

the Courthouse Journal

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*Washington Association of County Officials
Washington State Association of Counties*

**December 18, 2003
Issue No. 36**

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Courthouse Journal*

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Remember To Mark Your Calendar! WSAC Legislative Rally Coming Soon

Registration information and more news about the WSAC Legislative Rally will be sent to all commissioners, councilmembers and county executives immediately after the start of the New Year.

Mark your calendar today to save February 5 for the Legislative Rally. In addition to the annual legislative briefing and lunch from 12:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., CPO training on Legislative Process is being organized for the morning of February 5 and WSAC will host a reception for WSAC members that evening.

The WSAC Legislative Steering Committee will meet the morning of February 6.

Governor's Budget Ignores Plight of Garfield and Other Low Income Counties

As expected, the Governor's Supplemental Budget for the 2003-05 Biennium, did not include \$5 million to continue funding for counties hardest hit by the repeal of the MVET. As in his biennial budget last year,

he did continue the MVET replacement funds for local public health.

As the Courthouse Journal goes to press, we are working on a more detailed summary that we will e-mail to counties and post on our website.

**Happy Holidays from
all at the Washington
Counties Building**

The Courthouse Journal will resume publication on January 8, 2004

Budget, Finance and Taxes

Sales Tax Streamlining Talks Grind to Conclusion

On December 18 the Sales Tax Streamlining group had its final meeting. Although the counties and a number of cities supported the general approach adopted by the WSAC Legislative Steering Committee as the county negotiating position, there was no

consensus. The city family is still struggling to find agreement. A few cities have been vocal advocates of approaches that would use money that would have otherwise flowed to counties and most cities to make them whole. This position has not changed during the entire process. Some other cities are willing to accept some level of loss for the greater good. Still other cities support implementing sourcing because it is their first glimmer of hope since the repeal of the Motor Vehicle Excise Tax. The cities do not expect to meet and discuss this issue again until February.

The county and city associations have continued to work with the Department of Revenue to refine the estimates of fiscal impact. Many counties have spent time looking at their local business situation to develop their own sense of potential impact. We expect the final set of numbers along with the report should be available next week. We will send it to you when we get it.

Many counties have provided technical and other support to the process. Thanks to all of you for your participation.

employees and employers \$14 per year. In other action, the board adopted a 0.01% employer and 0.02% employee increase to pay for legislation last session adding Fish and Wildlife enforcement officers to LEOFF 2. This rate increase will be implemented in the next few months.

Select Committee on Pension Policy Recommends New Pension System for Corrections

This week the Select Committee (composed of legislative, employer, labor, executive and local government representatives) approved creating a new, more generous pension system for prison, jail and other law enforcement personnel outside the LEOFF system. If the system is approved by the Legislature, employers could expect to see rates for these employees increase by over 3% on top of other increases expected in the next few years. Approximately one third of the employees covered by the proposal work for counties. WSAC and AWC testified about the inability of local jurisdictions to assume this funding burden. WSAC pointed out that the legislature felt it could not afford to provide two years of funding for counties and cities hard hit by the repeal of the MVET. They suggested that the Committee needs to put as much thought into funding as is did into benefit design. The vote to move out this proposal was overwhelming but not unanimous. In other action, the Committee approved two proposals to allow employees to use deferred compensation or 401K funds to purchase additional service credit or early retirement. These proposals would not increase pension rates, since funding would come from employee funds.

The Courthouse Journal

Published weekly (during Legislative Session) and Bi-weekly (other than Session) 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.

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LEOFF 2 Board Recommends Two Bills

On December 17 the LEOFF 2 Board met and unanimously recommended the Legislature adopt two bills increasing benefits. Each bill had a very small fiscal impact. The first bill would increase death benefits for death in the line of duty. The bill is identical to a bill passed for PERS, TRS and SRS employees last year. The second bill reconfigures disability payment options to take advantage of federal provisions to make it tax free. In addition, the reconfiguration would provide an improved benefit for employees who must separate from service because of disability with five or less years of service. In each case the bill would cost

Councilman to Participate in Tort Reform Debate

Snohomish County Councilman Gary Nelson will represent local governments at a public debate on tort reform issues next month in Seattle. The county and city associations have identified several tort reform measures as priority issues for the coming legislative session.

The debate, titled "Tort Reform - Is the American Civil Judicial System Broken?" is sponsored by the Puget Sound Lawyers' Chapter of the Federalist Society, and is set for 7 p.m., Thursday, January 8, at The Renaissance Seattle, 515 Madison Street in downtown Seattle. A cocktail reception begins at 6:30 p.m. The event is open to the public and costs \$10.

In addition to Councilman Nelson, the debate includes representatives from the Washington State Trial Lawyers Association, the Washington State Medical Association, the Liability Reform Coalition, and Washington Citizen Action. Also invited are state Representatives Frank Chopp and Shay Shual-Berke. Washington Supreme Court Justice Richard Sanders is the moderator.

Civil Indigent Defense

Governor Locke's Supplemental Budget that was released on Thursday provides \$3,900,000 from the Public Safety and Education Account (PSEA) solely "to increase civil legal indigent services. If legislation increasing court filing fees is not enacted by June 30, 2004, the amounts provided in this subsection will lapse." One legislator noted in a brief discussion that the proposal was attractive since civil indigent defense would get much needed help for one year and then the money would be up for grabs. At this time, there is no specific bill to refer to for details.

Elections, Licensing and Recording

News Release Issued: December 16, 2003 – Secretary of State Sam Reed

SEATTLE...To ensure public confidence in the democratic process, Secretary of State Sam Reed and several county election administrators announced proposed legislation today that will require electronic voting machines in Washington to offer a paper audit trail.

"As Secretary of State and an elections administrator for more than 20 years, my priority is voter confidence in the election process," said Reed. "If this means adding another redundancy to new voting systems, such as a paper audit trail, you'd better believe I will pursue that option."

Several states are implementing electronic voting because of new federal mandates in the *Help America Vote Act*, sweeping election reform designed to prevent the 2000 General Election debacle in Florida from reoccurring. Under HAVA, "touch-screen" or similar voting machines must be available at each poll site by January of 2006 to better assist those with disabilities.

"The federal mandate is designed in part to give the visually impaired the ability to vote a secret ballot for the first time," said Reed. "We must ensure that access for all citizens while maintaining public trust."

Under Reed's bill, equipment certified in Washington must allow voters to verify on paper that their ballot selections have been recorded correctly.

"Essentially, this takes what's called second-chance voting a step further," explained Reed.

Second-chance voting gives citizens an opportunity to review their selections before casting their final ballots to minimize voter error. Paper verification would then allow voters to make sure their ballots were properly recorded.

The bill requires all ballot-counting systems to be physically secure to guard against unauthorized access. It prohibits the Secretary from certifying a system that operates with a connection to any electronic network, including the Internet.

Reed's bill does away with current law that limits certification to equipment already in use elsewhere in the nation.

It creates a task force of elections and computer security experts to study and determine any potential for election fraud with new electronic systems.

The task force will consist of:

- at least five county election administrators with at least five years of experience in administering elections in Washington;
- At least five computer experts with a minimum of five years experience in maintaining the security of computer systems;
- And the Secretary of State or a designee as chair.

Finally, the bill will also include language to permit electronic verification if such technology is approved by the Federal Elections Assistance Commission and is practical and acceptable to voters.

Washington, Idaho and U.S. Sign Water Agreement

Current and complete scientific information available to make good decisions about managing water from the Spokane Valley/Rathdrum Prairie (SVRP) aquifer is the goal of an agreement signed this week by Idaho, Washington and the U.S. Geological Survey. A memorandum of understanding spells out how the agencies will work together.

The study comes as an outgrowth of Rathdrum aquifer groundwater management issues raised during contested water-right application hearings conducted by the Idaho Department of Water Resources in 2002. Congress has appropriated \$500,000 for the first year of the study. President Bush signed the appropriation last month. The study is estimated to cost a total of \$3.5 million.

A group of government agencies, local organizations and private citizens have worked for two years to put together a mechanism to study the bi-state aquifer in a way that will give both states the information they need about the aquifer that serves more than 400,000 people in the Spokane-Coeur d'Alene area.

Ecology Adopts Final Shoreline Rules

Under the state guidelines, cities and counties will inventory the shorelines in their jurisdictions and analyze the ecological functions provided, as the foundation for updating their shoreline master programs. The guidelines then outline a variety of tools a jurisdiction may use to protect shoreline ecological functions while accommodating needed shoreline development.

Ecology received about 300 comments on the version proposed this year. Seventeen changes were made in response to those comments, to clarify language and to delete obsolete or duplicative references. More information about the shoreline guidelines is provided at www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/SMA/guidelines/index.html.

Under legislation adopted by the legislature earlier this year, Bellingham, Port Townsend, Snohomish County and Whatcom County must complete their updates by the end of 2005. The legislature provided \$2 million in the 2003-05 state budget to start the local updates, with additional appropriations expected over the next decade for the remaining cities and counties.

In addition to the four required "early adopters," which got priority for the funding, 17 other cities and counties applied to Ecology for grants to begin revising their local shoreline programs. There was enough money to accommodate eight of those requests through June 2005. The grant amounts are as follows:

- Bellingham (early adopter), \$90,000
- Port Townsend (early adopter), \$197,748
- Snohomish County (early adopter), \$528,478
- Whatcom County (early adopter), \$575,000
- Bainbridge Island, \$78,500
- Chewelah, \$39,219
- Cusick, \$33,659
- Medical Lake, \$63,193
- Moses Lake, \$65,000
- Orting, \$50,000
- Spokane County, \$177,375
- Yakima County, \$119,504

Growth Management Negotiations Continue

The negotiating team is very close to reaching an agreement on potential changes to the GMA. We are attempting to reach an agreement on policy statements that will drive actual bill language. There appears to be general consensus on protecting the existing grant funding and seeking additional funds to plan and implement GMA in the future. There is general consensus to set up a new account in the state treasury to collect and distribute funds for habitat enhancement on agricultural lands. We are close to reaching an agreement on a review and revision schedule. There is general agreement on changing the process to site industrial banks. We are

very close to an agreement to allow flexible development options within the existing boundaries of LAMIRDS. And, very close on language that would allow some flexibility for some limited non-agricultural development on agricultural lands of long term significance. Finally, are searching for a formal way to give directions to the GMA Hearing Boards to update their rules and procedures to ensure fairness.

Our next step is reaching a conclusion on the policy statements on January 5, 2004 and agree on bill language before session starts.

General Government Issues

WACO is precluded from working for or against initiatives. The following is provided for informational purposes only.

Taxpayers for Washington's Future

2131 N 132nd St
Seattle, WA 98133

Dear Washington Association of County Officials:

Tim Eyman has been proposing since June of this year to file a 25% property tax cut initiative next year. His initial draft versions targeted a 25% state property tax cut. His latest drafts have been proposing a 25% cut in local property taxes. The following draft version by Eyman was filed as Initiative 309 with the Secretary of State.

Initiative 309	Full Text: HTML PDF
<p>Filed: 09/08/2003</p> <p>Sponsor Tim Eyman PO Box 1300 Mukilteo, WA 98275 (425) 493-9127 (425) 493 1027 insignia@greekwatch.com</p>	<p>Ballot Title Initiative Measure No. 309 concerns property tax levies. This measure would reduce regular property tax levies by counties, cities, and other local taxing districts by 25% beginning in 2005. The measure would not affect voter-approved special levies, including local school levies.</p> <p>Should this measure be enacted into law? Yes [] No []</p> <p>Ballot Measure Summary This measure would reduce the property tax levy for each local taxing district (county, city, town, or any special purpose district with the authority to impose a property tax) by 25.0% of the levy amount that would otherwise be allowed under existing law. The reduction would be effective with taxes levied for collection in 2005 and every year from then on. This reduction would not affect voter-approved special levies, such as local school district levies.</p>

Taxpayers for Washington's Future is working to clarify what the impacts of Eyman's proposed tax cuts would be. We had the following questions for the Washington Association of Counties:

1. What would be the impact of a 25% local property tax cut on counties in Washington State as proposed in Initiative 309?
2. What percent cut in counties' budgets would Eyman's 25% property tax cut cause?
3. Are there any differences in impacts dependent on the size of a county or its location in eastern or western Washington?
4. What local government services would likely be cut as a result of the decreased funding?
5. Are current levels of funding adequate to meet public services?
6. What impact has Initiative 747 and Initiative 695 had on County services?
7. Are there other sources of funding to make up for lost property tax revenue?
8. Are current local governments wasting money as Eyman suggests?
9. Are there special programs to help homeowners who are either retired or handicapped to reduce their tax burden?
10. Would you be supportive of a Homestead Exemption of \$30,000 to benefit low and middle income homeowners that was revenue neutral to cities and counties?

Sincerely,
Steve Zemke [stevezemke@msn.com]

General Government Issues (continued)

Gov. Gary Locke Announces 2004-05 Governors' Scholarship Applications Now Available

OLYMPIA -- Gov. Gary Locke today announced that applications for the third year of the Washington State Governor's Scholarship program are now available. Locke established the program in 2001 to help children in state-recognized foster, group and kinship care enroll in and complete college in Washington state.

"Higher education should be a right, not a privilege. We want to give every child in Washington the opportunity to go to college," Locke said. "The Governor's Scholarship program helps those who might not even realize that a college degree is possible."

The scholarship program is primarily

funded by proceeds from the annual Governor's Cup Golf Tournament and is managed by the Washington Education Foundation. All applicants must be in state-recognized foster, group or kinship care and be current high school seniors who plan to graduate during the 2003-04 school year. Additional applicant eligibility criteria can be found on the foundation's Web site, www.waedfoundation.org (click on the Governor's Scholarship link).

The 40 students who received Governor's Scholarships during the first and second years of the program are currently attending 20 colleges throughout the state. For the third year of the program, the foundation expects to select 25-30 new scholarship recipients.

"The Washington Education Foundation is honored to manage this program and do our part in helping to

provide meaningful futures for these students," said Ann Ramsay-Jenkins, the foundation's vice president and treasurer. "We are aware of young people in permanent foster care who do not have the love and support of their natural parents to encourage them to graduate from high school and go on to college. We want to provide these students with the support and resources they need."

Applications can be downloaded from the foundation's Web site or can be requested by calling 1-877-655-4097. Applications must be postmarked by March 1, 2004.

Kittitas County Continues Efforts to Gain Relief from Criminal Justice Costs

(by Perry D. Huston, Commissioner Dist #3, Kittitas County BOCC)

Kittitas County, in an effort to force discussions with the State of Washington regarding the growing cost of criminal justice services, has continued to send bills to the State outlining these expenses. As you recall this is consistent with the resolution passed by WASAC at summer convention two years ago. Last summer we sent contracts for jail services to the state agencies that use our correction facility. Did we receive any money? No. Are we getting their attention? I believe we are.

We have already received a response from Captain Larson of the Washington State Patrol (WSP) refusing to honor any billing for jail services. WSP Chief Serpas delivered a compelling address at the WASAC Western District Meeting refuting, amongst other things, the assertion that the WSP doesn't pay its way. The information he presented is compelling at face value, but as always the devil is in the detail. Let's examine the numbers a bit more closely.

In a letter by Ms. Juliet Jones of the WSP, the revenues generated in Kittitas County by the WSP were estimated at \$1,381,609 for 2002. The actual revenue generated in 2002 for both district courts in Kittitas County is \$1,490,089. That is all revenue from all agencies and all other sources.

Approximately 10% of my general fund budget. Of course to generate that revenue I spent \$1,094,098 just for the district courts alone. Throw in the additional expense of prisoner transports, prosecutors, etc. etc. and the revenue disappears fairly quickly. Since we spend something just under 70% of our general fund budget on criminal justice (sound familiar) the revenue generated by all the agencies is pretty slim. Helpful to be sure but not a money maker.

Our corrections center is grossly overcrowded. Decisions like the WSP DUI emphasis only exacerbates an already bad situation and trust me DUI

enforcement is not a moneymaker. In 2003 we had to add approximately \$700,000 to the corrections center budget to hire more staff and rent prisoner beds elsewhere. Approximately 60% of our average daily prisoner count is generated by the activity of state agencies. DUI emphasis is likely a great idea. Unfortunately no one asked the taxpayers of Kittitas County how they felt about paying for it.

We have a problem. By the actions of Kittitas County I hope to drive the Legislature into serious discussion about better spreading the cost of criminal justice over the entire tax base rather than primarily local resources. Notice I said the Legislature. This may have already started for the 2004 session. I know representatives of the WSP had meetings with Senator Mulliken and Representative Holmquist of the 13th District to discuss the issue. With any luck those discussions will continue.

Let me say I have no issue with the State Patrol. They deliver tremendous service in Kittitas County. This discussion, and the decision we seek, is above their pay grade. Once again I say the pressure has to build on Olympia. Kittitas County is trying. Needless to say if 38 other counties joined us the results would likely be greater. If you are interested we can send you the forms, resolutions, contracts or whatever else you want to make your efforts easier. I have kept Mr. Vogler in the loop so far as our communications to date. Kittitas County will stay in the ring, alone or not. I will keep you posted.

Public Health and Human Services

Cowlitz County Names New Human Services Director

Cowlitz County has hired Ron Blake as its new Human Services Director. The Department of Human Services manages the Mental Health, Chemical Dependency, and Developmental Disabilities programs for the county. The Department has been in transition since March 2003 with Mel Jewell, the former Juvenile Court Administrator, as the acting Director. Mel is eager to return to his well-deserved retirement. Everyone, including WSAC staff, thanks him for filling in so ably during this time.

Ron Blake, LCSW, is from Silverthorne, Colorado where he has been Assistant Executive Director of Colorado West Mental Health Center for 12 years. Ron is a graduate of Loyola of Chicago School of Social Work and has provided direct clinical work for mental health, chemically dependent, and developmentally disabled populations for more than 25 years. He began assuming administrative responsibilities in Wisconsin and Kansas before working in the Colorado resort communities of Vail and Breckenridge. Ron has also taught college psychology courses in Kansas and Colorado for 14 years.

Ron will move to Cowlitz County and begin working on January 5, 2004. Cowlitz is looking forward to working with him in the future. ACHS and WSAC welcome him as well.

Snohomish Voices Concern Regarding Medicaid Integration Partnership

The Washington Medicaid Integration Partnership (WMIP) has now progressed from a multi-year theoretical construct to a budget proviso in the 2003-2005 operating budget to a Request for Proposal (RFP) that was issued on November 21 identifying Snohomish County as the site for the pilot project covering 6,000 medicaid enrollees. The budget proviso authorizes DSHS to "develop an integrated health care program designed to slow the progression of illness and disability and better manage Medicaid expenditures for

the aged and disabled population." It mandates an evaluation of changes in cost, utilization, and client outcomes. Three organizations have replied to the RFP. They are the Community Health Plan of Washington, Molina, and Evercare.

DSHS will contract with one or more health maintenance organizations, health care service contractors or other organization, legally and financially able to assume risk under a capitated payment arrangement for medical, mental health, and chemical dependency treatment services. At the last moment, long-term care services which are primarily the residential options used by these clients, were removed from the RFP. In addition, county developmental disabilities programs were erroneously included in the RFP and a corrective amendment has been issued. So those clients served by the Aging and Disability Services Administration (ADSA) are only voluntary enrollees in WMIP and ADSA services will not be included as part of the integrated benefit package. The WMIP contractor (s) will be expected to coordinate long-term care services with community case managers. There is no language regarding coordination with county programs or staff.

The WMIP will serve the aged, blind and disabled population 21 years old and over, including Medicaid-only and those dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid. Daily program enrollment is limited to 6,000. Client enrollment is considered voluntary by the state but they are using what has been considered questionable as to informed voluntary consent by automatically enrolling clients and expecting them to disenroll. The project will not include children under 21 years old, Healthy Options enrollees or TANF recipients.

There is a lengthy list of required elements in both a management component and service delivery component. Medical services to be provided include primary care, prescription drugs and medication management, medical equipment, acute care hospital, medical specialty services, home health and hospice. Mental Health

services include voluntary and involuntary inpatient (both community-based and at the state hospital) service and outpatient community-based services. It is expected that the contractor will provide the same service package as the NorthSound Regional Support Network (North Sound Mental Health Administration). Chemical Dependency services include detoxification, assessment and referral, and a continuum of inpatient (residential/rehabilitation) and outpatient community-based services, including opiate substitution treatment, and support services.

Categorical Medicaid funding streams will be integrated to support a monthly capitation payment and come from the existing funding of the Medical Assistance Administration, Mental Health Division, and Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse. There currently is not a capitated payment in Chemical Dependency. Services are paid for on a fee-for-service basis.

With the release of the RFP and the information that Snohomish County has been designated as the pilot site, a high level of concern and awareness has been generated at the county and RSN level. Foremost among these concerns is the financial impact on the services for the remaining clients in the RSN. The 6,000 clients have been identified as Adult Disabled and in number make up 4.84% of the RSN's population. However, their capitated payment rate is the highest rate and equal to 25% of the RSN's total budget.

Other concerns are that many of the RSN management and administrative functions are redundant with the health plan's structure, the health plan's access and resource management functions will preclude purchase of the existing Snohomish County Central Access, Acute Care Team and Resource Management services; how will Involuntary Treatment Act investigation and detention functions currently performed by Snohomish County be performed and financed; a number of services are not included in the required list of mental health services such as the Evaluation and Treatment facility and

Public Health and Human Services (continued)

services in Mukilteo, residential treatment services, crisis residential services (not in the contract benefit language), and actual utilization of Western State Hospital beds currently allocated to the RSN. In the Chemical Dependency area, Snohomish County is recognized for its creative and innovative work with community stakeholders and there is a strong general concern over the impact on this system of care.

Snohomish County Executive Bob Drewel has also indicated in a December 10 letter to Secretary Dennis Braddock, their concerns regarding the project. He notes that focusing the project in one county may create even more substantial impacts and disruption to service clients, service agency networks and county staff. He asks “What are the plans to mitigate these impacts?” Executive Drewel notes there has been no opportunity for input from representatives of service agencies or from service recipients or their advocates. And the timetable for implementation seems unrealistic and should be delayed for up to one year.

In addition, Executive Drewel notes a number of general policy questions that appear to need discussion. These include the creation of parallel service systems; opportunity for input from affected stakeholders; and in the event of the pilot not being successful, what safety net will remain to protect Snohomish County adults who receive Medicaid funded services?

Finally, Executive Drewel closes by requesting regular meetings between DSHS and Snohomish County to improve communications, deal with concerns and questions, and help build a successful partnership for the project.

It is apparent there are a number of unanswered questions and concerns about the WMIP despite the counties’ and other stakeholders’ requests for information over the last few years. Snohomish has added the project to their list of legislative priorities with overall concerns about the possible disruption or discontinuance of services to their Medicaid eligible adults, increased utilization of the jail by those who fail to

receive needed services; and the redirection of additional county current expense funds to support state mandated programs. WSAC will take the concerns of Snohomish County to the upcoming Legislative Steering Committee on January 9 for the full Association to make recommendations. It should be noted that the intention of DSHS is to implement this type of project statewide in the next few years which could threaten the quality of care to many more thousands of our clients as well as create duplicate administrative structures using scarce service dollars.

Transportation and Public Works

Railroad Crossing Safety Improvement Funding Grant Opportunities

The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC) is seeking proposals for projects that will decrease the number of accidents and fatalities at railroad crossings or along the tracks. The applications must be submitted by Feb. 17, 2004.

The WUTC administers the fund, which currently has almost \$300,000 available to disburse to worthy projects. The commission will review and select projects for funding based on the relative severity of the hazard being addressed, the safety benefits resulting from the project, and the costs and geographic

diversity of the project. Applications will be available by request or at the commission's website:

www.wutc.wa.gov/GCPFgrants.

Applicants will be notified if their project has been selected to receive funding.

The Legislature created the Grade Crossing Protection Fund in 1969 to provide financing for installing or improving warning devices at public railroad-highway grade crossings. This past year, the Legislature broadened the purpose of the fund to include all rail-safety projects that pose a high risk to public safety, including those that may not be related to public-grade crossings. Projects that are now eligible as a result

of the new law include those related to pedestrian trespass prevention and safety improvements at private railroad crossings.

Some examples of the kinds of projects that could qualify for funding are: installing fencing or other barriers that prevent trespassing on railroad rights-of-way; improving railroad warning devices; providing rail-safety education; and increasing motorists' ability to see approaching trains.

Training and Upcoming Events

SAVE THE DATES THREE, HALF-DAY CPO ELECTIVE CLASSES ARE SCHEDULED

Legislative Relations

- How are decisions made?
- How well do you communicate with the legislature?
- What works – letters, phone calls, personal one-on-one visits?
- What is your role, or the role of your Association?

Emergency Management for Local Officials

- What are your roles and responsibilities in an Emergency?
- What is your role in public information?
- What is the role of State Agencies – what is their authority?
- What are the functions of an Incident Command System?
- The latest information on Homeland Security and impacts in Washington State

When Employer/Employee Actions make Front Page News

- What actions by public employers or employees become front page news
- How can you reduce your chances of being the Lead Story on the 6 O'clock News?
- What policies and procedures should be in place to reduce your liability?
- What do you provide and say to the media when they ask?

Dates/Locations

Legislative Relations	February 5	Olympia
Emergency Management for Local Officials	February 19	Vancouver
	February 25	Colfax
	February 26	Ellensburg
When Employer/Employee Actions Make Front Page News	March 3	Yakima
	March 4	Mount Vernon
	March 10	Cheney
	March 11	Lacey

Watch for course announcements and registration forms in early January. Core courses offered in 2004 are Financial Management, Human Resources and County Government Structure, Roles and Responsibilities.

For more detailed information call (360) 753-1886 or log on to <http://www.wacounties.org/CPO/CPO.htm>

Training and Upcoming Events (continued)

<i>Training or Workshop</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Information</i>
<i>JANUARY 2004</i>			
WCRP Training Liability re: Pre-Trial Release & Post-Conviction Community Supervision	Skamania Lodge, Stevenson	January 20 - 22	(360) 586-7447
<i>APRIL 2004</i>			
WAPA Spring Training Program	Spokane	April 21-23	(360) 753-2175
<i>JUNE 2004</i>			
Washington Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners' Training	Lake Chelan	June 21	(360) 427-9670, x 752
<i>JULY 2004</i>			
WCRP Summer Conference	Shilo Inn, Ocean Shores	July 20 - 22	(360) 586-7447
WCRP Risk Managers Training	Shilo Inn, Ocean Shores	July 20	(360) 586-7447
WCRP Board of Directors Workshop	Shilo Inn, Ocean Shores	July 21	(360) 586-7447
WCRP Annual Board Meeting	Shilo Inn, Ocean Shores	July 22	(360) 586-7447

Good Things

Congratulations to Sheriff Gary Edwards!

We think the food will be improving in the Thurston County Jail. Two weeks ago, two WACO staffers (Debbie and Michelle) took a cooking class from a local chef. Just this week, an individual by the same name with the same general description as the chef was picked up in a huge drug bust in which 575 marijuana plants were seized. So, Sheriff, could you please ask if the recipe said to put the veal in the pot or the “pot” in the veal?

Pacific County Gets Assistance

Earlier this week the Forensic Investigations Council, chaired by Wahkiakum County Prosecutor/Coroner Fred Johnson, approved over \$26,000.00 to Pacific County to assist in meeting the costs of a multiple death investigation in which a Raymond resident is accused of burying more than one victim in the back yard.

The application was submitted by Pacific Count Coroner David Burke. The approved costs included overtime for death investigators. The Council will consider direct costs for supplies and equipment in February.

The monies were made available from the Death Investigations Account in 1999 with the passage of HB 1269. The bill allows the Council to make direct appropriations for investigations involving multiple deaths to assist when a jurisdiction suffers a disproportionate fiscal impact.

Calendar of Events

<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Information</i>
2003			
Christmas Day	WACO/WSAC offices Closed	December 25	
2004			
New Years Day	WACO/WSAC offices Closed	January 1	
Washington State Association of County Treasurers' Legislative Meeting	Olympia	January 26-27	(360) 753-7319
Washington State Association of County Assessors	Olympia	February 3 - 5	(360) 753-7319
WSAC Legislative Rally & Reception	Ramada Governor House, Olympia	February 5	(360) 753-1886
NACo Legislative Conference	Hilton Washington & Towers, Washington, DC	February 27 - March 2	www.naco.org
Washington State Association of County Auditors Recording Conference	Sun Mountain	March 16 - 18	(360) 753-7319
WSAC Spring Eastern District Meeting	Campbell's Resort, Chelan	April 8 - 9	(360) 753-1886
WCRP Risk Managers Roundtable	Icicle Inn, Leavenworth	April 14	Kitty at (360) 586-7447
WCRP Spring Board Meeting	Icicle Inn, Leavenworth	April 15	Kitty at (360) 586-7447
WSAC Spring Western District Meeting	Heathman Lodge, Vancouver	April 22 - 23	(360) 753-1886
WASPC Spring Conference	Yakima Convention Center, Yakima	May 24 - 27	(360) 486-2380
NACo - Western Interstate Region Conference	Weber County, Ogden, Utah	May 26-29	www.naco.org
Washington State Association of County Auditors' Annual Conference	Lakeway Inn, Bellingham, Whatcom Co	June 16 - 18	(360) 753-7319
National Sheriffs' Association	Seattle	June 26 - 30	www.sheriffs.org
County Clerk's Association 2004 Summer Conference	North Bonneville Hot Springs Resort, Skamania	June 22 - 25	(360) 753-7319
County Treasurer's Association 2004 Summer Conference	Heathman Lodge, Vancouver	June 22 - 25	(360) 753-7319
WSAC 98 th Annual Summer Convention	Pierce County, Sheraton, Tacoma	June 22 - 25	(360) 753-1886
WAPA Summer Conference	Chelan	June 23 - 25	(360) 753-2175
NACo Annual Conference	Maricopa County, Phoenix, AZ	July 16 - 20	www.naco.org
WCRP Annual Board Meeting	Shilo Inn, Ocean Shores	July 22	Kitty @ WCRP (360) 586-7447

Calendar of Events (continued)

County & Regional Planning Directors/City Planning Directors Joint Conference	Campbell's Resort, Chelan	September 14 - 17	www.geocities.com /wsacrpdc
WACO/WSAC Joint Fall Conference	Spokane	October 4 - 8	(360) 753-7319
WASPC Fall Conference	Shilo Inn, Ocean Shores	November 15 - 18	(360) 486-2380
2005			
NACo Legislative Conference	Marriot Wardman Park Hotel, Washington, DC	March 3 - 4	www.naco.org
WASPC Spring Conference	WestCoast Wenatchee Center Hotel, Wenatchee	May 23 - 26	(360) 486-2380
WSAC 99 th Annual Summer Convention	WestCoast Hotel at Columbia Center, Kennewick	June 13 - 16	(360) 753-1886
WAPA Summer Conference	Chelan	June 22 - 24	(360) 753-2175
NACo Annual Conference (City & County of Hawaii)	Honolulu, HI	July 15 - 19	www.naco.org
County & Regional Planning Directors/City Planning Directors Joint Conference	Campbell's Resort, Chelan	September 13 - 16	www.geocities.com /wsacrpdc
WACO/WSAC Joint Fall Conference	Ocean Shores	October 3 - 7	(360) 753-7319
2006			
WSAC 100 th Annual Summer Convention	Whatcom County, Bellingham	June / TBD	(360) 753-1886
NACo Annual Conference	Denver, CO	July 21 - 26	www.naco.org
2007			
NACo Annual Conference (Sponsored by the counties in the Metropolitan Richmond Area)	Richmond, VA	TBD	www.naco.org

January County Calendar

- 1 Terms begin for elected officials, partisan and nonpartisan, elected to office in the preceding November. RCW 29.04.170, RCW 36.16.020. District Court judges, however, take office the second Monday in January as stipulated in RCW 3.34.070.
- 1 On or before this date, the county assessor shall mail a personal property listing form to those persons liable to the assessment of personal property. RCW 84.40.040
- 1 Property shall be subject to taxation at 12 noon at the values as of this date. RCW 84.36.005, 84.04.020
- 5 The county treasurer shall establish tax rolls of the county as certified by the county assessor for such assessment year, and said rolls shall be preserved as a public record in the office of the county treasurer. The rolls shall be full and sufficient authority for the county treasurer to receive and collect all taxes levied. RCW 84.56.010
- 15 The county assessor to deliver tax rolls to the county treasurer by this date. RCW 84.52.080(4)
- 15 The county assessor shall transmit to the State Auditor a complete abstract of the tax rolls. RCW 84.48.050
- 19 Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday observed – Legal Holiday. RCW 1.16.050
- 31 Last day for county assessor to send senior citizens/disabled persons, who were granted deferral of ad valorem taxes or special assessments for the previous year, renewal forms and notice to renew. RCW 84.38.050
- 31 Last day for county auditor to provide the Secretary of State a duplicate tape or data file for the records of the registered voters in that county. RCW 29.04.150
- 31 By this date, the county commissioners are to sign a resolution establishing the county prosecuting attorney's salary, and then have the resolution and a copy of the budget page showing such salary certified by the county auditor and sent to the State Treasurer. The State Treasurer is to remit to each county one-half of the prosecuting attorney's salary, which is paid by the state in accordance with RCW 36.17.020, which provides for increase or decrease of county officials' salaries.
- 31 By this date, each county auditor shall forward to the State Auditor information concerning each special purpose district, located wholly or partially within the county that has been dissolved during the preceding year. The county auditor shall also forward to the State Auditor a summation of information gathered from special purpose districts relating to their descriptions and functions. RCW 36.96.090(2)