Senate committee passes operating budget with 695 backfill funding

Yesterday the Senate Ways and Means Committee passed the operating budget and it will now go to the floor to be considered for final passage. It provides for full funding at last year’s level with a growth factor for criminal justice and public health. It does however contain the House language on those counties that have not paid the superior court judges benefits. It specifically directs the withholding of any payment to a county that has not paid 50% benefits of the judge’s benefits. As reported to us those counties are Benton, Franklin, Klickitat, Okanogan, Stevens, Ferry, Pend Oreille and Thurston.

The budget does not provide any funding for shorelines guidelines implementation because there is still no agreement on a piece of legislation that is acceptable to the Governor, House and Senate. There is activity on trying to reach an agreement based on Representative Gary Chandler’s efforts to provide for extended timelines, funding and an agricultural exemption.

An email was sent to all WSAC members yesterday requesting that you contact your House members and urge that they support the Senate version of the 695 backfill. A budget could pass as early as next week. However, as we go to press there is still no confirmation that the House has enough votes to pass the Senate budget. Democratic House Co-speaker Frank Chopp held a press conference after the Ways & Means passed their budget saying that the House Republicans have not agreed to support it. He said they have not reached agreement on three issues, state employees salaries, the level of education funding and the 695 backfill for local governments. Representative Barry Shel- lin, Republican Co-chair of House Appropriations was quoted as saying he believed the Senate budget is about $95 million higher than agreed to last week. We urge you to contact both republican and democratic members of the House.

The Senate did make substantial cuts in

(Continued on page 2)

Who said Transportation was dull?

If you don’t like the weather just wait a few minutes and it will change. One could make the same prediction about the transportation package. Here we are headed towards the second week of the second special session. It is June 8, 2001 and there is no more certainty today about what will be in the transportation package or whether there will even be a transportation package than there was at the beginning of January.

As a reminder, we began this legislative year with a package of 27 bills that were offered by the Blue Ribbon Commission on Transportation. Three of the twenty seven have passed and are now signed into law. They are: the design-build bill for state projects, the environmental streamline permit bill, and the relocation assistance and joint trenching bill. Earlier this week the Senate once again passed the rest of the efficiency and accountability bills over to the House. The House has yet to take action. Mid-week the Governor had a meeting with House and Senate Leadership to attempt to work out a resolution.

In the meantime, a bi-partisan group of Senate and House transportation members met and worked out language for a current law Transportation budget. That budget is scheduled to be debated on the Senate floor today. Senator Snyder stated to a local reporter that the Senate would take up the general fund budget, the capital budget, and the current law transportation budget and go home. Stay tuned for next week!

For questions or comments, please contact Jackie White (WSAC staff).
Senate Committee passes operating budget
(Continued from page 1)
this version of the budget bringing it below the one they passed during the regular session. It cuts the basic health plan enrollments by 8,210 clients. It reduces the COLA’s for state employees. And, it lowers the use of the LEOFF 1 surplus reserves by $125 million. There will still be over $700 million in restricted and unrestricted reserves for unanticipated expenditures or revenue reductions.

Federal Grant for Young Offender Program

NACo staff Sally McElroy sent out the following article on a new federal grant program for young offenders offered through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHS). Their web site is http://www.samhsa.gov/news/click11_frame.html

The Young Offender Initiative: Reentry Grant Program is intended to enhance community safety through the successful reintegration to the community of offenders ages 14 to 35, who have been confined for a minimum of 12 consecutive months for adults or 6 consecutive months for juveniles. The programs will use a coordinated and comprehensive continuum of supervision, programs, and services to help members of the target population:

• Become productive, responsible, and law-abiding citizens;
• Obtain and retain long-term employment;
• Maintain a stable residence; and
• Successfully address their substance abuse issues and mental health needs.

Approximately $79 million is available to fund approximately 25 grants of up to $3.1 million each to applicants that demonstrate a collaborative effort and broad-based community support. This is a joint program of the Employment and Training Administration (ETA), U.S. Department of Labor; Office of Justice Programs (OJP), U.S. Department of Justice; and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The Departments of Labor, Justice, and Health and Human Services are requesting applications for the Young Offender Initiative: Reentry Grant Program.

DATES: Applications must be received by October 1, 2001, by 5:30 p.m. Eastern Standard Time.

ADDRESSES: All applications must be mailed or delivered to the Corrections Program Office, Office of Justice Programs, 810 7th Street, NW, 8th Floor, Washington, DC 20531. Faxed or e-mailed applications will not be accepted.

Interested applicants may obtain general information about the Young Offender Initiative: Reentry Grant Program Application Package, which includes the Program Announcement, required forms, and instructions on how to apply, from the U.S. Department of Justice Response Center at 1-800-421-6770.


For general information, contact the DOJ Response Center at 1-800-421-6770.

In addition, the partnering agencies may be contacted for substantive assistance. For justice-related issues, contact Naydine Fulton-Jones, CPO/OJP, 1-800-638-8736, ext. 46661, e-mail: jonesn@ojp.usdoj.gov. For workforce-related issues, contact Susan Rosenblum, DOL, (202) 693-3597, e-mail: sroenblum@dole.gov. For mental health-related issues, contact David Morrissette, CMHS, SAMHSA, (301) 443-2826, e-mail: dmorris@samhsa.gov. For substance abuse treatment-related issues, contact Bruce Fry, CSAT, SAMHSA, (301) 443-0128, e-mail: bfry@SAMHSA.gov.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases on the Rise

Public complacency and relaxed attitudes about risk of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) may be contributing to a rise in STDs in Washington. The number of reported gonorrhea cases has more than doubled in Snohomish County this year, with girls in their teens and early 20s and men in their mid to late 20s particularly hard hit, according to an article in the Everett Herald. The Snohomish Health District is recommending that physicians seeing women who are 30 or younger for a gynecological exam screen for both gonorrhea and chlamydia, another STD also being reported more frequently.

The increase in the number of gonorrhea cases follows local and national trends of STDs making a resurgence. Increases in syphilis, gonorrhea and chlamydia among gay men in King county have increased so fast during the past two years that health officials said...
Sexually Transmitted Diseases (Continued from page 2)

in March they had reached epidemic lev-

The upsurge of gonorrhea appears to be primarily among heterosexuals, based upon reports of where the disease was found in the body. What health officials are seeing in the increases is that it isn’t just one group. It’s both men and women, gay and straight.

An article in the Seattle Time noted that on Tuesday, health officials marked the 20-year anniversary of the first AIDS diagnoses. Today, with the cocktail drugs, people with AIDS are living longer. The public no longer hears so much about the devastating affects of AIDS and perhaps many people don’t worry so much about it. Perhaps young people believe more in their “immortality” than the need to protect themselves from STDs. Interviews in the article indicate that these attitudes might be the case.

Whatever the reasons, resurgence in STDs once again tells public health officials that the need for continued vigilance in on-going surveillance and prevention efforts has not diminished.

King County Housing Authority Calls for Help

Rhonda Rosenberg of the King County Housing Authority offered the following article:

Bush’s Proposed FY 2002 Budget Eviscerates Public Housing

Your Help is Needed to Ensure Public Housing Remains a Viable Resource for Poor Households

President Bush’s proposed FY 2002 housing budget seriously threatens the capacity of housing authorities to provide effective housing resources for our most vulnerable people. The cuts to the Public Housing Capital Fund and Public Housing Drug Elimination Program (PHDEP) alone will adversely affect a large number of low-income people.

If adopted by Congress, here’s what the proposed Bush budget would do:

- Slash the Public Housing Capital Fund by $700 million (25 percent),
- Abolish the Drug Elimination Program, a cut of $310 million, and
- Significantly underfund Public Housing Operations.

Cuts to the Capital Fund

Capital Funds are essential to resident welfare and to the preservation of a significant public asset: the nation’s public housing stock. Unlike private rental property owners, housing authorities are not allowed to establish replacement reserves to fund significant capital improvements to their properties, nor can they increase the rents to cover these costs. Instead, HUD provides funding to housing authorities each year through the Public Housing Capital Fund to address these needs.

Most housing authorities have an extensive backlog of unmet capital needs. The King County Housing Authority, for example would lose $1.8 million – money that was slated to be spent on the installation of fire sprinklers and better fire alarm systems in complexes that serve senior and disabled residents. Contact your local housing authority to find out what a 25 percent cut to the Capital Fund would mean to your county.

Maintaining public housing is a “pay me now or pay me later” proposition. Improperly maintained and deteriorating developments are costly to operate and shortchanging our seniors, disabled individuals, and families and a bane to their neighborhoods.

Abolition of the Public Housing Drug Elimination Program

The Drug Elimination Program, has been a highly successful program for:

- the residents whose lives have been safeguarded,
- the police who have been able to carry their services not only into the developments but into the daily lives of residents and their children,
- the surrounding neighborhoods which have also benefited from increased police presence and significant reductions in crime, and
- the young people whose lives have been re-directed from drugs into meaningful pursuits.

The Drug Elimination Program has allowed housing authorities to partner with local law enforcement agencies to provide community policing in public housing communities. PHDEP funding also supports a variety of enrichment activities including recreation, computer skills development, snacks and homework assistance for youth, provided by nonprofit agencies such as the Boys & Girls Clubs. These programs provide safe, supervised environments as well as educational support for youth from low-income working families.

These programs have been in place for about a decade and have proven to be highly effective. In King County, for example, crime rates have markedly declined in public housing communities, in some instances by as much as 61 percent!

If PHDEP funds are cut, the likelihood that other funding sources could be found to continue these programs is unlikely. Contact your local housing authority to determine if it receives Drug Elimination Program funding. If it does, find out what the impact of losing this program would mean to the public housing communities in your county.

Cuts to the Operating Fund

To provide housing at rents that very low-income families, the elderly and the disabled can afford, housing authorities require federal operating subsidies to cover basic annual operating costs such as utilities, maintenance and staff. The Bush Administration’s proposed $150 million increase in the Operating Fund for FY 2002, actually represents a serious decrease in funding to this program. It assumes that the $310 million Drug Elimination Program can be absorbed by the Operating Fund and it does not come close to covering projected energy cost increases (estimated conservatively at $350 million), much less normal inflationary pressures on the operating budget of any business.

As we all know, energy costs are skyrocketing. To implement mandated utility allowance increases for public housing residents, housing authorities are encountering significant Public Housing Operating Fund shortfalls. For the King County Housing Authority, for example, the shortfall amounts to more

(Continued on page 4)
King County Housing Authority
Calls for Help
(Continued from page 3)

than $500,000 annually -- a loss of income from which housing authorities cannot make up the difference unless they cut critical services.

Unless adequate funding is made available to reimburse housing authorities for the extensive financial losses they are experiencing this year, public housing authorities and their residents may find themselves having to choose between keeping up with routine maintenance, providing critical services to residents and communities and keeping the heat on.

Please check with your local housing authority to learn more about how these cuts will affect your communities. Then contact your Congressional delegation and urge them to support full funding for Public Housing programs.

News in Brief
Seeking Western Washington County to Host 2004 Summer Convention

Bids for the 2004 Summer Convention will be reviewed by the WSAC Board of Directors at their meeting on Tuesday, June 12, at the 95th Annual Summer Convention in Yakima. Bids must be received in the WSAC office no later than Friday, June 8.

Association bylaws direct that the Convention alternate between eastern and western locations. 2004 is a Western Washington venue. The bid materials are to include a letter of the commissioners’ intent to host the meeting and information about the properties that meet the Association requirements. In-person presentations at the board meeting are always welcome. Requirements for the Summer Convention include a MINIMUM of 225 guest-rooms and 9 meeting rooms, ranging in capacity from 35 to 300.

Contact Kim Zydek at the WSAC office, (360) 753-1886, or e-mail kzydek@wacounties.org, for more information.

Bremerton-Kitsap Board of Health Names New Director

Since Dr. Willa Fisher announced her retirement plans, the Bremerton-Kitsap Board of Health has been searching for her replacement. That search has culminated in the hiring of Scott W. Lindquist, MD, MPH as the new Director of Health for the Bremerton-Kitsap Health District. Dr. Lindquist starts work on July 23rd.

Lindquist is a native of Washington State, Dr. Lindquist currently serves as a pediatrician at Emmanual Children’s Hospital in Portland, Oregon, where he works in the Pediatric Infectious Disease Program. He provides consultation on pediatric tuberculosis for the Oregon Sate Health Division and the Southwest Washington Health District. He has also worked on the Oregon State pandemic influenza plan and has a special interest in bioterrorism and communicable disease outbreak investigation and control. As a pediatrician, Dr. Lindquist’s public health focus has been in maternal and child health issues, specifically disease prevention (immunizations, tobacco, gun safety, and accident prevention). Dr. Lindquist obtained his medical degree from the University of Washington in 1992, completed a pediatric residency at the University of North Carolina and a Pediatric Infectious Diseases Fellowship at Baylor College of Medicine, Houston. He completed his Masters in Public Health degree from Harvard University in 1998. He is certified by the American Board of Pediatrics and is a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society.

Bald Eagle may be De-Listed as Threatened Species

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is beginning a 90-day public review period to evaluate whether the bald eagle should be reclassified from a state threatened species to a state sensitive species; and to evaluate proposed changes to the Bald Eagle Protection Rules.

Listig or delisting of a species is based solely on the biological status of the species. The purpose of public comment on the Draft Washington State Status Report on the Bald Eagle is to allow interested persons to submit new scientific information which applies to the status report and listing recommendation, and to comment on the Department’s interpretation of information.

The public review period extends from June 1 to September 1, 2001. Copies of the report are available at the Department’s regional offices and at Olympia headquarters and at www.wa.gov/wdfw. A copy of the draft status report can also be obtained by request from wildthing@dshw.wa.gov. Comments should be mailed to Endangered Species Section Manager, WDFW, 600 Capitol Way N., Olympia, WA 98501-1091.

WASPC Elects New Officers

The Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) met recently in Tacoma at their 77th Semi-Annual Conference. Congratulations are in order for the sheriffs who were elected to leadership of WASPC for the coming year: Whatcom County Sheriff Dale Brandland, President; Douglas County Sheriff Dan LaRoche, Vice President; and, Executive Board members, Stevens County Sheriff Craig Thayer, Pacific County Sheriff John Didion, and King County Sheriff Dave Reichert.

Lincoln County Sheriff Rewards Kids for Wearing Safety Belts

Lincoln Hospital & the Lincoln County Sheriff’s Department are offering a reward to kids under 18 who are “caught” wearing their seatbelts or bike & skating helmets this summer. They believe that safe kids are smart kids and should be rewarded for their safe thinking with free ice cream.

As they are out on patrol, Lincoln County Sheriff’s Deputies will be handing out certificates for a free small ice cream cone. Certificates are good through September 15, 2001 and redeemable at selected restaurants in the county.

Riding the Rapids of Change with Confidence!

Internationally known business coach and author, John Scherer, will teach you how to achieve goals in the government setting by creating people-based strategies. This training is for elected and appointed officials, administrators, and department managers.

Free training for WCRP Member Counties, $35 for Non-member Agencies. July 17, 1-5 pm, at the WestCoast Grand Hotel in Spokane.

For more information, contact the Washington Counties Risk Pool at (360) 586-7447 or email Kitty Bottenmiller, kitty@wcrp.wa.gov.
Shorelines/GMA/CAO Issue Continues to Breathe

WSAC and AWC continue to work with a bi-partisan group of House and Senate members who are attempting to hammer out a bill that will resolve the concerns around Shorelines, Growth Management Comp plan and critical area ordinance timelines and funding. Various meetings took place throughout the week but in the end agreement on a solution was still absent. The bi-partisan group still holds out a glimmer of hope that something can be worked out during the special session. As a back-up position, the Senate State and Local Government Committee will hold a public hearing on SB 5481 that would extend the dead-
lines for GMA comp plans and critical area ordinances for Counties and Cities. The hearing is scheduled for Monday, June 11 @ 1:30 pm in Senate Hearing Room 3. Please contact Jackie White, WSAC staff, for more information.

Coming Events

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

June 14
WCRP (Washington Counties Risk Pool) 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

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

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

June 20-22
Washington State Association of County Auditors Annual Conference, Quality Inn, Clarkston

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

June 23-27
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
ACHS (Association of County Human Services) Meeting, Port Angeles

July 19-20
CRABoard Meeting, CRAB Office, Olympia

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

September 10-11
Washington State Assn of County Treasurers’ Legislative Meeting, Summit Inn, Snoqualmie Pass

September 19-21
Washington Finance Officers Association 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, Silverdale

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

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

November 14
WCIF Board Meeting, in conjunction with WSAC Fall Legislative Conference, 10 am - 12 pm

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

June 18-21, 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

DOH SEEKING ACTING EPIDEMIOLOGIST FOR COMMUNICABLE DISEASE. The Washington State Department of Health is seeking an acting State Epidemiologist for Communicable Disease. The acting appointment will be from August 2001 to July 2002. The position requires a medical (MD) epidemiologist with experience in supervising a section or unit and in performing communicable disease outbreak investigations. Communicable disease epidemiology experience in a state or large city/county health department is desirable. The position supervises the Communicable Disease Epidemiology Section, which is located in the State Public Health Laboratories in Seattle. The section is responsible for acute infectious disease surveillance and outbreak investigations. The salary will be up to $8000 per month depending on experience. Applicants should submit by June 22, 2001, a letter of interest and a CV highlighting relevant experience to Jac Davies, Assistant Secretary, Division of Epidemiology, Health Statistics, and Public Health Laboratories at 1510 NE 150th St., Seattle, WA 98155 or jac.davies@doh.wa.gov. Inquiries should be directed to Jac at (206) 361-4883.

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THE CENTER FOR MULTICULTURAL HEALTH SEEKING A COMMUNITY HEALTH NURSE. The Center for Multicultural Health is a non-profit organization addressing the health needs of low income and underserved individuals in Seattle-King County. Will supervise and monitor the daily activities of the project, including supervising and supporting the Health Educator, Outreach Assistant and a team of trained volunteers to produce deliverables and prepare reports. The Community Health Nurse reports to the Executive Director of the Center for Multicultural Health. Salary is $35,000 and requires a Bachelor of Arts degree in public health or other health related education, two years experience conducting trainings, workshops or seminars in the areas of health and wellness topics, at least 3 years nursing or medical assistant experience (registered or License Nurse preferred), two to three years experience supervising and evaluating staff and volunteers, experience planning and developing projects, and conducting outreach efforts targeted to the African American community, ability to work weekends and evenings, and a Washington State Drivers License. Send resume and cover letter to CMCH, 105 14th Avenue, Suite 2C, Seattle, WA 98122. Closing date: June 22, 2001.

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STATE BOARD OF HEALTH SEEKING A HEALTH POLICY ANALYST. This position is a full-time position (may consider hiring 2 part-time) paying $44,184 - $56,568 depending on qualifications. The position reports to the Executive Director of the State Board of Health and serves as the lead in coordinating specific public health policy issues investigation and analysis, may draft or assist in amending rules, and conducts regulatory analysis for the State Board of Health. This position serves as a project manager for specific priority projects adopted by the Board and may oversee the work of consultants. The position will be responsible for general advanced project planning, development and management, and uses analytic problem solving skills in analyzing the analysis and interpretation of data to answer policy related questions. Desirable qualifications include a Master’s Degree in Public Health, Environmental Studies or Sciences, Public Administration, or closely allied field and two years experience in public health policy analysis, health care related project management. A Bachelor’s Degree will be considered if applicant demonstrates relevant in-depth knowledge and experience. Application should be received by 5:00 p.m., June 29, 2001. For additional information, contact the Washington State Board of Health at (360) 236-4100.

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STEVENS COUNTY 9-1-1 COMMUNICATIONS. Accepting applications to establish an Eligibility Roster for the position of 911 Dispatcher/Supervisor. A detailed job description and application can be obtained by contacting the Stevens County Sheriff’s Office at PO Box 186 (215 S. Oak), Colville, WA 99114 (509) 684-5296. To be considered, applications must be received - in hand - no later than 4:30 pm on Monday, June 18, 2001. Stevens County Communications is an Equal Opportunity Employer and a Drug-Free Workplace.

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SNOHOMISH COUNTY LAW LIBRARY, Law Librarian and Director. Salary range: $43,000 to $48,000 per year, full benefits. Under the direction of a Board of Trustees plans, develops, promotes and directs the operations of the Snohomish County Law Library services. Knowledge of current law library and/or public library service, organization, procedures, equipment and technologies including library computer applications to enhance library administration and services is required. Also required are strong interpersonal, oral and written communications skills; ability to deal effectively with the general public. Grant writing experience and a working knowledge of the non-profit corporation is recommended. An MLS from an ALA accredited program is required. Three to five year’s experience in library administration is required and three to five years experience in a law library environment is required. A JD is recommended but not required. Send cover letter, resume and references to: Carol Best, Director, Snohomish County Law Library, 300 Rockefeller, MS 703, Everett, WA 98201. Closing date: August 31, 2001.

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WHITMAN COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT is seeking to fill the position of County Engineer. This is a professional engineering work, planning, administering, and coordinating all engineering and associated activities related to County roads. This work involves the exercise of considerable independent judgment and discretion in the interpretation, application and enforcement of laws, regulations and County policies applicable to road design, construction and maintenance activities. Work will involve considerable contact with state inspectors and agencies, public and private officials, local governments, County departments and the general public. The County Engineer works with, and reports directly to, the Director of Public Works and the Board of Commissioners. Required: BA in Civil Engineering or related field. Licensed P.E. in the State of Washington. Valid WA State Driver's License. Preferred: Three years of progressively responsible professional and supervisory engineering work experience involving a variety of assignments associated with the design, construction or maintenance of roads and bridges. Starting Salary: $3631.3967 per month plus benefits. Closing Date: Until filled. For an application contact Whitman County Human Resources, 402 North Main Street, Colfax, WA 99111 or call (509) 397-6205. AA/EOE.