First Special Session Ends With Much Undone; Second Special Session Begins June 4

The First Special Session of the 2001 Legislature adjourned on May 24 with Governor Locke complaining, “They just haven’t done anything.” Not entirely true – a transportation permit streamlining bill was passed (see story below), nursing home reimbursement schedules were changed and progress was made, though no resolution reached, on a few other issues. Legislators will return to Olympia on June 4 for the Second Special Session.

The state fiscal year ends June 30. If a new state budget is not adopted by then, an emergency budget would be required to prevent a shutdown of state government.

During the Special Session, the Senate sent a regional transportation financing plan and legislation to revise shorelines/GMA timelines to the House. Although House negotiators made progress on both issues it took no formal action on either topic. Both the House and Senate worked on legislation to site a sexually violent predator less-restrictive-alternative housing facility as well as to create a new sentencing scheme for sex offenders. The Legislature also failed to adopt a new primary election process, leaving resolution of that to the federal courts.

The level of local criminal justice funding has still not been agreed to between the House and Senate negotiators. While the Senate budget and the Governor’s budget both provided the full funding of the I-695 backfill at the level that was committed to last year, the House budget did not. The House failed to provide for any increase for inflation and cut in half the funds that would be received by the six counties that it determined had suffered less than a 2% loss of their general fund when I-695 passed. Those six counties were King, Pierce, Snohomish, Kitsap, Clark and San Juan. It also appears that the source of funding (i.e., general revenues or LEOFF I pension surplus), is also in dispute between the House and the Senate.

All WSAC and WACO members are encouraged to contact their legislators before the next special session begins.

WSAC, WACO AND NACo Bring Nationally Recognized Financial Consultant to WSAC Conference

WSAC and WACo are proud to announce that Dee Lee, MBA, CFP, CRC, will be presenting a retirement planning workshop at the WSAC Summer Convention. The “Grow Your Nest Egg” workshop is aimed at county officials and those who administer county retirement plans, such as county human resources administrators and personnel directors.

As one of the nation’s largest employers, county governments must acknowledge that people in the county workforce are eventual retirees. The people who make local governments hum today are the very people in need of financial planning know how for a secure tomorrow.

If you’re a county official, part of your role is helping decide what services and benefits to provide for county employees. One of the most valued employee benefits is financial education. Providing this high demand benefit pays off handsomely in employees’ future security. But did you know that it also helps your county now? Studies show that financially healthy employees are better employees. They pay more attention to their jobs and are also absent less.

If you’re a county’s human resources director, personnel manager, or plan administrator, part of your job is ensuring that the county workforce knows about specific retirement planning opportunities and takes advantage of them. “Grow Your Nest Egg” helps you learn what employees’ concerns are, why barriers to saving go up, how to address them, and how to give members of the work force the best tools for wise decision making.

Our presenter, Dee Lee is the found-
First Special Session Ends
(Continued from page 1)

In speaking with legislators over the next week remember the following:

• Although news reports often indicate that the state budget is being cut, the state agency budgets proposed by the Governor, the Senate and the House all increased in the range of 7% to 8%.
• Counties and cities were assured last year, in writing the 2000 Supplemental Operating Budget, that criminal justice funding would be permanent and would be adjusted for inflation. This commitment was given to us in recognition that counties lost an average 47% of their funding from the Motor Vehicle Excise Tax.
• It is important to note that if all or part of the I-695 criminal justice funding is shifted back to the counties, those funds will simply remain in reserve in Olympia. Under I-601, when the State shifts funding responsibility to local government, the expenditure cap must be lowered by that amount. (This same process was used in reverse to raise the spending limit when the state sent us backfill funds last year).

Be sure legislators understand that in asking us to “absorb” the loss in promised criminal justice funding they are not freeing up funds for other priorities, they are simply adding to their reserve.

Retirement Planning Workshop
(Continued from page 1)

The Courthouse Journal

The Courthouse Journal is published weekly by the Washington Association of County Officials (WACO) and the Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC).

We welcome your suggestions and contributions. The weekly deadline is noon Thursday.

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

WACO STAFF
Phone: (360) 753-7319
Fax: (360) 664-2812

Fred Saeger, Executive Director
Debbie Wilke, Deputy Director
Christina Bridston, Programs Coordinator
Brenda Bamford, Financial Operations Manager
Barbara Sandahl Reeves, Research Associate
Kathie Houts, Administrative Assistant

WSAC STAFF
Phone: (360) 753-1886
Fax: (360) 753-2842

Bill Vogler, Executive Director
Paul Parker, Assistant Executive Director
Maureen Morris, Deputy Director for Urban Counties
Sophia Byrd, Policy Director
Law & Justice
Jean Wessman, Policy Director
Human Services, Juvenile Justice, Housing
Jackie White, Policy Director
Transportation & Land Use
Vicki Kirkpatrick, Policy Director
WSALPHO Administrator
Tom King, Associate, Research, Telecommunications
Sally Harrington, Business and Investment Manager
Kim Zydek, Administrative Secretary
Ginni Peppert, Secretary

Educators, which conducts financial workshops for corporations and institutions across the country. The workshops focus on educating and motivating the financial consumer to take charge of their finances and to begin to plan for their future. She authors weekly newspaper columns on personal finance in the Boston Herald and contributes regularly to Brill.com, an interactive mutual fund site.

Her newest project, Let’s Talk Money, a book she wrote to guide her readers through the maze of personal finance and retirement planning is now available in bookstores. The Complete Idiot’s Guide to 401(k) Plans, which she co-authored in 1998, is the resource book for retirement planning using a 401(k) plan.

Ms. Lee is frequently consulted as a financial expert for television and radio stations and is regularly quoted in major financial publications such as the Wall Street Journal, Forbes, Fortune, Money, Kiplinger’s Personal Finance, Mutual Funds and Smart Money. She is a member of the Institute of Certified Financial Planners and serves on the Board of Directors for the Institute.

The workshop will cover the roles and responsibilities of the counties toward retirement education and the benefits of conducting it, and what employees expect from counties and many other topics, including:

1. How to motivate employees, why employees don’t participate: fears, misunderstandings, etc.;
2. How to utilize financial service providers to help deliver education;
3. Setting goals, saving, investing, preservation of assets: The retirement planning process.
4. Developing and monitoring employees’ own implementation plans.
5. Educating employees about key concepts, including the value of pre-tax, understanding the longer term issue of inflation risk vs. short term market risk, the time value of money, etc.

As part of on-going retirement education campaign, several types of generic materials will be developed for later distribution within county workforces. These include presentations and workbooks for those within five years of retirement and for all other employees and officials; posters with educational messages; retirement education articles for use in county newsletters; statement stuffers with educational messages; and brochures on the value of planning for retirement.

Washington State Primary

On May 22 Secretary of State Sam Reed headed to court to ask a federal judge for a temporary fix for the state’s primary election system. Reed has urged the court to implement a primary that is as close to Washington’s current system as possible: preferably “the Washington Primary.” The Washington primary is structured in a similar manner to the primary used by the state of Louisiana where by the top two vote getters move onto the general election ballot regardless of the candidates party affiliation. Reed has asked the court to consider the following three requirements should the court construct a temporary primary:
1. It should be constitutional
2. It should be similar to Washington’s Blanket Primary
3. It does not create a primary that cannot be amended by the legislature in the future.

(Continued on page 3)
Revenue losses have all played a part in employee health benefits, and I-695 state and federal mandates, jail costs, officials across the state. Rising costs of County will be recognized by county budget. The problems plaguing King make significant cuts to the county’s employees and citizens about the need to before the end of the First Special Session Adjourns

Just before the end of the First Special Session the House passed the Environmental Streamline bill with a positive vote of 96-0. Earlier this week, the Senate adopted the bill after the task group finally agreed to language after many weeks of negotiations. SB 6188 creates a transportation permit efficiency and accountability committee. The committee is made up of nine voting members and eight non-voting members that will identify and integrate processes to streamline the permitting practices for pilot projects, transportation projects of statewide significance and programmatic projects. The Department of Transportation is granted authority to prepare permits, with permitting agencies retaining approval authority. Both counties and cities are granted a representative on the committee with voting privileges. NO vote of the authority may overrule existing statutes, regulations, or local ordinances. The Act expires March 31, 2003.

Although the Legislature has adopted a major piece of the transportation package, the regional revenue package, the statewide revenue package, and the issues regarding the contracting out, prevailing wage and who has authority over the Secretary of Transportation remains unresolved.

As we head toward the next special session many legislators hold out promise that they will be able to work out these unresolved issues and have a transportation package that will address our transportation needs. For questions or comments, please contact Jackie White (WSAC staff).

King County Executive Proposes $36 million of Budget Cuts

King County Executive Ron Sims has written to Councilmembers, employees and citizens about the need to make significant cuts to the county’s budget. The problems plaguing King County will be recognized by county officials across the state. Rising costs of state and federal mandates, jail costs, employee health benefits, and I-695 revenue losses have all played a part in the county’s financial difficulties. As part of the reduction, the Executive proposed reorganization and elimination of a number of units, eliminating 150 positions.

In an attempt to avert the need to build another jail, the county’s third, in the near future, the county has notified cities that it is canceling jail contracts and wishes to renegotiate the current arrangement, the statewide revenue package, and the issues regarding the contracting out, prevailing wage and who has authority over the Secretary of Transportation remains unresolved.

As we head toward the next special session many legislators hold out promise that they will be able to work out these unresolved issues and have a transportation package that will address our transportation needs. For questions or comments, please contact Jackie White (WSAC staff).

Association of County Human Services Meets in Walla Walla

CHS met in Walla Walla from May 16 – 18. The Developmental Disabilities Section met on Wednesday, May 16. Dave Hopper, Benton-Franklin, led the discussion about the Revenue Expenditure Monitoring Team and the unspent funds that the legislature views as being available for transition funding. The Division remains reluctant to transfer funds between regions. The Team will continue next biennium as apparently each budget proviso needs to be scrutinized to ensure that regional headquarters appropriates the full sum of provisoed money down to the counties. This issue relates to the ongoing and persistent problem of being paid on a cost reimbursement system instead of up front like mental health. DDD maintains this is a requirement of their federal waiver. The Section will continue to explore some of these payment issues.

Several representatives of the Section met with 5 union representatives with the intention of talking about the philosophical basis to the use of personal agents. Unfortunately the meeting unexpectedly devolved into concerns voiced by the union about contracting out. It was regrettable that the state was not a participant in this meeting since they are the contracting partners with the union and not the counties.

WSAC staff, Jean Wessman, presented a legislative and budget update as well as asking for comments on the WSAC policy statements, which are up for renewal in June. Other information that was presented included updates on the search for a new director for DVR, questions about the expenditure of technical assistance funds and poor notification of training sessions, the Washington Protection and Advocacy Services agreement which will be attached to the annual contract, and some technical issues about coding on the county authorization for services forms. While the new contract didn’t seem to pose a great deal of concern, there was a lively discussion about the changes to the child development services section of the Criteria for an Evaluation System packet.
ACHS Meets  
(Continued from page 3)

Janet Adams, DDD, gave an update on some of the internal processes going on including Olmstead planning and an anticipated HCFA audit of the federal waiver in June.

Several people voiced their concern over the process and expenditure of the provided funds for DD/MH crisis and diversion beds from last year. The process has not gone well in several counties and no money has actually reached the designated clientele. It is unknown whether additional funding will be designated in this year’s operating budget for these purposes although the need is undisputed.

On Thursday, May 17, the Mental Health Section met. Richard Onizuka, MHD, and Jean Wessman, WSAC, presented a legislative and budget update. Richard also brought up the various interim studies we will all be engaged in this summer if the legislature ever leaves town. These include the MH ombuds, kids mental health, 1 vs. 2 mental health evaluators for commitments, the outpatient commitment bill, the 10% administrative lid, and of course, the performance measures included in HB 2264 if funded in the budget. (HB 2264 is a brand new bill that re-authorizes the performance measure piece from HB 1650 vetoed by the Governor and includes a null and void clause that guarantees no implementation without funding and the Governor’s signature this time around.

The Division then walked through the new contract and the input that was considered from the RSNs or not included in a revised version due next week. Of great concern from both parties is the inclusion of the federal Balanced Budget Act (BBA) requirements. They are supposedly effective June 18 or so and add a huge burden of additional administrative requirements for which the counties/RSNs are not reimbursed and at a time that the legislature is demanding additional dollars go into direct services. They are so onerous in fact that there is serious doubt at this time whether the RSNs feel their governing bodies will be willing to sign these contracts. In addition, with the legislature still in session and a second special session scheduled to begin June 4, there are no final numbers for the budget. Several RSNs have proposed the idea of a bridge contract continuing the existing contract for three months upon which all RSNs present agreed (12 of 14). The Division responds that they have no choice about the implementation of the BBA requirements, which must go into effect July 1. The unknown factor, which could over-ride all this, is that the Bush Administration may delay the BBA requirements until fall.

A second item of concern was raised in the morning as a discussion was held regarding the “No Wrong Door Conference. What was once an inten- tion to design an integrated crisis re- sponse system across Health & Rehabilitation Services and Aging in partnership with the counties, who directly adminis- ter many of the services, has been sub- verted into best practices for those with multiple needs who enter one of the sys- tems. The counties no longer have any role in the DSHS process. We strongly indicated our concern with this loss of focus.

The ACHS Business Meeting was held briefly before lunch. Of note is the continued loss of dues from several counties especially in mental health but also across the board.

Cathy Gaylord, Chief Executive Officer, Washington Community Mental Health Council, joined the meeting in the afternoon. Discussion ensued about how best to improve relations between the RSNs and the providers. It was noted that Fran Lewis would take Joanne Asaba’s place at the regular Council meetings. The Section also discussed communications between MHD, the RSNs, and the providers. It was agreed to continue the dialogue on how best to improve this communication especially the information flow out from the RSNs and MHD to the providers. They more briefly touched on HIPAA and the TANF litigation regarding retroactive payments for mental health services prior to termination from TANF. The court denied the motion from the MHD to enjoin the RSNs as the only legitimate party with standing.

The meeting ended with a roundta- ble of best practices and creative models for services for the dually diagnosed, mentally ill and chemical dependent.

The Chemical Dependency Section met on Friday, May 18. A familiar topic was the contract between the counties and DSHS. Without a state budget, it is unknown what the individual county allocations will be. DASA will issue a current level budget for the time being. Other documents that feed into the con- tract are not yet complete such as the county implementation guide and the needs assessment.

The State Auditor’s Office is exam- ining expenditures of the federal block grant and in addition to DASA will be visiting several counties. They are partic- ularly interested in written documentation of expenditures. This information was followed by a lively discussion regarding proposed contract language on higher treatment completion rates. A work group will sort this out for March 2002 implementation.

Ken Stark, Director, DASA, deliv- ered a legislative report especially on SB 5419, SB 5417, the budget items on treatment for those on SSI and the ITA beds in Eastern Washington. SB 5419, the sentencing changes died this session but will return next year. SB 5417, the methadone bill passed and the Depart- ment will make every effort to find funds to get several new sites started. Jean Wessman, WSAC, handed out the WSAC wrap-up and discussed the WSAC policy statements.

The regular work group reports were made and central office updates delivered by Fred Garcia, DASA. Fred introduced Scott Pelham, Sound Background, Inc. Scott, who used to work solely for DDD, has started this new background check firm with several associates. They promise 24-hour turn- around. Fred also discussed the Addiction Technology Transfer Center, part of the federal substance abuse bureaucracy. They are interested in providing technical assistance in Washington State on treatment retention, discharge planning, training regarding confidentiality, and training on medication and the medically complex client.

Lesley Bombardier, Cowlitz, made a similar presentation at each of the sec- tions regarding ideas for a memorial for Joanne Asaba. Among the ideas are some internal King County items such as a management award and plaque in her name. But others with broader scope include establishing a scholarship fund for her two children, Nelson and Mika; establishing a scholarship fund for children generally; and even purchasing a bench in her name for the Japanese Garden in the University of Washington Ar- boretum. Lesley will send out additional specifics on the choices.
Bremerton-Kitsap County Health Officer Receives Award

The Washington Health Foundation presented Dr. Willa Fisher with the Leadership Award for her work and dedication to improving health and health care for the people of her county and for Washington State. Dr. Fisher served as director of the Bremerton-Kitsap Health District for the past 24 years. She also serves as chair of the local United Way. Throughout her career she has countless achievements at the local, state and national levels. She has led community efforts in everything from prenatal care to information referral services to fluoridation.

Dr. Fisher helped assure improved access to prenatal care for the county’s low-income women. She served on the community’s first hospice board, and helped start Kitsap Community Health Services, now a major provider of primary health care services in the region. She worked with the Kitsap Project Dental Health Coalition that provides preventive dental services to children and others, and organized the Kitsap AIDS Task Force to assure patients would get needed services and support. She has devoted much of her time over the years to tobacco control and prevention – serving on the advisory committee to the Attorney General during the settlement negotiations with the tobacco industry and serving on the Tobacco Prevention and Control Council to advise the Secretary of Health in the development of the Tobacco Prevention and Control Plan for Washington.

For these reasons and more, the Washington Health Foundation selected Dr. Willa Fisher to be the recipient of its Leadership Award. Dr. Fisher is retiring as Health Officer of the Bremerton-Kitsap Health District upon selection of her replacement. The public health community in Washington will miss her tireless dedication to improving the public’s health.

I-747 Signature Collection Continues

Volunteers and paid signature gatherers continue to collect signatures to put I-747 on the November ballot. The initiative would limit regular levy increases to one percent per year, without a vote of the people. The full text of the initiative is available at the Secretary of State’s web site. http://www.secstate.wa.gov/initis/default.htm

Campaigns for and against the initiative are already active. This year initiative supporters must gather 197,734 valid signatures by July 6.

The initiative’s tax limit would take effect with levies collected in 2002. Counties need to begin considering this as part of their short and long range budget planning. Early estimates based on data from levies collected in 2000 show local government revenue losses growing from $58.8 million per year in 2002 to $430.3 million per year in 2007. Estimated losses to county current expense funds grow from $13.6 million in 2002 to $94 million in 2007. The estimated losses for road funds grow from $6.4 million in 2002 to $43.2 million in 2007.

“Gus” Nolte, Okanogan County Human Services Administrator Leaves Post

Okanogan County Mental Health Director Floyd “Gus” Nolte resigned May 14 avoiding termination proceedings and is being offered a $51,500 severance package by the county commissioners. Nolte said he resigned for “personal reasons” and declined to comment further. No reasons for a possible termination by the county were given in the document or by the commissioners and Nolte declined to discuss the matter.

The commissioners approved a severance agreement May 14, allowing his resignation. Nolte has until June 4 to approve the agreement and then he would receive the severance package. Nolte has seven days to revoke any agreement. He is also prevented from attempting to sue the county in the future, should the commissioners continue and terminate his employment.

Mr. Nolte has been the Director of Okanogan Counseling Services since July 5, 1999 at an annual salary of roughly $60,000. He indicated at that time he took the job to move closer to his family and pursue outdoor hobbies. He had been the CEO of Community Resource Center in Centralia, Illinois. Previously he retired as a lieutenant colonel in the US Air Force and completed a master’s degree in guidance and counseling form Southern Illinois University. He replaced former director Jim Blue who stepped down in 1999 to avoid termination by the commissioners.

In a related note, Mr. Blue has filed suit against the county that the agreed upon working conditions and job description of his job after leaving the Director’s position has not been complied with and that an unnamed supervisor had made conditions intolerable.

Buy Seattle’s Surplus On-Line

The Good Government Group (GGG) is pleased to announce a new Internet distribution and auction program for governmental agencies throughout Washington.

In partnership with the Public Technology Institute (PTI) and the Good Government Group, GovDeals is conducting a pilot online surplus equipment auction that provide Washington government agencies the opportunity to acquire surplus items initially from the City of Seattle, and in the immediate future from any governmental agency in Washington.

The auction site is a tiered distribution of surplus assets that allows governmental agencies in Washington to have the first opportunity to acquire surplus assets from other governmental agencies in Washington. Any remaining surplus assets will be offered for public auction.

(Continued on page 6)
(Continued from page 5)

You or your agency’s designated representative can logon to view and purchase desired items. Your agency will be responsible for transportation arrangements.

Follow the enclosed step-by-step instructions to register on GovDeals after clicking on this hyperlink: www.govdeals.com. To view items restricted to governmental agencies in the State of Washington, select “Modify Profile”, select the “Organization” drop down box, select “Washington State and local government agencies”, and select “Update”. Select “View Profile” and you will be able to view available surplus assets.

If you have any questions with the on-line auction procedures call the GovDeals Help Desk at (800) 613-0156.

The GGG is a non-profit organization with the mission of improving the relationship between Washington government and its citizens. The executive directors of WSAC, AWC and other local government associations have been involved in its formation. GovDeals.com was formed by Information Management Systems, Inc. (Informs) of Montgomery, Alabama and Simonton Enterprises, Inc.

County Input Needed to Help Develop State Disaster Recovery Fund

Many counties have experienced disasters in the past but have not received financial help from the state or the Federal Emergency Management Agency because the event didn’t qualify for a Presidential declaration and/or the state didn’t have a fund available. The state Emergency Management Council (EMC) is now working to create a state Disaster Recovery Fund, which could be available to assist disaster-damaged counties that are not eligible for federal assistance.

Mason County Commissioner Mary Jo Cady represents the Washington State Association of Counties on the EMC, where she co-chairs the committee working on proposed legislation to create a Disaster Recovery Fund. Commissioner Cady is compiling information that will determine how much money should be available in such a fund. She needs your assistance to help provide this information, which will help the EMC justify its legislative request.

Please review the questions below and send your answers directly to Commissioner Cady at mcdady@co.mason.wa.us. Please respond by June 5.

Answering these questions might take a bit of research with budget directors, public works departments, health departments, emergency management departments, and your clerk of the board. A declared disaster might include landslides, floods, fires, epidemics, avalanches, hazardous-material spills, earthquakes, etc.

1. Do you support the concept of a state Disaster Recovery Fund?
2. In the past ten years, have you declared a disaster and not received state or federal assistance?
3. If so, what was the disaster or disasters? Please answer the questions below for each event.
4. What was the financial impact to your budget?
5. What was the economic impact to your jurisdiction? (i.e. loss of tourism money, loss of gas or sales tax revenue, loss to local businesses)
6. What was the environmental impact to your jurisdiction?
7. Did you have to postpone other projects or services to pay for the impacts to your jurisdiction?
8. Do you have legislators in your district that would support the creation of a Disaster Recovery Fund?

Regional Jail Study Complete, Report Available


The regional jail study was designed to provide information about regional jails, whether they could work in Washington state, and whether there are opportunities for local and state jurisdictions to cooperatively work together to address local corrections issues. It is not a feasibility study for a specific facility at a specific site, but could provide the basis for beginning to move forward in planning specific projects.

Among its 11 recommendations, the study endorses development of specific statutory authorization for multiple jurisdiction jails, state as well as local funding for construction and operations, and a pilot project that includes participation by the state Department of Corrections. The study will provide the springboard for a discussion of regional jail issues at the WSAC annual convention, Friday, June 15 in Yakima. Participating in that panel are state Director of Corrections Joe Lehman, state Representative Gary Alexander, Douglas County Commissioner Dane Keane, and Director of the Northern Oregon Regional Corrections facility Paul Barnett. Moderating the discussion is Jim LaMunyon, the author of the WASPC study.

Questions and comments about the study may be directed to Sophia Byrd of the WSAC staff at sbyrd@wacounties.org, or Jim LaMunyon of WASPC at jimlamunyon@thurston.com

The regional jail study was funded by a grant from the Washington State law and Justice Council. The project was
One More Note About the Case that Engendered the Mentally Ill Offender Law Changes in 1998 and 1999

The family of Stanley Stevenson, who was stabbed to death by a mentally ill stranger after leaving a Mariners’ game in 1997, has just settled with the state and King County for $5.5 million. The family had sued the state, the county and the city of Seattle in 1998 for fumbling numerous chances to keep Dan Van Ho institutionalized who was a known violent schizophrenic. The state will pay $3.5 million and King County $2 million, the biggest wrongful death settlement in its history. Seattle was ruled immune from the suit and will pay nothing.

Family members stressed that the money was unimportant compared with some policy changes spelled out in the settlement. King County will teach all jail workers who deal with psychiatric inmates how to commit dangerous persons for longer than they can be held in jail. Ho was found not guilty by reason of insanity in the Stevenson case. The court committed him to a mental institution, probably for the rest of his life.

The incident caused the state to review its policies along with King County. The state changed their laws to give judges more power to hold mentally ill offenders in custody. King County initiated their Mental Health Court – only the second in the nation – to focus on funneling defendants into appropriate care.

Sex Predator Residential Facility Bill Moves Out of House

The House voted on Tuesday, May 22, to move their version of HB 2168 and SB 6151 out of the House and over to the full Senate. The Senate responded by placing the bills “on the bar” which means they sit literally on the railing at the front of the chambers until leadership decides to act on them. In this case, it’s been decided to take them up again in the Second Special Session, which will start shortly after Memorial Day.

The logjam in the House was broken when agreement was reached on deleting any references to the growth management act from the bills as well as limiting the number of residents in the proposed McNeil Island facility to a total of 15. 15 was satisfactory to Pierce County along with a safety valve that allowed them to take additional residents if necessary to meet the judge’s orders and alternate arrangements were not available.

However, the present version of the bill is not currently satisfactory either to the Senate or the Governor’s Office. They still desire the original 36 beds in the facility and the sections on interfacing with the required updates of our local growth management plans. Stay tuned for additional developments. Remember that these bills deal with siting all over the state and are not just concerned with the facility on McNeil Island.

County Jails Cutting Services, Charging Inmates

As jails continue to face the two-pronged problem of inmate overcrowding and insufficient funds to build or operate new facilities, some counties are taking steps to cut services and recover costs.

Most recently, according to the May 24 Seattle P-I, King County Executive Ron Sims canceled jail contracts with the 39 cities that book and house misdemeanor suspects in King County facilities. The current contracts will remain in effect through the end of the year.

New contracts could be negotiated privately with the cities and could involve significant fee increases to discourage the booking of low-level offenders. Cities now pay a $139 booking fee and $70 per day for misdemeanants. Bookings and prisoner days have increased 25 percent from the suburban cities and 30 percent from Seattle. Building a new jail to handle increasing inmate population isn’t an option now, Sims told the P-I. Operating a new jail would cost an additional $25 million a year.

On another front in the ongoing struggle of jail operations, Clallam County commissioners voted to require jail inmates to pay part of their own medical bills. About 20 other counties already require inmate co-pays.

Starting July 1, all Clallam County inmates will be charged a $10 copayment for sick call, prescription medication, and specialist fees costing less than $2,000. The state Department of Social and Health Services pays for inmate medical treatment that costs more than $2,000.

Currently, the county foots the bill for inmate medical calls, approximately 1,700 a year, according to the May 17
News in Brief

“Ultimate Sacrifice” Remembered
In mid-May, Clallam County Sheriff Joe Hawe escorted the Lisa Davis, the widow of Deputy Wally Davis, to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial at the U.S. Capital in Washington, D.C. Deputy Davis’ name, along with those of 312 other officers was added to the Memorial. He was fatally shot during a disturbance on August 5th of last year.

At the same time, flags were lowered at the Clallam County Courthouse as a crowd gathered in another ceremony honoring the slain officer. Local law enforcement and county officials wore small buttons with Davis’ call number “140.”

The following week the Davis family was presented with the Washington State Law Enforcement Medal of Honor in Olympia. On May 28, the city of La Palma, California, will unveil a plaque in Davis’ honor. He was employed an officer in that city before coming to Washington.

Risk Pool Offers Scholarships to Budget Workshop
The Washington Counties Risk Pool is offering a limited number of scholarships to the “Beating the Budget Blues” Workshop on June 12 in Yakima. If your county is a member of the risk pool and you or a member of your staff would like to be considered for a scholarship, please contact Kitty Saunders at WCRP and she will fax you a scholarship application.

WSAC Seeks Volunteers for Parks Funding Task Force
Chapter 275 of the Laws of 2001 establishes a legislative task force to analyze local park and recreation needs with a specific focus on maintenance and operations costs and funding sources. The task force of 20 members is to include two representatives of county parks and recreation and will report back to the legislature by December 1, 2001.

Interested county parks and recreation directors, county commissioners or councilmembers, should contact Paul Parker at WSAC by May 29 to notify the WSAC Board of Directors of your interest. The WSAC Board will make the appointments at its June meeting, or sooner depending on when the Task Force begins its operations.

Close Vote On Franklin County Courthouse Renovation
Preliminary counts from last Tuesday’s election showed that Franklin County residents narrowly turned down a $10.2 million bond to renovate the 88-year old County Courthouse. The bond would have added 39 cents per $1000 assessed value to property owner’s tax bills. Commissioners will now have to re-evaluate whether to try again or hold off on renovation.

Please Submit Resolutions To WSAC
In order to plan for an efficient business meeting at the WSAC Summer Convention, WSAC members who are planning to introduce a resolution for consideration by the membership are encouraged to provide a copy of the resolution to WSAC by June 6, so that it may be included in that week’s issue of the Courthouse Journal. The only Resolution on the Agenda at this time is that forwarded to the Convention from the Eastern District meeting calling for county action on unfunded mandates and I-695 backfill funding.

Scholarship Fund Thanks WSAC District Members
Sincere thanks go to the WSAC Eastern and Western District members for their generous contributions to the Washington Counties Scholarship Fund. At their April 5 meeting, the Western District members arranged a fund raising dinner for scholarships. The result was a $1,380 contribution from Nichols Brothers Boat Building, Inc., located in Freeland on Whidbey Island. $1,000 of district funds was contributed for scholarships as well. Not to be outdone, the Eastern district members, at their April 19 meeting, contributed $1,001 of district monies to the Scholarship Fund. It is you, the Association members, who make this program really work. Thank you for investing in our children’s dreams and futures!

Coming Events

May 23-26
Western Interstate Region (WIR) Conference, County of Hawaii, Hilo, HI

June 3-6
Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Annual Conference, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

June 10-14
International Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners Annual Conference, Toronto, Canada

June 11-13
Washington State Association of County Assessors Annual June Conference, Olympia

June 12
Beating the Budget Blues Workshop, in conjunction with WSAC Summer Convention, Yakima, 8:30 am - 4 pm

June 12-15
WSAC Summer Convention, West Coast Gateway Hotel, Yakima

June 12
Washington Counties Insurance Fund (WCIF) Board Meeting, in conjunction with WSAC Summer Convention, West Coast Gateway, Yakima, 4:30 pm

June 14
Washington Counties Risk Pool (WCRP) Executive Board Meeting, in conjunction with WSAC Summer Convention, Yakima, 4 pm

June 15-21
International Association of Clerks, Recorders, Election Officials and Treasurers Annual Conference, Billings, Montana

June 18-22
Washington State Association of County Treasurers Annual Conference, Red Lion Hotel, Wenatchee

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June 19-20
Washington Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners Annual Spring Training, Moses Lake

June 19-22
Association of Washington Cities (AWC) Annual Conference, Bellevue

June 19-22
Washington State Association of County Auditors Annual Conference, Quality Inn, Clarkston

June 20-22
Washington State Association of Prosecuting Attorneys (WAPA) Summer Training Program, Campbell’s Lodge, Chelan

June 20-22
National Sheriffs Association Annual Conference, Marriott Marina, Fort Lauderdale, Florida

June 24-29
Washington State Association of County Clerks Annual Conference, Howard Johnson Hotel, Everett

July 13-17
NACo Annual Conference, City & County of Philadelphia

July 18-20
Association of County Human Services

(AHS) Meeting, Port Angeles

July 19-20
CRABoard Meeting, CRAB Offices, Olympia

September 9-12
International Association of Assessing Officers (IAAO) Annual Conference, Miami, Florida

September 19-21
Washington Finance Officers Association (WFO) Annual Conference, Wenatchee

September 19-21
ACHS Meeting, Ellensburg

September 27-28
WSAC Eastern District Meeting, East Wenatchee

October 1-5
WACO Annual Conference, Port Ludlow Resort & Conference Center

October 11-12
WSAC Western District Meeting, Long Beach

October 18-19
CRABoard Meeting, CRAB Office, Olympia

November 14-16
ACHS Meeting, LaConner

November 12-15
WASPC Annual Fall Conference, DoubleTree Hotel, Pasco

November 14-16
ACHS Meeting, LaConner

November 14-16
WSAC Fall Legislative Conference, Silverdale Hotel on the Bay, Silverdale

January 29-31
Legislative Rally and Tri-Association Reception, Olympia

June 9-11, 2002
WSAC Summer Convention, Bellevue Inn & Bellevue Hilton, Bellevue

July 12-16, 2002
NACo Annual Conference, New Orleans Parish, New Orleans, LA

September 30-October 4, 2002
WACO/WSAC Joint Conference, WestCoast, Wenatchee

Employment Opportunities

Health and Human Services Director, Whatcom County Health and Human Services Department, Bellingham, WA. Hiring range: $66,468 - $86,652 / Annually, DOQ. Excellent employer-paid medical, dental & vision benefits for employee and family. 3 weeks vacation per year to start and average 12 holidays per year. WA State Retirement system. Optional deferred compensation plan & Flex 125. This position requires a Master’s degree in public health or public health administration or a related field and 6 years progressively responsible related experience including 3 years of management/supervisory experience. To be considered for this position submit your resume & cover letter by June 19, 2001, to Whatcom County Human Resources, 311 Grand Ave, Ste 107, Bellingham, WA 98225. For a detailed job announcement, contact Human Resources at (360) 676-6802 or visit our website at www.co.whatcom.wa.us. EOE.

County Engineer/Public Works Director—Island County (Coupeville, WA) has a FT Department Head position. Duties include but not limited to: planning, organizing, coordinating and directing the activities and operations of development review, engineering, roads, solid waste, surface water, capital improvements and E.R.&R. to ensure the effective design, construction, operation and maintenance of the County’s infrastructure and fulfilling the statutory requirements of RCRW 36.80 and other regulatory functions as specified in the Island County Code. Requires Professional Civil Engineer registered and licensed under the laws of the State of Washington. BA in Civil Engineering with course work in public admin., business admin., or a related field. Open until filled. Island County Application required. Call (360) 679-7372 or (360) 321-5111 ext. 7254. EOE

Land Use Section Manager—San Juan County. Supervises employees engaged in the review of development permit applications for consistency with land use, shoreline & environmental regulations. Will develop & manage an efficient land use permit review process pursuant to the Unified Development Code. For description/qualifications & application contact: Administrative Services (360) 378-3870. www.co.san-juan.wa.us. Contact Kandy Hirschel (Personnel Dept.) with any questions. EOE