several sessions at the convention that demonstrate opportunities for working together, and some successes that already are underway. On Friday morning, June 21, three top federal, state, and local emergency management officials will address new initiatives such as anti-terrorism assistance and longstanding challenges, including floodplain mapping, that confront gov-

ernments engaged in emergency preparedness and response. The panelists include FEMA Region X Director John Pennington, state Emergency Management Director Glen Woodbury, and King County Emergency Management Director Eric Holdeman.

Also on Friday morning, we are hosting a discussion of the recent landmark decision of the Washington Supreme Court holding that the petition method of annexation is unconstitutional. The decision was based on the Article 1, Section 12 of the Washington State Constitution that protects "impermissible privilege to owners of highly valued land". Land use consultant Mike McCormick will engage county, city, and fire district participants

in their responses to this monumental decision.

In addition, new efforts at collaborative problem solving will be shared in a Thursday plenary session featuring Bob Lohn, the Regional Director for the National Marine Fisheries Service. That Thursday morning, Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels—a former WSAC member as a King County Councilman—will share his observations on governmental cooperation from the county and city viewpoint.

Please join us in Bellevue at the WSAC Annual Convention on June 18–21 to better move forward in your own county with our city, state and federal partners.

Journal Publication Moves to Thursday...

Beginning today, the *Courthouse Journal* will be published on Thursday, rather than Friday. During the 2003 legislative session, we will go back to our Friday publication date. The deadline to submit materials for the Journal will be Wednesday at 12 noon

Legislative Steering Committee Co-Chairs Appointed

WSAC President LeRoy Allison has appointed Kitsap County Commissioner Chris Endresen and Benton County Commissioner Leo Bowman the co-chairs for the 2002–03 WSAC Legislative Steering Committee. Commissioner Endresen returns as a co-chair after having served in that position for

the past year. The first meeting of the Legislative Steering Committee will take place on June 21 immediately following the WSAC Summer Convention in Bellevue.

Other members of the Legislative Steering Committee have yet to be named. If you are interested in serving,

please contact WSAC President LeRoy Allison, WSAC Vice-President Harold Moss, or WSAC Executive Director Bill Vogler by May 28. The full membership will be announced the first week of June.

Budget, Finance and Taxes

States' Approach to Sales Tax Definitions May Increase Exemptions

States are rushing to complete work on a uniform national system of sales tax administration by July. Recent meetings have focused on defining broad categories of items that can be taxed or exempted from sales and use tax. Many of these definitions will force the Legislature to choose between broadening sales tax exemptions and ending some existing exemptions. For instance, some tax-exempt items for livestock have been lumped together with items for pets.

The state currently tends to tax items for pets, but exempts items for livestock. The national model would force the state to either tax or exempt all of the items within a category. The state has seldom eliminated tax exemptions, so many of these groupings are likely to result in a further erosion of state and local sales tax revenue.

Many industries, including the software industry, are trying to include their products in categories that currently enjoy exemptions in most large states. By using this tactic, they can avoid having to re-enact or enact tax exemptions.

This would limit states' options in reforming their tax systems to lower rates and reduce exemptions. It also would put many growth industries permanently beyond the reach of local taxation.

The State Department of Revenue doesn't have estimates yet of the revenue consequences of the choices the Legislature will face. In the past, the department has been unable to provide estimates at the jurisdiction level.

The purpose of the states' effort is to convince Congress to permit state and local governments to collect sales tax on catalogue and internet sales.

Courts, Law & Justice

Rulemaking Process Under Way for State E-911 WAC

The state E-911 office has filed proposed amendments to the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) relating to how state E-911 funding may be provided to counties. The rulemaking process includes a public hearing from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, May 29, at the SeaTac Radisson Hotel.

The proposed rule amendments are intended to implement **SSB 5335** (RCW 38.52.540), adopted by the Legislature in 2001 to continue the state's 20 cent-per-month landline phone tax and to expand the uses for which the state funds may be expended.

The notice of rulemaking and proposed WAC amendments can be found in the April 16 Washington State Register, available at <http://slc.leg.wa.gov/wsr/>.

WSAC staff Sophia Byrd will attend the May 29 hearing.

"Judges Benefits" Case in Court Next Week

Nine counties will be in court next week to argue that the state should pay one-half the employee benefits for Superior Court judges. Oral arguments are scheduled to begin at 10 a.m., Wednesday, May 22, in Thurston County Superior Court.

Because of the subject matter of the case, any current Superior Court judge would face an apparent conflict of interest. Retired Judge Robert J. Doran will preside.

After unsuccessfully seeking legislative redress and withholding payments that they believe to be illegally assessed, the nine counties last fall filed suit against the state over who should pay judges' benefits. A 1995 state budget proviso shifted half this cost to counties following a long tradition of full coverage by the state.

Since 1995, counties have repeat-

edly attempted to convince the Legislature that the cost shift was unconstitutional and procedurally flawed. In protest, a number of counties also refused to pay the invoices sent by the state Office of the Administrator for the Courts (OAC), which ended up absorbing the benefit costs in its own agency budget. Over the years, the holdout counties dwindled to nine.

The standoff heated up again in 2001, when the Legislature voted to withhold Initiative 695 backfill money from counties that were not paying 50 percent of the benefits for their Superior Court judges.

Joining Thurston County in the lawsuit are Benton, Franklin, Pend Oreille, Stevens, Ferry, Mason, Klickitat, and Okanogan counties. These counties are now paying the assessed 50 percent of judges' benefits, but under protest pending the outcome of the lawsuit.

Since Washington became a state,

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Courts, Law & Justice

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Superior Court judges' salaries have been paid half by the state and half by the counties they work for, as provided in the state Constitution. The 19th century state Constitution, however, does not make any mention of benefits, which are creatures of 20th century statutes. As

employer-provided insurance and retirement benefits evolved, the state paid for 100 percent of the standard benefit package for judges. The state continued to cover these benefits until 1995.

When the 1995 state budget shifted the benefit costs, this change was not supported by substantive amendments to

state law. The counties' lawsuit argues that a substantive amendment was necessary to overcome the precedent the state had set by paying for benefits in the past.

Environment, Land Use and Resources

Puget Sound's Health Shows Signs of Improvement, but Concerns Remain

Washington State's Puget Sound Water Quality Action Team (Action Team) issued its third biennial report on the health of the Sound, "Puget Sound's Health 2002". The report analyzed data for 19 indicators to help determine whether the Sound's health is getting better or worse. Eight of the 19 indicators showed Puget Sound's health is getting better; two measurements

showed the Sound's health is getting worse; three were mixed; four documented continued concerns about persistent toxic contamination problems; and two were new indicators about near-shore habitats.

The Action Team concluded that overall, the quality of water, the health of some marine animals and other factors signaled improvement in the health of Puget Sound. However, other indicators or measures of the Sound's health warned of concerns for the overall ecosystem. You may view "Puget Sound's

Health 2002" on the Internet at: www.wa.gov/puget_sound, or call (800) 54-SOUND.

The Action Team works with multiple organizations to develop and carry out activities to protect and restore Puget Sound. The Action Team includes representatives from some state agencies and some tribal, federal, and local governments. A council, made up of representatives from businesses, environmental organizations, local and tribal governments, and the Legislature advises the Action Team.

Elections, Recording and Licensing

Auditors' Annual Licensing Conference

The Washington State Association of County Auditors held their annual licensing conference on May 8-9 in Port Angeles.

The conference kicked off on Wednesday at noon with a warm welcome from Jefferson County Auditor Donna Eldridge, who introduced luncheon speaker Lana Cully, Vehicle Program Manager for the Oregon Driver and Motor Vehicle Services Division. Ms. Cully gave an overview of the licensing system in Oregon and discussed legislation passed this year.

After lunch the following individuals were recognized for their invaluable contributions in licensing to the Washington State Association of County Auditors:

Brenda Huntingford, Jefferson County
Carolyn Diepenbrock, Snohomish County
Cathy Pearsall-Stipek, Pierce County
Corky Mattingly, Yakima County

Greg Kimsey, Clark County
Jackie Burnett, Mason County
Kirsty Lowery, Skagit County
Norma Brummett, Skagit County
Pat McCarthy, Pierce County
Patty Shay, Pierce County
Roxanne Bese, King County
Vern Spatz, Grays Harbor County
Al Brotche, Mason County
Fran Burgher

In the afternoon, Vanessa Horning, Manager of the Business Contact Center for Verizon, held the audience's attention with a program titled "Providing Excellent Customer Service in an Ever Changing Environment."

On Thursday, the morning started off with a workshop featuring De Hicks from the Stuart Consulting Group. The program offered numerous solutions to dealing with difficult customers in a public environment, and outlined the keys to excellent customer service.

After a short break, Sargent Ken Pryzgocki of the Washington State Patrol, along with WSP Detective Matt McMillen, discussed the growing problem of auto theft in Washington State,

and what suspicious items licensing staff should be looking for when processing registrations and title transfers.

Following the Washington State Patrol's presentation, U.S. Customs Agent Matt Johnson gave an overview of customs operations in Port Angeles and the proper procedures for bringing a car from Canada into the United States to be licensed.

The conference concluded with a brief presentation by Sandra Foraker, President of WAVS on the "Visions of the VFS Office in the Near Future."

County Auditors Meet in Port Angeles

The Washington State Association of County Auditors held its 96th Annual Conference in Port Angeles May 6-8, hosted by the very capable Clallam County Auditor Cathleen McKeown. Cathleen and her staff planned many special events, which were enhanced by an intense and excellent educational program, planned wholly by Auditors' As-

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Elections, Recording and Licensing

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sociation Vice President Vern Spatz, Grays Harbor County Auditor. Presiding over the conference was Grant County Auditor Bill Varney. Welcoming the group to the area was the chair of the Clallam County Board of Commissioners, Mike Doherty.

The program included a presentation on workplace security by Grays Harbor County Sheriff's Deputy Matt Organ; a report from the Department of Health's Center for Statistics; an election methods study presented by Janet Anderson, chair of the League of Women Voters; a summary of the Community Trade and Economic Development's fiscal note analysts jobs during the legislative process; and a day-long interactive workshop on conflict prevention presented by Wally Wilkins, Ph.D.

One of the highlights of the conference was a slide show and fascinating presentation made by Cowlitz County Auditor Kris Swanson on her December, 2001 political exchange mission to the Republic of the Philippines. The trip was sponsored by the American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL), a nonprofit, nonpartisan educational exchange organization. During the two-week trip, the delegation observed the political process and government in the Philippine islands, participated in meetings with government officials, and traveled extensively. Swanson's group included young American political leaders from throughout the country, including several legislators from other states.

During one afternoon, Island

County Auditor Suzanne Sinclair, and Snohomish County Auditor Bob Terwilliger summarized this year's legislative session, and Recording Committee Chair Lisa Goldsworthy, Snohomish County, presented implementation suggestions from the committee on two new pieces of legislation—veterans' records protection, and the \$10 recording fee increase to be used for affordable housing. The auditors voted to adopt the forms for veterans' records that have been developed by the Recording Committee in collusion with Veterans' Affairs, and after much discussion decided that to be consistent, no county auditor will collect the \$10 recording fee increase on marriage licenses, since it is a "licensing" process and not a recording, and because marriage licenses have never been subject to the basic recording fee.

Secretary of State (SOS) staff updated the auditors on several issues early in the week: Elections Director Dean Logan outlined the federal election reform legislation; John Pearson reviewed the SOS legislative recommendations which passed the state Legislature this year; and Sheryl Moss discussed the election review process and new Washington Administrative Codes (rules), that SOS has developed.

Secretary of State Sam Reed attended the conference and presented SOS awards to Snohomish County Auditor Bob Terwilliger for "Auditor of the Year" and to Chelan County Auditor Evelyn Arnold for the "Voter Outreach Award." Reed also discussed the legislation that "saved" the State Library

from demise as planned by the governor's budget cuts, since it will now be under the umbrella of the SOS.

Along with some local Makah Indian lore and entertainment by a Makah children's dance group, host Cathleen MacKeown planned a Coast Guard helicopter rescue in the bay outside of the hotel during a break, planned a fabulous seafood buffet, and charmed the audience with David Morris, Superintendent of the Olympic National Park, who gave a lunchtime talk about the park and stories from his career in various parks in the world.

New officers elected to lead the Auditors' Association for the ensuing year were Vern Spatz, Grays Harbor County, president; Ann Swenson, Pend Oreille County, vice president; Corky Mattingly, Yakima County, secretary; and Suzanne Sinclair, Island County, treasurer. Representatives heading the various districts will be Clark County Auditor Greg Kimsey, southwest district; Jefferson County Auditor Donna Eldridge, northwest district; Kittitas County Auditor David Bowen, central district; and Walla Walla County Auditor Karen Martin, eastern district.

The Auditors' Association will hold its Annual Conference at Sun Mountain Lodge in Winthrop, June 10-12, 2003, and at the Lakeway Inn in Bellingham, June 14-16, 2004.

Financial Services News— Free Retirement Planning

Choosing the right retirement plan investment options for meeting individual goals is difficult for county employees even in the best of times. In today's volatile market, it is even more challenging.

To help employees meet the challenge, Nationwide Retirement Solutions (NRS) joined forces with Morningstar® to simplify retirement plan decision-making with an education and advice initiative for all of its public sector entities, including its NACo clients of all sizes. Investment guidance and enhanced education services will broaden the company's current education capabilities at no cost to the counties that offer its retirement plans.

"Participants in the NACo 457 Deferred Compensation Program will have access to sophisticated planning tools and resources as a result of this relationship," said Karen Eisenbach, senior vice president of marketing and education for NRS.

"This summer, for the first time in the industry, tools that gather personal

information and provide personal retirement asset allocations will be made available to every participant at the same time, with no extra costs. As the market share leader, we are the only deferred compensation company in the public sector that could offer this kind of service on such a grand scale."

The first online tool of the new initiative, Morningstar® ClearFutureSM, is an online investment education, research, asset allocation, and guidance service for all levels of investors. The asset allocation tool, which takes about 20 minutes to complete, gathers detailed financial information from participants to provide asset allocation suggestions for their deferred compensation plans. It offers personalized goal planning, takes into account outside assets, offers retirement income analysis, and includes an advanced "bear market simulator."

ClearFutureSM also provides participants with reports on specific investment options, and additional articles and interactive tools to build upon Nationwide Retirement Solutions' leading educational capabilities.

"Our agreement with Nationwide

Retirement Solutions combines the top retirement provider in the public sector deferred compensation market with the top investment education, independent retirement advice and research provider," said John Rekenhaler, president of online advice for Morningstar Associates, LLC.

"Both Nationwide Retirement Solutions and Morningstar want to make it easy for county employees to plan for and reach their retirement goals, and we are both focused on providing innovative tools and outstanding customer service. The combination of our two companies translates into tremendous value for the NACo 457 Deferred Compensation Program."

Combined with NRS' current advanced education offerings, Morningstar® ClearFutureSM provides participants in the NACo program with the best overall guidance and education package available in the industry today. The companies intend to expand their offerings to other advice and education initiatives after the initial launch of ClearFutureSM.

Public Health and Human Services

Last Call for State Board of Health Representation

The State Board of Health membership term for a county commissioner, councilperson, or county executive serving as a member of a local board of health, expires June 30, 2002. WSAC is seeking names of those interested in serving on the State Board of Health to forward to the Governor for consideration of appointment beginning July 1, 2002. If you have thought about this and haven't yet acted on it, now's the time.

The mission of the State Board of Health (SBOH) is to develop policies to promote, protect, and maintain the health of Washingtonians. The SBOH must provide a public forum for development of public health policy in Washington State. The board has extensive authority to adopt rules it deems necessary to protect the public's health. In general, local

health officers and administrators must enforce the board's rules. The SBOH has specific authority in certain areas, including 1) safe and reliable drinking water, 2) prevention, control, and abatement of health hazards and nuisances related to the disposal of wastes, 3) environmental conditions that threaten public health, 4) prevention and control of infectious and noninfectious disease, and 5) health data, including vital statistics.

The SBOH meets six to eight times per year, including traveling to locations outside the Olympia/Seattle area. The board also does some of its policy development work via e-mail, phone calls, and separate meetings. The time commitment varies depending upon individual board member's degree of involvement in issues. The board covers travel expenses at the state rate.

RCW 43.29.030 details the SBOH composition and appointments. The

board has nine members appointed by the governor. The tenth member is the Department of Health Secretary or designee. Membership includes: 1) an elected county official who is a member of a local health board, 2) an elected city official who is a member of a local health board, 3) four people experiences in matters of health and sanitation, 4) two people representing consumers of health care, and 5) a local health officer.

If you are interested in serving as the WSAC representative to the State Board of Health, please contact Vicki Kirkpatrick in the WSAC Office. For more information about the board, go to their website: <http://www.doh.wa.gov/sboh>.

Upcoming Events and Training

CPO Offers "Open Meetings and Public Disclosure" Training

Over 450 county and city elected and appointed staff participated in the recently completed CPO workshops sponsored by WSAC/WACO/AWC/MRSC. The workshops were held in six locations around the state in an effort to bring this important training to our officials at locations that would reduce the need for travel. Those who attended gave the workshop very high marks and expressed their appreciation to the workshop planners for offering the training close to home.

Pat Mason and Paul Sullivan, both Legal Consultants with the Municipal Research Council, taught the course in each of the six locations. It was obvious

from the attendance and the questions asked at each session that our officials sincerely want to comply with the complicated Open Meetings and Public Disclosure statutory requirements. Within the past two years, local media have continued to raise concerns related to local government compliance. With the materials in hand, we are confident the workshops will provide our jurisdictions with the information and tools needed to respond to requests for information.

At our Davenport and Mount Vernon locations, local print media staff attended the sessions. While at least one reporter's headline read "Some minds closed to open government", it was evident that our local officials asked questions in an effort to understand the laws and their complexities rather than find a

way to avoid compliance. If you would like to read the story written in the 5/12 issue of the Skagit Valley Herald, the web site is: <http://news.mywebpal.com/partners/575/public/news300734.html>, click on Opinions-Columnists-Norm Lewis.

This training was the first in what we hope will be many efforts of the associations to bring timely training and information to our membership through the Certified Public Officials program.

If you would like more information about the Certification program, contact the WSAC or WACO office. The Core Course "Financial Management," will be offered on June 18 in Bellevue. The course announcement can be found on the WACO or WSAC web site

Courthouse Ramblings

Oops! Wrong fax...

Seems we gave Grays Harbor Treasurer Ron Strabbing the same fax

number as the Sheriff's office in the Directory of County Officials (page 17). Sorry, Ron! The correct fax number

should read (360) 249-5705.

Employment Opportunities

DOUGLAS COUNTY, Transportation and Land Services - Survey Party Chief - (East Wenatchee office). Salary range is \$2924 to \$3321 per month depending on qualifications, attractive benefits package. Requirements include, but are not limited to, a completed application and resume and a valid Washington State drivers license. Position also requires five years as a survey technician, certification as level II instrument tech OR a two-year degree in surveying, certification as level II instrument technician and two years as a survey technician.

Position responsible for the supervision of the survey crew during collection of field data for boundary surveys, road and bridge design, right-of-way acquisition and construction staking to design specifications. Position open until filled. For more information and an application packet, please call Angie Davis-Collie at (509) 884-7173 or e-mail at acollie@co.douglas.wa.us. More info at website: www.douglascountywa.net.

KITSAP COUNTY - Collections Supervisor - Public Works/Wastewater. Salary: \$22.64 - \$28.90/hr, \$47,091.20 - \$60,112.00/yr. Closing Date - May 31, 2002. Applications available in the Personnel office or at www.kitsapgov.com. Requirements: 1) Kitsap County Application form. 2) Supplemental questionnaire. 3) 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. 4) Application must be received by the personnel office or postmarked prior to May 31, 2002.

General Statement: An employee in this position plans, organizes, and supervises the work of assigned employees in the operation and maintenance of wastewater and storm water collection systems and solid waste facilities for Kitsap County. Work assignments are received with general and limited technical instruction and require considerable independence in the selection of courses of

action and resolution of complex or unique problems within the framework of department policies and procedures under limited direction. Work is reviewed by supervisor for effective operation of assigned functions and evaluated through conferences, reports and results obtained.

Minimum Qualifications: High School Diploma, or GED, vocational training in sanitary, chemical engineering, biology, environmental sciences, or closely related field preferred, and five years of progressively responsible work experience in the operation and maintenance of a primary or secondary wastewater treatment plant or in wastewater or storm water conveyance system maintenance repair and replacement, including two years of supervisory or lead responsibility; or any equivalent combination of experience and education which provides the applicant with the desired skills, knowledge and ability required to perform the work.

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Employment Opportunities

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Must possess a Washington State Class A Commercial Driver's License (CDL) with Endorsement "N" for the operation of related equipment including certification to operate vehicles with air brakes. Must possess a valid Washington State Wastewater Collection Specialist II Certification, Flagging Certification Card, and current Washington State Industrial First Aid Certification. Prior to employment, a selected applicant must provide a driving record abstract from the Washington State Department of Licensing.

Note: In accordance with federal regulations and Kitsap County Drug and Alcohol Policy and Procedures, no applicant will be allowed to work in this position for Kitsap County until he/she has successfully passed urine drug testing. In accordance with WAC 296-62-07150 and WAC 296-62-09027, medical evaluations, to include the ability to use a respirator and audiometric testing, will be conducted on successful applicants prior to employment. A criminal background check through law enforcement agencies will be conducted on all successful applicants prior to their being appointed to this position.

KITSAP COUNTY - Manager— Equipment Services Division, Public Works—Roads & Engineering. Salary: \$24.97 - \$31.88/nr, \$51,937.60 - \$66,310.40/yr. Closing Date: May 24, 2002. Application packets are available in the personnel office or at www.kitsapgov.com. The following items are required: Kitsap County Application form. 2) Supplemental Questionnaire. 3) 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. 4) Application must be received by the personnel office or post-marked prior to may 24, 2002.

General Statement: Plans, organizes, and manages all operations of the equipment services division to assure the efficient and timely maintenance and replacement of the majority of county-owned vehicles and road construction and maintenance equipment and the development of adequate rental rates to

cover maintenance, operation and replacement costs. Includes overseeing the operation of the County's mechanical shops, central stores and sign manufacturing shop as well as underground fueling facilities throughout the County. Work assignments are received with little or no technical instruction and require the selection of course of action and resolution of complex or unique problems with considerable latitude for independent judgment to develop procedures, systems and establish priorities working within the framework of established administrative guidelines. Work is reviewed by the Director for compliance with established policies and objectives and is evaluated through reports, conferences, and results obtained.

Minimum Qualifications Technical training in fleet management, or closely related field, and five years of progressively responsible experience in large fleet/equipment management, including specification writing with a government agency, with two years of supervisory or lead responsibilities is required; or any equivalent combination of experience and education which provides the applicant with the desired skills, knowledge and ability required to perform the work.

Must be able to meet all traveling requirements of the position. If utilizing a personal or County owned vehicle in the performance of County work, must possess and maintain a valid Washington State Driver's License and the appropriate amount of automobile insurance. Prior to employment, a selected applicant must provide a driving record abstract from the Washington State Department of Licensing.

GRANT COUNTY—Deputy Prosecuting Attorney - Salary \$42,800 plus; DOE/DOQ. Position responsible for providing extensive research and writing for the appeals process and to assist in prosecuting persons charged with crimes, with opportunities to try cases in court. Ideal candidate will have excellent written and verbal communication skills, presentation skills, organization skills, solid legal skills and a desire for criminal trial practice. Previous in-court prosecution, research and writing experience strongly preferred. Member of the Washington State Bar Association re-

quired. Also requires valid Washington State driver's license with no restrictions.

Grant County offers a generous benefits package. Please see our website at www.grantcounty-wa.com for more information. Send cover letters, resumes and writing examples to: Grant County, Human Resources, P O Box 37, Ephrata, WA 98823. Open until May 31, 2002, or until filled. EOE.

THE WASHINGTON STATE SENATE OFFICE OF SENATE COMMITTEE SERVICES is currently recruiting to fill multiple positions as legal counsel for various standing committees of the Washington State Senate. Committee assignments may include Agriculture and International Trade; Economic Development and Telecommunications; Environment, Energy, and Water; Higher Education; Judiciary; Labor, Commerce, and Financial Institutions; Natural Resources, Parks, and Shorelines; or State and Local Government. Senate Committee Services assists Senators in developing and evaluating alternatives to achieve their policy objectives. These are full-time, non-partisan positions, exempt from civil service.

In supporting committees of the Washington State Senate, duties and responsibilities of legal counsel include:

Providing non-partisan staff support to Senators.

Conducting legal, policy, and fiscal research and analysis.

Drafting and analyzing legislation and related legislative documents.

Presenting legislation and policy issues to committees of the Senate.

Monitoring and evaluating implementation of legislation by state and local government agencies.

Responding to inquiries on a wide variety of policy and budget issues related to the committee assignment areas.

Desirable Knowledge, Skills, and Qualifications: A Juris Doctorate is required and membership in a state bar association is desirable for these positions. Working knowledge of legislative process derived from experience working in a legislative or public policy making organization or setting. Candidates must be pro-active, creative, service-

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Employment Opportunities

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oriented, and have excellent analytical, writing, problem solving, and oral presentation skills. Demonstrated research, analytical, and organizational skills. Proficiency in multiple computer software applications, including word-processing software, presentation applications, and on-line research.

Candidates must be willing to work long, irregular hours and be capable of handling the complex and difficult situations that a fast-paced, results oriented, high pressure legislative environment offers. Substantive knowledge of issues related to one or more of the committees listed above is desirable. Among the related issues for each committee are:

Agriculture and International Trade Committee - Food inspection and safety; pesticide regulation; agricultural conservation; agricultural research programs; environmental compliance; water resources; land use; domestic animals; agricultural finance; marketing agricultural products; international trade agreements; and other facets of international trade.

Economic Development and Telecommunications Committee - State and federal economic development programs; state and local tax incentives; growth management; wireless towers; utility rights of way; telemarketing; privacy of electronic information; and state and federal telecommunications regulations.

Environment, Energy and Water Committee - Air quality; marine safety; pipeline safety; water resources and water quality; watershed planning; energy generation and transmission; conservation and renewable energy; regulation of hazardous materials; and state and federal environmental regulations.

Higher Education Committee - Public and private higher education; degree program evaluation; workforce training; vocational education; telecommunications and distance learning; tuition, fees, and financial aid.

Judiciary Committee - Civil law, including family law, probate, corporations, Uniform Commercial Code, and tort reform; criminal law with an emphasis on penalties and sentencing, drunk driving issues, and domestic violence; laws affecting the courts; and law enforcement.

Labor, Commerce, and Financial Institutions Committee - Labor law; worker's compensation; worker safety; employment standards; unemployment compensation; employment training; housing and construction law; licensing of professions; business regulation, particularly financial institutions and the insurance industry; gambling and horse racing issues.

Natural Resources, Parks, and Shorelines Committee - Fisheries; salmon recovery; wildlife management; state lands management; forestry; shoreline management; and outdoor recreation.

State and Local Government - Municipal finance; state auditing and purchasing practices; election law; powers of cities, counties and special purpose districts; campaign finance law; public works processes; public disclosure; and the initiative process.

Salary: Based on experience and education, with a likely range between \$40,000 and \$50,000. **Application Procedure:** Interested applicants should submit: (1) a brief letter of interest describing specific qualifications for the position; (2) a current resume detailing experience and education; and (3) at least three references with current telephone numbers. Send to: Stan Pynch, Director, Senate Committee Services, PO Box 40466, Olympia, Washington 98504-0466. Applications should be submitted as soon as possible, and must be received no later than May 31, 2002. Interviews/selection will begin immediately. Phone contact: Judy Rus at (360) 786-7417. EOE.

SAN JUAN COUNTY - Plans Examiner/Building Inspector. Requires 2 yrs. college, with 3-5 yrs. exp. as a journeyman in the building trades & ICBO cert. as a Plans Exam. and/or Bldg. Insp., or any equiv. combination. Must have thorough knowledge of the UBC, UPC, UMC and State Energy Code. Requires basic working know. of the Uniform Fire Code. Must be able to read & understand ordinances, blueprints, construction plans, specifications, engineering data, & be able to perform basic structural calculations. Requires computer data entry skills, basic business language skills, & the ability to learn

related computer programs. \$16.70 - \$21.14/hr. + benefits. For complete description/qualifications, contact: Admin. Services, (360) 378-3870 or www.co.san-juan.wa.us. Closes 5/31/02. EOE.

SAN JUAN COUNTY - Public Works Director. Requires a Bachelor's degree in civil engineering & 5 years of progressively responsible engineering & mgmt. experience involving a variety of assignments associated with public works activities or an equiv. combination. Must possess a WA Professional Civil Engineer License, & a valid driver's license. \$71,145-\$90,021/year + benefits. For complete description/qualifications, contact: Admin. Services, (360) 378-3870 or www.co.san-juan.wa.us. Closes 5/22/02. EOE.

WHATCOM COUNTY - Detention Manager - Juvenile Court Administration, (Bellingham, WA). Position administers a 30-bed, secure detention facility and a variety of alternative correction programs. Supervises 16 full-time and approximately 15 part-time staff members. Qualifications include requirement of a Bachelor's degree in Public Administration, Criminal Justice, Psychology, Sociology, Human Services or related field and five years of progressively responsible related experience including three years of supervisory experience. A Master's degree is preferred. Excellent benefits including employer-paid medical, dental & vision benefits for employee and family. Attractive paid leave provisions include three weeks vacation to start, an average of 12 holidays per year, and sick leave. County employees participate in the Washington State Retirement system. The County offers a match of up to 2% of salary for optional deferred compensation plans. Employees may, at their option participate in a flexible spending plan and long-term disability plan. Application period closes 5/21/02. Cover letter, resume and required application packet must be received in Human Resources by the closing date. For application materials contact Whatcom County Human Resources, 311 Grand Ave., Suite 107, Bellingham, WA, or call (360) 676-6802. For detailed job an-

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Employment Opportunities

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nouncement visit our website at www.whatcom.wa.us or call the jobline at (360) 738-4550. EOE.

OKANOGAN COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS - Assistant County Engineer. Beginning Salary: \$4,050 to \$4,923 month DOE. A Civil Engineering Degree with a Professional Engineer License is required. Duties include managing the engineering division including road construction. For further information and applications, contact the Public Works Department, 1234-A Second

Avenue S, Okanogan, WA 98840, (509) 422-7300. Applications will be taken until May 24, 2002 at 4:00 p.m.

ADAMS COUNTY - Real Property Appraiser (Tier II). Pay Range: \$23,846-\$32,955. Closing Date: Open until filled. Initial screening will begin June 3, 2002. Required knowledge and abilities: Applicant must possess a certificate for the IAAO Course 1 of Real Property Appraisal and a Washington State Real Property Assessment certificate. Desirable Qualifications: Should exhibit sound

organizational practices and have a high standard for accuracy and efficiency, as well as understanding the need for confidentiality of sensitive information. Being self-motivated to meet required deadlines while simultaneously completing other tasks is necessary. For additional information and an application packet call 509-659-3203, visit www.co.adams.wa.us or write to Adams County Assessor's Office, 210 W. Broadway, Ritzville, WA 99169

Calendar of Events

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

May 22-24
WIR, Yellowstone County, Billings MT

May 29
WSAC *Timber Workshop*, 1:00-4:00 p.m., Ellensburg Best Inn

May 30
WSAC *Timber Workshop*, 9-12 Spokane, County Human Resources Dept., Spokane

May 30-31
WAPA *District Court Training Program*—Holiday Inn, SeaTac. 15 hours of CLE

June 10-13
International Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners and Washington Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners Joint Conference, West Coast Hotel, Seattle.

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

June 16-19
Government Finance Officers' Associa-

tion (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, 4:30-6:30, Hilton Bellevue

June 18
CPO Financial Management: Understanding County Government Financing, Bellevue—Cost: \$120, CPO Credits: 4 (Core Course). An additional elective course will also be offered 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 Prosecuting Attorneys' (WAPA) Summer Training Program, Campbell's Lodge, Chelan, Civil & Criminal Tracks, 15 hrs of CLE.

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
CPO Washington 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)

June 19-21
WAPA *Summer Training Program*—Campbell's Lodge, Lake Chelan. Civil & Criminal Tracks, 15 hours of CLE.

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Calendar of Events

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August 22

WCIP Board/Rate Setting Session, 9–3 pm SeaTac

September 4–6

WAPA Drug Training Program—Icicle Inn, Leavenworth. 15 hrs of CLE.

September 4–6

WAPA Drug Training Program—Icicle Inn, Leavenworth. 15 hrs of CLE.

September 8–10

WAPA Juvenile Training Program—Icicle Inn, Leavenworth. 15 hrs of CLE.

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 Hotel & Convention Center, Wenatchee

October 1

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

October 2

CPO *The Class-Act County Government Official—Building Courthouse Partner-*

ships, Wenatchee—Cost TBD, CPO Credits: 2 (Elective Course)

November 14

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

November 18–21

WASPC Annual Fall Conference, Red Lion Hotel at the Quay, Vancouver

November 20–22

ACHS, Seattle

December 3–4

WAPA Newly Elected Prosecutor Course—WAPA Conference Room, Olympia

December 5

WSALPHO Meeting, SeaTac

December 10–13

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.

December 12–13

WAPA Winter Meeting & Banquet Crowne Plaza Hotel, Seattle.

2003 MEETINGS

May 19–22

WASPC Spring Conference, WestCoast Grand Hotel, Spokane

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

November 17–20

WASPC Fall Conference, Campbell's Resort, Chelan

2004 MEETINGS

May 24–27

WASPC Spring Conference, Yakima Convention Center, Yakima

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

November 15–18

WASPC Fall Conference, Shilo Inn, Ocean Shores

2005 MEETINGS

May 23–26

WASPC Spring Conference, West Coast Wenatchee Center Hotel, Wenatchee

July 15–19, 2005

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

KING 5 Investigators: Collecting restitution

By Chris Ingalls, KING 5 News, 5/13/02

Some criminals are ordered to pay victims for their loss in dollars and cents. It's called restitution and sounds like a good idea, but a KING 5 investigation reveals most crime victims in our state are getting short-changed - by tens of millions of dollars each year.

Putting criminals in jail is expensive, so restitution seems like a fair alternative.

A criminal gets a lesser jail sentence in exchange for paying back his victims. It was seven years ago that Linda Patrick stood before the judge and was ordered to pay \$30,000 restitution to her dozens of victims. For years, Patrick ran a Bothell business called "The Buffy Bus Company," which organized elaborate shopping excursions for elderly customers. But she often cancelled the trips without giving refunds, and she never paid many of her suppliers. Patrick owed caterer David Wasson, who cooked meals for the trips, \$8,400.

"I did more than a quarter of a million dollars in sales out of this little kitchen in 15 years," he said. But a dusty kitchen is all that's left of his small business, which never recovered from the loss. "It destroyed my business," said Wasson. "I consider her the reason I went out of business. I haven't had any kind of restitution payment from her in more than two years."

It appears that Linda Patrick could pay for her crimes if she wanted to. While her victims struggled, Linda Patrick has a flourishing career. Patrick is a senior broker for Evergreen Pacific Services Mortgage Company, an Internet mortgage company, earning \$125,000 per year. She owns one house in Tacoma and another one in Bothell. According to recent court documents, she declared assets of more than half a million dollars.

"When they convicted her of fraud, I thought the system was going to work. Unfortunately, the system really broke apart from that point on," said Wasson. KING 5 Investigators found that most criminals defy restitution ordered in courtrooms. After analyzing Washington state's figures, KING 5 learned that most criminals get a bargain - paying for

their crimes with pennies on the dollar. In the past five years, Washington courts have ordered more than \$227 million in restitution, but less than \$43 million - about 19 percent is actually paid. In other words, of every \$5 ordered, the criminals only pay \$1.

Victim's rights groups say its a common complaint and an appalling slap in the face for victims of crime. "It's another way that victims are not being shown dignity and respect that they deserve," said Jenny Wieland, Families and Friends of Crime Victims.

The Department of Corrections collects restitution - more than 8,000 cases in King County alone, with only a half dozen staff, mostly working the phones. Violators do get hauled into court to answer to a judge, but unlike Linda Patrick, most are unable to make their payments, according to King County Court's presiding judge.

"You run into persons who are in and out of jail and not employed or out of jail, employed and making marginal wages," said Judge Richard Eadie, King County Superior Court. In Central Washington, in the Chelan County courthouse, there is evidence that more criminals can pay their debt. Alice Hildum works full-time, chasing down restitution violators. In nine years, she's more than doubled collections of court fees and restitution in Chelan County and because the county gets to keep the interest that accrues on unpaid restitution, Hildum has been paying her own salary since the day she was hired. "After the first month she brought in \$65,000 in restitution that hadn't been collected, plus she had enough to pay for her own salary for the rest of the year," said Siri Woods, Chelan County clerk.

In Linda Patrick's case, it's another setback for prosecutors who've been trying to get her to pay up for years - her restitution now totaling \$37,000. She has declared bankruptcy, and in a hearing last month, the judge decided while her finances are being sorted out her restitution payments are on hold. "You rely on the system at times like this as a citizen to take care of you," said Wasson. "It's unforgivable. It's unbelievable to me that that goes unpunished."

Both Linda Patrick and her attorney refused to talk to KING 5 Investigators for this story. Recently, there was a pro-

posal in the state legislature to cut the Department of Corrections staff that collects restitution. The measure died, but it sends the signal that as tight as budgets are, making criminals pay up is not a top priority. Garnishment of wages can be an option and is done in some cases, but it's complex and the Department of Corrections admits it doesn't have the computer resources that would help streamline the process. So taking restitution directly from someone's paycheck is a tactic rarely used.