

Courthouse Journal

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Washington State Association of Counties
Washington Association of County Officials

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Journal*

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The Governor Releases His Budget – Equalization Funds Eliminated, Public Health Funded

On December 17 Governor Locke announced his proposal for solving the state's \$2.4 billion budget crisis. He also proposed transportation and capital budgets that address serious fiscal challenges in those areas. The Governor's approach to the budget followed a process called "Price of Government". It started with the current revenue forecast (no new taxes are included) and a list of objectives that the Governor thinks the state should accomplish. Starting with a zero base, the Governor decided which activities would be "purchased." The result is a budget with cuts across all agencies and activities – and a few additions. Extensive documentation is available on the Governor's website:

www.governor.wa.gov

To help county officials and staff understand the budget's impact on county government, WSAC and WACO staff have prepared and e-mailed charts outlining key items to our members. The charts are also available on our website: www.wacounties.org. The lead cut on our list is the elimination of the remaining assistance for small counties and cities that had once received equalization payments. The good news is that funding for local public health is continued.

The Governor had a conference call with officers and executive directors of WSAC, WACO and AWC before releasing his budget. The call included a clear discussion of many of the issues in the Tri-Association package. The Governor encouraged the associations to share the just finalized package with him. The officers expressed concern about the elimination of the equalization funding and told the Governor that they just didn't think it would work. They also thanked him for continuing the support for local Public Health.

So, how did he do it? Most of the cuts are in the areas of government where costs are growing the fastest – health care and education. Health care savings include:

- eliminating Basic Health Care coverage for 60,000 working adults with no children (\$274 million)
- amending Initiative 728 to permit increased cigarette taxes to be used to maintain rather than expand the Basic Health Plan (\$219 million)
- eliminating optical, hearing and dental coverage for low income parents, elders and disabled adults under the state's Medicaid program (\$ 52 million state funds and \$50 million federal)
- eliminating the medically indigent program (which helps hospitals with large numbers of uninsured patients) and replacing it with a payment program (\$81 million state funds and \$54 million federal)
- increasing the employee share of health care premiums for teachers, faculty and state employees from 14% to 20% (\$111 million)

Savings in education include:

- eliminating future class size reductions authorized by the voters in Initiative 728 (\$221 million)
- eliminating cost of living increases for teachers and staff required by Initiative 732 (\$212 million)
- reducing funding for enrollment and other costs and allowing tuition to increase by up to 9% per year (\$186 million)

In addition, there are savings large and small across the government. State employee sala-

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ries are frozen for two years. Funds to purchase conservation lands are reduced. The list of cuts (and some additions) fills pages of documents. Counties will find cuts to mental health, elimination of Becca funds (and mandates), cuts to DD services, and full funding for judges benefits for all counties, starting in state fiscal year 2003.

The list is simply too long to repeat here (please see the summary we prepared). Counties will see some increase and more cuts. The Governor's staff is preparing an omnibus bill repealing and modifying statutes to implement the budget.

The budget battle now begins in earnest. Public schools, higher education, teachers, public employees, and health care

providers will try to recapture funding cut in the Governor's budget. Without tax increases, any funding restoration will have to come at the expense of some one else – perhaps local government. For county officials, this battle may pose “lose-lose” choices. Do you want to save the local hospital emergency room or do you want to restore mental health funding?

Governor Proposes Consolidating County Road Administration Board (CRAB) into New Agency

The Courthouse Journal

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 Wednesday.

Direct inquiries and correspondence to *The Courthouse Journal*, 206 Tenth Av SE, Olympia, WA 98501-1131 or www.wacounties.org

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 Mgr
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
Urban Counties
Sophia Byrd, Policy Director
Law & Justice
Jean Wessman, Policy Director
Human Services, Juvenile Justice, Housing
Scott Merriman, Policy Director
Transportation, Land Use
Vicki Kirkpatrick, Policy Director
Public Health & WSALPHO Administrator
Tom King, Associate
Research & Telecommunications
Jim Potts, Coordinator
Housing Outreach
Tom Robinson, Coordinator, *Timber*
Trina Bannister, Business Manager
Ginni Peppert, Events Secretary
Barbara Warden, Secretary
Beth Dubey, Accounting & Business Asst.
Tom Jensen, Technology Project Staff

Governor Locke's budget proposes consolidating the County Road Administration Board, the Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board and the Transportation Improvement Board into a new single agency called the Local Transportation Grant Board. The new agency would start on July 1, 2003 and the old agencies would sunset on June 30, 2003. A new director would be hired and staff consolidated from 35 to 19. There would be a new fifteen member board that consists of: 2 city elected officials; 2 city engineers; 2 county commissioner; 2 county

engineers; 4 with freight background; 1 DOT representative; and 1 Governor's representative. The consolidated agency is supposed to save \$2.2 million in motor vehicle funds. The savings are directed back into the motor vehicle fund.

At this point in time, this is a proposal and specific bill language hasn't been drafted. On December 5, 2002 the Transportation Subcommittee and the Legislative Steering Committee discussed the proposal. Several concerns were raised and both bodies agreed to oppose the consolidation.

Newly-Elected WSAC and WACO Members are Ready to Go!

After a full two days (or more) of training and orientation the county officials newly-elected in November all are better prepared for taking on their new duties. Forty incoming WACO members and fourteen incoming WSAC members attended sessions last week in Olympia that featured leadership and team-building exercises along with substantive sessions on the specific duties and responsibilities of the new positions they are about to assume.

Organizational specialist Mickey Fearn used humor and many examples from his own government experience to focus the new officials on how to react in “The Leadership Moment.” He – and the very active group of county officials – identified access, quality, value, stewardship, responsiveness, accountability, honesty, and trust as the key qualities the public expects from elected officials.

In luncheon speeches to the assembly on Wednesday and Thursday, Supreme

Court Justice Bobbe Bridge and Attorney General Christine Gregoire referred back not only to those qualities, but also emphasized the public expectation of partnership and cooperation between the different branches (executive, legislative, judicial) and the different levels (state and local) of government we and they represent.

Yakima County Prosecutor Ron Zirkle and MRSC Attorney Pat Mason provided training on “Legal Do's and Don'ts” and numerous current elected officials and staff volunteered their time to provide substantive information on county operations to incoming commissioners, councilmembers, sheriffs, prosecutors, clerks, treasurers, auditors, and assessors.

Participants rated the training very highly. Evaluations indicated that many lessons were learned that will help on the job.

Courts, Law and Justice

First-ever Tribal/County Criminal Justice Summit Set for January

By now county commissioners and other county officials should have received an invitation to attend a statewide Tribal/County Criminal Justice Summit January 8-10 at the Skagit Resort in Bow, Washington.

Grant funding covers the full cost of registration, two nights lodging and most meals for one member of each county council or board of county commissioners. The summit registration deadline is December 23; however, room reservations at the Skagit Resort should be made as soon as possible. For more information, or to

register, contact Sharon Morrow, office of the Attorney General, 360-493-9500 or sharonm@atg.wa.gov.

The event has been designed as a "working summit," where participants work to strengthen relationships between tribes and counties. Key participants include county commissioners and councilmembers, tribal leaders, and both tribal and county law enforcement and attorneys.

For several months a steering committee of representatives from federal, state, local and tribal government has been planning the summit, titled "Building New Partnerships for Community Safety." Clallam County Commissioner Mike Doherty represented WSAC on the steering com-

mittee.

Topics will include: sovereignty; liability insurance; federal tort claims act; emergency management and homeland security; and cross-jurisdictional issues. Speakers include: Governor Gary Locke; Attorney General Christine Gregoire; state Supreme Court Justice Susan Owens; University of Washington professor Bob Anderson; University of British Columbia professor Bruce Miller; U.S. Attorneys James McDevitt and John McKay; Brian Cladoosby, Chair, Swinomish Tribe; and Marilyn Scott, Chair, Upper Skagit Tribe.

Environment, Land Use and Resources

Federal Forest Receipt Payments

(From the Office of the State Treasurer)

The Office of the State Treasurer is distributing the federal forest dollars for the federal fiscal year that ended September 30. With the passage of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (CFDA) of 2000 (PL 106-393), counties have more options for the federal forest money. Each Washington county will receive all of its Title I and Title III money in December. According

to RCW 28A.520.010, the Title I money is to be spent 50 percent on public schools and 50 percent on public schools or public roads. The CFDA number is 10.665 Schools and Roads – Grants to States from the Forest Service under the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

According to Section 302 of HR 2389 – 16, the Title III money is to be spent on county projects. The BARS code for the Title I money is 333.10.6X and for the Title III money is 332.10.70.

We are required, as per U.S. Govern-

ment Circular A-133; to advise you that sub-recipients expending over \$300,000 in federal funds in a fiscal year must meet the audit requirements of the circular.

www.whitehouse.gov/OMB/circulars/a133/a133.html#b

If you have questions, contact any of the following:

Wendy Weeks, Accounting Services Manager, (360) 902-8951; Karen Skare, Distribution Coordinator, (360) 902-8961; or Linda Lund, Distribution Assistant, (360) 902-8960.

Boards and Commissions

Vacancy on WACO Board

WACO President Greg Zempel is asking that county officials wishing to serve on the WACO Board of Trustees to complete an unexpired term as Trustee-at-large representing counties with populations less than 12,000 submit a letter of interest for that position. A brief resume should be submitted with the letter of intent. Lincoln County Clerk Joyce Denison has held the position but will be leaving office at the end of the year.

The WACO Bylaws dictate that vacancies shall be filled by the Board of Trustees. The Board will meet by conference call the first week of January to make their selection in order to fill the vacancy before the January 9, 2003 Board Meeting in Olympia. **Please submit your letter of interest with resume no later than December 26, 2002.**

Any county official in Garfield, Wahkiakum, Columbia, Ferry, Skamania, Lincoln, or Pend Oreille Counties is eligible according to the most recent population estimate by the state Office of Financial Management. The Trustee-at-large position expires in October, 2003. At that time, the position is up for election for a two-year term.

The WACO Board represents the membership in setting policy and is responsible for control, management and supervision of the property, finances and all affairs of the association.

The WACO Board meets four to five times annually. Travel expenses for WACO officers and trustees are paid by WACO to ensure that any county official can serve without placing undue burdens on county budgets.

Please direct all question to WACO at dwilke@wacounties.org or (360) 753-7319.

Counties Need New Shorelines Hearings Board Representation

With election of Kittitas County Commissioner Bill Hinkle to the Washington State Legislature, WSAC will need to appoint a new representative to the Shorelines Hearings Board. Commissioner Hinkle has been the lead county representative; a list of alternates, including some other commissioners, have been active in representing counties as well.

The Shorelines Hearings Board consists of six members: the three members of the Pollution Control Hearings Board, a county representative, a city representative, and a representative of the Commissioner of Public Lands. Under a policy adopted

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by the WSAC Board of Directors last summer, the Board will appoint a representative and alternates. The alternates will be ranked, with first rank going to current commissioners and councilmembers, second to current staff who are supported by

their county, and third to former county elected officials whom the Board wishes to keep available to serve.

WSAC will schedule training for the county representative and alternates. If you are interested in being appointed as the SHB representative or alternate, please call

Paul Parker or Scott Merriman at WSAC by December 31.

General Government and Miscellaneous

Governor Locke's Priorities for Government

Gary Locke has stated in this especially challenging budget year, he is utilizing an approach that he calls "Priorities of Government". These priorities emphasize 10 core results of responsive government. He has said he and his staff will focus their spending on programs and services that state government must continue to do well, and with existing resources. They are:

- Improve student achievement in elementary, middle, and high schools

- Improve the quality and productivity of our workforce
- Improve the value of a state college or university education
- Improve the health of Washington citizens
- Improve the security of Washington's vulnerable children and adults
- Improve economic vitality of businesses and individuals
- Improve statewide mobility of people, goods, information, and energy

- Improve the safety of people and property
- Improve the quality of Washington's natural resources
- Improve cultural and recreational opportunities throughout the state

We continue to look for opportunities where county government can help the Governor meet his objectives and believe public health, criminal justice and parks are only part of this program.

Courthouse Ramblings

Asotin County Commissioner Gordon D. Reed Retiring!

(submitted by the Asotin County Commissioners Office)

Please join us in congratulating Gordon on his much deserved retirement and thanking him for his many years of dedicated service as Asotin County Commissioner.

DATE: Monday, December 30, 2002

PLACE: Checker's Café, 122 2nd Street, Asotin, WA

TIME: 4:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.

Hors D' Oeuvres and Refreshments Will Be Served

"Hosted by Friends & Associates"

A "celebration dessert" will be held for **Lincoln County Clerk Joyce Denison** on Friday, December 27 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., in the Lincoln County Superior Courtroom, in Davenport. Joyce has served Lincoln County for 24 years, the past 15 ½ years as clerk and will be retiring the end of the year. We wish her all the best!

Whatcom County Councilmembers have appointed **Bill Elfo** as the new Whatcom County Sheriff to fill the unexpired term of current Sheriff Dale Brandland. Brandland was elected to the State Senator position in District 42, in November. Elfo is the Blaine Police Chief. Before coming to Washington State, Elfo was a captain in Pompano Beach, Florida.

There will be a recognition party for **Whitman County Prosecuting Attorney Jim Kaufman** and **Sheriff Steve Tomson**, on December 20, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. in the Whitman County Public Service Building Auditorium, in Colfax. Both will be leaving office at the end of the year. Kaufman did not run for office again this year after 18 ½ years as prosecutor. Tomson will be leaving office after 17 ½ years in office.

We were sorry to learn of the death of former **Clark County Coroner Dr. Archie Hamilton**, 73, on Monday. Dr. Hamilton was the last elected coroner in Clark County. When he retired from office in

January, 1999 after seven four-year terms, one of his long-time goals had been achieved - he was replaced by a professional medical examiner that was hired, not elected. He was instrumental in converting an old tavern into a state of the art Center for Death Investigation, which was ultimately named after him. Dr. Hamilton is survived by his wife of 51 years, Peggy; a son, Doug; a daughter, Julie; and three grandchildren. At his request there will be no services. Remembrances may be made in Hamilton's name as donations to the Free Clinic of Southwest Washington, 4100 Plomondon St., Vancouver, WA 98661. If you would like to read more here is a link to "The Columbian" about Dr. Hamilton and his colorful personality: http://www.columbian.com/12172002/clark_co/344498.html

Upcoming Events and Training

Mark Your Calendar! WSAC Legislative Rally Scheduled

Commissioners, councilmembers and county executives from all of Washington's counties will gather in Olympia on Thursday, February 13 to focus the legislature's attention on county legislative priorities. WSAC has planned the day as the County Legislative Rally.

Plan on coming to town and spend the day (or two or three) on the hill meeting with your legislators. WSAC has arranged a legislative briefing and lunch from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on February 13 and will host a reception for WSAC members that evening. The WSAC Legislative Steering Committee will meet the morning of February 14 and the Urban County Caucus has planned a dinner meeting on the evening of the 13th. Additional information and a registration will be mailed shortly after the first of the year.

In addition, county officials are invited to attend an economic development leadership training sponsored by the Washington Economic Development Association (WEDA) on February 12. You will be receiving a separate invitation from WEDA.

Ecology Schedules Workshops for Obtaining FY 2004 Centennial/Section 319/SRF Funding

It's time to get those water quality grants and loan applications ready. The Department of Ecology is about to commence the annual funding round for water quality plans and projects funded by grants or loans from the Centennial Clean Water Account,

Section 319 funds and State Revolving Fund.

The workshops will help know understand what kind of projects can be funded and how much money is expected to be available. All workshops start at 9:00 a.m., at the following times and locations:

Date	Location	Facility
1/15/2003	Spokane	Doubletree Spokane Valley Ballroom
1/16/2003	Ellensburg	Hal Holmes Community Center Auditorium
1/22/2003	Everett	Best Western Cascadia Inn Alpine Lakes and Enchantments Rooms
1/23/2003	Tacoma	Pierce County Library Administrative Service Center, Meeting rooms A, B, and C

Calendar of Events

2003 MEETINGS

January 13
Legislative Session Begins

January 15-17
Association of County Human Services meeting, Olympia

February 24 – 26
County Auditors Recording Conference Sun Mountain Lodge, Winthrop

February 28 – March 4
NACO Legislative Conference, Washington, DC

March 19-21
Association of County Human Services meeting, SeaTac

April 3 – 4
WSAC Western District Meeting, WestCoast Hotel, Olympia

April 6-12
National Counties Government Week

April 23-25
WAPA Spring Training Program, Tumwater

April 10-11
WSAC Eastern District Meeting, Quality Inn, Clarkston

May 1
L & I Retrospective Rating Meeting, Best Inn R&R, Ellensburg

May 5-8
County Auditors' Elections Conference Yakima

May 14-16
WAPA Support Staff Training Program, Sun Mountain

May 19–22
WASPC Spring Conference, WestCoast Grand Hotel, Spokane

May 21-23
Association of County Human Services meeting, Tri-Cities

May 29-30
WAPA District Court Training Program, SeaTac

June 10-12
Washington State Association of County Auditors' Annual Conference, Sun Mountain Lodge, Winthrop

June 16-18
Washington State Association of County Assessors Conference, Okanogan

June 16-20
Washington State Association of County Treasurers' Annual Conference, Davenport Hotel, Spokane

June 18-20
WAPA Summer Conference, Chelan

June 23-27
Washington State Association of County Clerks' Annual Conference, Silverdale Hotel, Silverdale

June 24–27
WSAC Summer Convention, Spokane

July 11–15
NACo Annual Conference, Milwaukee County, Milwaukee, WI

July 16-18
Association of County Human Services meeting, Vancouver

September 3-5
WAPA Special Assault Training Program, Leavenworth

September 7-9
WAPA Juvenile Training Program Leavenworth

September 17-19
Association of County Human Services meeting, Moses Lake

September 29–October 3
WACO/WSAC Joint Conference, SeaTac

November 17–20
WASPC Fall Conference, Campbell's Resort, Chelan

November 19-21
Association of County Human Services meeting, Seattle

2004 MEETINGS

April 21-23
WAPA Spring Training Program, Spokane

May 12-14
WAPA Support Staff Training Program, Chelan

May 24–27
WASPC Spring Conference, Yakima Convention Center, Yakima

June 22–25
WSAC Summer Convention, Sheraton Tacoma, Pierce County

June 23-25
WAPA Summer Conference, Chelan

July 16–20
NACo Annual Conference Maricopa County, Phoenix, AZ

October 4–8
WACO/WSAC Joint Conference, Spokane

November 15–18
WASPC Fall Conference, Shilo Inn, Ocean Shores

2005 MEETINGS

May 11-13
WAPA Support Staff Training Program, Spokane

May 23–26
WASPC Spring Conference, West Coast Wenatchee Center Hotel, Wenatchee

June 13-16
WSAC Summer Convention, Kennewick

June 22-24
WAPA Summer Conference, Chelan

July 15–19
NACo Annual Conference, City & County of Hawaii, Honolulu, HI

October 3-7
WACO/WSAC Joint Conference, Ocean Shores

Employment Opportunities

In our effort to hold down costs and save timber, we are asking for your help. You may submit a job opening to us for publication in the CHJ using MS Word. When submitting an article for the Courthouse Journal's Employment Opportunities section we ask that you use the following format and thank you for your help.

- ⇒ County or Agency Name
- ⇒ Position Title
- ⇒ Compensation – Salary/Hourly and Amount
- ⇒ Brief description of duties & responsibilities (4-6 lines)
- ⇒ Minimum requirements (2-3 lines)
- ⇒ Application requirements (Resume, Cover Letter, Application, Etc.)
- ⇒ Where to submit application
- ⇒ Application submission deadline
- ⇒ Where to get more information (Web page, phone, etc)

ADAMS COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS: The Adams County Department of Public Works is seeking a professional to perform professional planning duties related to current, long range or advanced planning, as well as an established Solid Waste program, by providing technical, functional and responsible assistance to the Building, Planning and Solid Waste Manager. Salary: \$33,199 - \$38,148 DOQ & Benefits, Pay Range: \$33,199 - \$50,530. Closing Date: Open until filled. Initial screening will begin January 6, 2003. Minimum Qualifications: Four years of responsible professional urban planning experience or a Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university with major course works in planning, public or business administration, or a related field or any combination of experience and education that gives the required knowledge and abilities. A valid Washington State Drivers license. For additional information and an application packet please call (509) 659-3276, visit www.co.adams.wa.us or write to Adams County Department of Public Works, 210 West Alder, Ritzville, WA 99169.

GRAYS HARBOR COUNTY: Senior Real Property Appraiser, \$3,120-\$3,709. Appraises residential and light commercial properties to establish fair market. Positions in the Senior Real Property Appraiser classifications are distinguished from positions in the Real Property Appraiser classification by a greater depth of knowledge and experience required for appraisal of light commercial properties. Qualifications: Four (4) year degree. Applicable exp. may be substituted for education at a rate of one for one. IAAO Courses 201 and 301 or equivalent courses. Real Property Appraiser Accreditation. Four (4) years real property appraiser exp. WSDL. Applications and a complete job description may be obtained from Marilyn Lewis,

GHC Management Services, 3rd Floor Admin. Bldg., Suite 33, P.O. Box 790, Montesano, WA 98563 (360) 249-4144 or download from the website at www.co.grays-harbor.wa.us on or before 5:00 pm. December 23, 2002. EOE

GRAYS HARBOR COUNTY: Communications Supervisor, \$3,437 - \$4,248 Responsible for technical oversight, preventive maintenance, long term planning of upgrades, implementation, evaluation, and budgeting of the County's radio, video, intercom, fiber and microwave systems. This is an exempt position. A complete job description, list of qualifications and applications are available at the Public Services Department, 100 W. Broadway Suite 31, Montesano, WA 98563 (360) 249-4222 Ext. 415 or you can download off the website at www.co.grays-harbor.wa.us. Open Until Filled. EOE

GRAYS HARBOR COUNTY: Department of Recreation and Activities has an opening for a Public Relations Coordinator with a beginning monthly salary of \$2,804. This position will assist in the planning, managing, and coordination of all operations and aspects of the Dept. of Recreation & Activities to ensure the development, implementation, and all efforts to promote tourism in Grays Harbor County. Minimum Qualifications: Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, Marketing or related field. Managerial experience in the travel or tourism industry, including regional, state, national, and international travel and tourism, in a position that includes supervisory capacities, or equivalent combination of education, training, and experience that would provide the required skills, knowledge and abilities to successfully perform the essential functions. Residency in Grays Harbor County must be established within 6 months of employment. Must have valid WSDL.

Background checks will be conducted prior to employment. Applications and a complete job description may be obtained from G. H. County Management Services, 3rd Floor Admin. Bldg., P.O. Box 790, Montesano, WA 98563, (360) 249-4144. Closing: December 31, 2002 at 5 p.m. Grays Harbor County Is An Equal Opportunity Employer.

GRAYS HARBOR COUNTY: Juvenile Dept. has an opening for a Probation Counselor I/Substance Abuse Specialist with a beginning monthly salary of \$2,919. Minimum Qualifications: Graduation from an accredited college or university with a Bachelor's Degree in social sciences or closely related field. Possess and maintain active Certification as a Chemical Dependency Specialist in the State of WA. Licensed as a Counselor in the State of Washington with knowledge of principles and practices of juvenile probation work and court procedures. One year experience working with adolescent in treatment or correctional settings. WSDL. Background checks will be conducted prior to employment. Applications and a complete job description may be obtained from Grays Harbor County Management Services, 3rd Floor Admin. Bldg. Suite 33, P.O. Box 790, Montesano, WA 98563, (360) 249-4144 or you may visit our website at www.grays-harbor.wa.us. Closing: December 23, 2002 at 5 p.m. Grays Harbor County Is An Equal Opportunity Employer.

WHATCOM COUNTY: Engineer / Senior Engineer – Stormwater, Public Works Department. Salary Range: Engineer: \$18.94-\$24.72/hr., DOQ and Sr. Engineer: \$20.60-\$26.89/hr., DOQ. Requires Bachelor's degree in civil engineering, or related field. The Engineer level requires

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2 yrs. related experience & E.I.T., and the Sr. Engineer level requires 4 years of related experience & P.E. Whatcom County offers excellent medical, dental & vision benefits for employee and family. Generous vacation & sick leave package, average 12 holidays/yr., and WA State Retirement system (PERS). Optional deferred compensation plans & Flex 125 available. Application deadline: December 30, 2002. For more details & to request required application packet contact Whatcom County Human Resources, Bellingham, WA, (360) 676-6802 or visit www.co.whatcom.wa.us. Equal Opportunity Employer.

WHATCOM COUNTY: Auditor's Office in Bellingham, WA, is seeking a Clerk III – Warehouse. This position requires a high school diploma or GED and 3 years of progressively responsible general office experience. Must type 40 net wpm and college-level computer courses are desirable. Requires the ability to work in warehouse setting. Whatcom County offers medical, dental & vision benefits for employee and family, generous vacation, sick & holiday leave. WA State Retirement system. Optional deferred comp & Flex 125 available. Application deadline is 1/3/03. For required application packet contact Whatcom County Human Resources, 311 Grand Ave., Suite 107, Bel-

lingham, WA, or call (360) 676-6802. For detailed job announcement visit our website at www.co.whatcom.wa.us or call our job line at (360) 738-4550. Equal Opportunity Employer.

YAKIMA COUNTY: Assistant County Treasurer is currently recruiting for highly-skilled professional manager for this appointed position. For recruitment brochure, please contact Ilene Thomson, Yakima County Treasurer-Elect at P.O. Box 22530, Yakima, WA 98907-2530 or by phone at 509-574-2804.

News Clippings

Locke Unveils Pitch for Democrats

Olympian 12/10/02

Ellyn Ferguson Gannett News Service

WASHINGTON -- Gov. Gary Locke, calling his party competitive, fiscally disciplined and compassionate, gave a preview Monday of the message he'll push as incoming chairman of the Democratic Governors' Association.

"Democratic governors govern for results. We govern for the future," Locke declared at a news conference during the association's winter meeting. Locke said he welcomed President Bush's decision to replace members of his economic team. Locke said it "bodes well if the president is focusing on this economy."

With states facing their biggest fiscal crisis since World War II, governors are

looking to the federal government to work as partners to help balance state budgets, Locke said.

Deficit holes

"There are 45 or 46 states with huge deficits, and the governors -- Republicans and Democrats -- are charged with coming up with a balanced budget and administering these programs," Locke said Monday.

"Our message to the federal government is, 'If you are going to require states to do various things, whether it's Medicare or homeland security or education reform, then you pay for it.' If not, then give us the flexibility to respond to this financial crisis and free us of some of these regulatory burdens."

He cited welfare changes as a model.

"In our state we've had almost a 45 percent drop in the number of people on pub-

lic assistance, while the number of people working has actually gone up," Locke said.

"That was because of the flexibility the states' had. That's our message."

Locke was vice chairman of the Democratic Governors' Association for the past year.

One of Locke's responsibilities will be to tout the Democrats' way of governing and their approach to solving problems at the state level.

"The fact that the Republicans control the White House and Congress means he will become one of the leading Democratic voices," said Stephen Moore, a senior fellow at the libertarian Cato Institute.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.



**Happy Holidays from all of us at the
Washington Counties Building!**