**Correction**

There was an error in last week’s unofficial primary election results. Current Adams County Assessor Dave Anderson (R) won his bid for office in the assessor’s race. The unofficial numbers were inadvertently switched around. Dave received 1,288 votes and his opponent Steve McPherson (R), received 893 votes.

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**WACO 43rd Annual Conference**

WACO staff will be out of the office the week of October 1-5 for the 43rd Annual Conference of the Washington Association of County Officials, in Port Ludlow. As usual, WSAC staff will be handling phone calls and taking messages. If you need to contact WACO or any county officials at the conference, please call the Port Ludlow Resort at 1-800-732-1239 and ask for the registration desk.

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**Shoreline Negotiations Planned**

Officials representing the state, environmentalists and business interests today announced that they will attempt to negotiate an agreement on new shorelines guidelines for the state.

On August 27, the state Shorelines Hearings Board invalidated shoreline management guidelines adopted last November by the state Department of Ecology. The rules, intended to protect 20,000 miles of freshwater and saltwater shorelines, were challenged by various business, local-government and private interests.

The state and other parties had 30 days to decide whether to appeal the board’s decision. At a meeting last Friday, state Attorney General Christine Gregoire, Ecology Director Tom Fitzsimmons, Association of Washington Business President Don Brunell and Washington Environmental Council President Jay Manning expressed interest in seeking a settlement. While they explore that possibility, the parties will file separate appeals to protect their legal standing in the case.

In a brief statement, the four said: “We want to try to resolve this issue without expensive, divisive and time-consuming litigation. We believe there are some misperceptions about the guidelines that need to be clarified, and we are willing to attempt to resolve our differences over other provisions. It is in everyone’s interests to have clear, reasonable, workable guidelines in place as soon as possible that carry out Washington’s Shoreline Management Act.”

Former Washington State Supreme Court Justice Richard Guy and Bill Ross, a Seattle consultant and mediator, have agreed to help launch the negotiation effort.

WSAC will make clear to the Attorney General and other parties that any resolution acceptable to counties must include full funding for adoption and implementation.

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**DNR Timber Counties to Meet**

Counties with state managed timberland will meet on Thursday, October 4, 2001 with Commissioner of Public Lands Doug Sutherland and DNR staff. The agenda for the meeting includes the following:

10:00 a.m. Welcome and Opening Statements
10:40 a.m. DNR Management Accounts
How DNR Spends the FDA and why the management fee may be raised
12:10 p.m. Working Lunch

(Continued on page 2)
Federal Forest Fund Allocations Completed

The “Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000” provides increased and predictable funding for federal FY 2001-2006 to counties that have federal timberland.

Historically, states received 25 percent of Forest Service revenues and in Washington, counties received half of that amount with the other half distributed to school districts located in those counties. With the reduction in timber harvest over the last 10 years, overall payments to states and counties have dropped 36 percent. Also, payment amounts became highly variable since they were tied to fluctuating timber sales.

With the passage of PL 106-393, counties may elect to receive a “full payment amount” -- which is that county’s share of the state’s three highest payment years for the time period from 1986 to 1999. In addition, under PL 106-393 each county receiving greater than $100,000 annually is to allocate 15-20 percent of its full payment amount for investments in county projects or for forest projects that implement stewardship objectives to enhance forest ecosystems, or both - or return that portion to the U.S. Treasury. All of Washington’s eligible counties have made those determinations and have chosen to take the “full payment amount” - with the exception of Douglas County, which is forfeiting its de minimum annual payment.

The legislation does not, however, specify how Washington’s annual guarantee of $43.8 million dollars is to be allocated among the recipient counties. WSAC has informed the Governor and State Treasurer of the allocation split voted upon by counties this summer -- using the average of each county’s payments during the state’s 3 high payment years.

Some counties disagree strongly with that allocation decision. The Governor is considering, at this writing, whether to support the allocation decision made by the recipient counties or the average county payment over the entire 14-year HR 2389 period.

Every county also has made its decisions on allocating funds for Title II and Title III projects on or related to the forest land. Those decisions have been forwarded to the Governor who will transmit them to the USDA Forest Service. A copy of our letter to the Governor has been sent to each recipient county.

Good Things
King County Unveils Online Property Tax System

King County Executive Ron Sims has announced a new service designed to provide King County taxpayers with online access to their property tax information. The King County Property Tax Information System Web site at www.metrokc.gov/propertytaxes enables county citizens to access real-time property tax information from King County’s tax files. Residents can access property tax data for a parcel/account by entering their property tax parcel/account number, allowing them to view tax and value information related to the property.

The system provides taxpayers with information about payment due dates, current billing and payment information and includes payment records for the previous three years. Residents can obtain a copy of their tax statement, connect to a current listing of real property parcels that are in foreclosure, access a frequently-asked questions file providing answers to many property tax billing and collection questions, and find links to other tax-related sites.

In 1996, then-King County Council-member Ron Sims asked the County’s Information and Telecommunications Services (ITS) Division to begin research of an online property tax system. Since being elected County Executive, Sims has worked with department directors and other county elected officials to create a solid foundation for electronic government, providing citizens with unparalleled access to public information and services.

King County residents are reminded that their property tax account number or parcel number is located on their King County Property Tax Statement or their King County Assessor’s Valuation Change Notice. Residents can also access their property tax account/parcel numbers by calling the King County Department of Assessments, public information section at (206) 296-7300.
WSAC Legislative Conference
WSAC Secretary-Treasurer Candidacy Statement Sought

Members of the Washington State Association of Counties who are considering seeking a WSAC office are encouraged to submit their statements of candidacy for publication in the Courthouse Journal and on the WSAC website. Statements should be limited to four or five paragraphs.

While each of the three offices of the Association is technically open each Fall, practice has been for the Vice President to move to the Association Presidency automatically. The same is true for the Secretary-Treasurer to move to the Vice Presidency. If the practice continues Grant County Commissioner LeRoy Allison will be elected President in Silverdale during the Fall Legislative Conference and Pierce County Councilmember Harold Moss will be elected to Vice President.

Candidates for Secretary-Treasurer must be from the Association’s Eastern District. Statements will be published in the Courthouse Journal the week of arrival.

Courthouse Visits
Six Days on the Road…..

WSAC Executive Director Bill Vogler, Farmworker Housing Coordinator Jim Potts, and WACO Executive Director Debbie Wilke added ten more eastern Washington courthouses to their “hit” list last week when they spent time with county officials in Grant, Kittitas, Yakima, Benton, Franklin, Walla Walla, Columbia, Garfield, Asotin and Whitman Counties last week. Including recent visits to Thurston, Pacific, Wahkiakum, and Lewis Counties the visits total 23.

The round of courthouse visits began in mid-August. Each visit has proven a valuable opportunity for county officials and association staff alike. County officials can tell staff what is critical where they live and staff can better familiarize them with what WACO and WSAC can provide to make their jobs easier. Though counties share a multitude of common challenges, geography, industry, and other factors create unique issues for every one.

The Garfield County officials added an afternoon tour into the Blue Mountains with Forest Service personnel while in Walla Walla County, the visitors could actually “watch the paint dry” in the newly constructed Criminal Justice Building. More tours featured the historic Columbia County Courthouse, which has been meticulously restored to its original grandeur and the new Asotin County Annex, formerly the Renton Municipal Court. It was a clever “move” on the part of the Asotin County Commissioners.

Courthouse visits will resume on October 22nd.

News Briefs

County Treasurer Named in Kittitas County
County Commissioners have appointed Amy Mills as the new Kittitas County Treasurer, effective October 1. Amy has been the deputy clerk of the Board of County Commissioners for the past year, spent 10 years as a legal process assistant at the upper Kittitas County District Court, and also worked for the hospital district. She is replacing Bonnie Jump, who recently retired.

County Clerks Announce Change in Leadership
Rena Hollis, Skamania County Clerk, is the new president of the Washington State Association of County Clerks. The Association met in June for its annual conference, and Kitsap County Clerk Dean Logan, was elected president. Shortly thereafter, Dean took the position of Elections Director in the Secretary of State’s office. Following is the County Clerks’ new lineup. Terms are for two years.
- President: Rena Hollis, Skamania Co.
- Director of Committees: Marianne Walters, Jefferson County
- Director of Communications: Mike Killian, Franklin County
- Director of Education: Teri Nielsen, Cowlitz County
- Director of Legislation: Pam Daniels, Snohomish County
- WACO Representative: Siri Woods, Chelan County Clerk
- Past President: Betty Gould, Thurston County

New Public Safety Building Opening in Walla Walla County
Walla Walla County Prosecutor Jim Nagle and Sheriff Mike Humphreys will have a new home for their offices this month as finishing touches have been put on a 15,000-square-foot building right across the street from the Courthouse. The $2 million structure is a prefabricated building. The 20 modules, which form the building, were assembled with a crane, in July, and construction crews have been busy since finishing the building. WACO Executive Director Debbie Wilke and WSAC Executive Director Bill Vogler were in Walla Walla for a Courthouse visit and said that the new facility is fantastic. County commissioners agree and Jim Nagle says “Oh, it’s about 1,000 percent better than what we have now!”

NACRC Board Meets in Ocean Shores
Pierce County Auditor Cathy Pearssall-Stipek, President of the National Association of County Recorders, Election Officials and Clerks (NACRC), hosted their Fall Board meeting at the Quinault Beach Resort in Ocean Shores. NACRC is NACo’s largest affiliate group. Cathy invited her fellow County Auditors to attend the meeting and many were able to participate: Chelan County Auditor

(Continued on page 4)
Deadline Approaching for Hazard Mitigation Grants

Just a reminder that applications for the first round of grants in the federal Hazard Mitigation Grant Program are due by October 31, 2001. An estimated $20 million is available for local governments, state agencies, tribes, special purpose districts and certain registered non-profit organizations that provide government-like services and facilities.

All county emergency management departments should have received application materials and information about this competitive grant program, which is available as a result of the Nisqually earthquake. Applicant workshops also have been held across the state. Individual technical assistance still is available from the state Emergency Management Division, which is administering the program.

According to state Emergency Management staff, 18 counties have already submitted initial letters of intent – including some for multiple projects and some in partnership with other jurisdictions. These counties are: Clallam, Clark, Douglas, Island, Jefferson, King, Kitsap, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Pierce, Skagit, Snohomish, Spokane, Thurston, Walla Walla, Whatcom and Yakima.

For further information about the grants, or to request individual technical assistance, contact the Emergency Management Division at 360-596-3208.

Hazard mitigation is a sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk to people and property from natural hazards. Although funding for this grant program is in response to an earthquake, the mitigation grants are available statewide to address all types of natural hazards, including floods and wildfires.

The intent of the grant program is to reduce the risk of future damage, hardship, loss, or suffering caused by major disasters. Successful grant applicants will propose projects that independently reduce a community’s vulnerability to a hazard and the potential for damage in a disaster. For example, under a previous mitigation grant program related to flood disasters in northeast Washington, Ferry County received a grant to relocate buildings out of the floodway at the Ferry County Fairgrounds.

Funding for the current grant program is based on a percentage of the total loss attributable to the Nisqually earthquake, and currently is estimated to be about $20 million. The first round of grants will focus on funding specific projects; a second round of grants will address planning processes. The second application cycle is expected to begin in early 2002, according to state Emergency Management staff.

County Official Needed to Review Hazard Mitigation Grant Applications

The state Emergency Management Division is seeking a county commissioner or councilmember to help review applications for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (see article above). The ad hoc position is temporary, probably involving at least one meeting in late autumn and a personal time commitment of at least several hours.

State staff will initially review all applications for completeness, then the independent review committee will score and rank the applications based on objective criteria. The review committee will include representatives of state and local government as well as private industry. The county representative on the committee cannot be from a county applying for grant funding.

Interested commissioners and councilmembers should contact WSAC staff Sophia Byrd at sbyrd@wacounties.org or 360-753-1886.

Courthouse Ramblings.....

- Yakima County Treasurer Nancy Davidson has announced that she will not seek a fourth term as county treasurer next year. Nancy has been with the treasurer’s office since October 1985, and was elected to three terms as the county treasurer, beginning in 1991.

- Snohomish County Auditor Bob Terwilliger has announced that his new Recording Manager, effective October 1, will be Lisa Goldsworthy. Lisa has been with Thurston County as Recording Manager, and most recently as chief deputy. She will be replacing Diana Bradrick, who is the new Deputy State Archivist.

- Grant County Clerk Ken Kunes underwent emergency surgery in Spokane earlier this week at Sacred Heart Hospital and has been extremely ill. He will be hospitalized at least a week or more. We will miss him at the WACO Conference (he is running for Position 3 on the WACO Board), and wish for him a speedy and quick recovery.
Submitted by Washington State Lt. Governor Brad Owens

Lt. Governor Brad Owens Calls for Balanced Approach to Substance Abuse

Recently there has been a lot of discussion in the media about how our “war on drugs” is failing and how we must rethink our drug strategy. Frankly, I don’t believe there has ever been a war on drugs—if there had been, we would be fighting battles, fully funded, on all fronts—and we would not even think about giving up until the enemy (substance abuse) had been totally defeated.

In Washington State we have rethought our strategy and developed a plan we liken to a three-legged stool with the legs of the stool representing prevention, treatment, and law enforcement efforts. Each leg must be equal to the others if the stool is to be balanced and stable enough to bear the weight of communities’ substance abuse reduction needs. If any one leg is reduced in size, the stool becomes unstable, and unable to support the platform of substance abuse solutions.

We cannot continue to be reactionary, moving our funding and support from one leg of the stool to another. Neither can we continue to keep shifting our support to whatever happens to be the hot-button substance of the hour. From alcohol to marijuana, methamphetamine to ecstasy—every mind-altering substance deserves equal and immediate attention. There are no quick fixes or overnight solutions to the substance abuse problem. The effort to eliminate substance abuse in our communities requires a strong commitment and long-term collaborative effort, linking government policy actions with those of community organizations and individuals.

Sustained support for proven community and state prevention programs are a vital element for creating a state free from substance abuse. We have identified scientific-based programs that have been proven to work, and studies have shown that when we dedicate resources to funding these programs, substance abuse decreases. Yet every year, individuals, communities, even agency-sponsored substance abuse programs are forced to beg for funding to keep their programs operating. This cannot continue if our efforts to reduce substance abuse are to be effective!

Creating and maintaining an environment that is free from substance abuse takes dedication, strategic action and perseverance. Substance abuse will never be eliminated as long as the primary focus is placed on stemming the supply without properly addressing the need to reduce demand through prevention and treatment. Unlike others, I do not advocate nor do I support removal of any funds from our treatment centers or from our law enforcement agencies to prevention or vice versa. Each of these individual elements is essential in the on-going battle. Fear of punishment still has an inhibiting effect on many people, keeping them from starting down the wrong path. It is also a hammer hanging over the head of our citizens who have been remanded into treatment programs, often preventing relapse and deeper involvement in substance abuse. However, the “legs” of treatment and law enforcement are much more widely touted, and hence more adequately funded, than prevention.

It appears that President George W. Bush was thinking along these lines when in October of 2000, while campaigning for President, he vowed to “turn back the tide of drug abuse.” He was proposing a five-year, $2.767 billion package that included a Parent Drug Corps. This would be designed to provide $25 million over 5 years to nonprofit groups dedicated to training parents in effective drug prevention. An admirable plan, and one that can only help make the prevention “leg” of our stool stronger, and an example of the kind of government action that I feel is necessary to support prevention efforts.

Because young people are so strongly influenced by community norms and standards, and by the examples set by parents and the other key adult role models in their lives, it will take more than targeting policies and programs toward youth to effectively reduce substance abuse. As the Washington State Governor’s Council on Substance Abuse states, “we must support approaches that create strong, positive social choices and drug-abuse free environments”. Likewise, we must provide adequate treatment and diversion programs for adults.

We must provide prevention and early intervention approaches that support strong families and promote positive parenting, and we must work to stop the manufacture and flow of dangerous drugs into our communities.

I applaud all the current and past efforts to reduce substance abuse. Every child who makes a choice to remain drug-free after participating in a school or community program, every person who comes out of a treatment program with the tools needed to fight addiction and substance abuse, every dealer and manufacturer taken into custody—these are all victories. And with commitment, perseverance and resolve, we must continue to increase the success of these efforts.

The citizens of Washington State have a right to safe communities and lives free from the effects of substance abuse. This can only happen when collectively government and communities begin to treat prevention, enforcement and treatment as equals in the attempt to eradicate substance abuse.
Coming Events

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

October 2
“Headaches & Heartburn: A Prescription for Issues That Cause Counties Pain!” Port Ludlow Resort, Port Ludlow 9:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

October 8-9
Cost Allocation Training, Sponsored by Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys Support Enforcement Project, Red Lion Hotel, Wenatchee

October 11-12
WSAC Western District Meeting, Super 8 Motel, Long Beach

October 16-17
Cost Allocation Training, Sponsored by Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys Support Enforcement Project, West Coast Tri-cities Hotel, Kennewick

October 18-19
CRAB Board Meeting, CRAB Office, Olympia

October 25-26
Washington State Assn of Local Public Health Officials, Local Boards of Health Leadership Workshop (“Emerging Public Health Officials”, Red Lion Hotel, Wenatchee)
Employment Opportunities

CENTRAL SERVICES DIRECTOR - Okanogan County is seeking a highly skilled and motivated individual to direct its Central Services Department. Okanogan County is located on the eastern slopes of the rugged North Cascades, and offers wide-open spaces teeming with wildlife, spectacular scenery and rural charm. It features a diverse blend of snow-covered peaks and peaceful river valleys. The Director is expected to implement and maintain sound organizational practices to provide and support information systems and telecommunications technologies to facilitate the County’s operations. Plan, schedule, direct and supervise four full-time professional employees in maintaining and troubleshooting hardware and software, and training users on an extensive Local Area Network. This position also oversees the operation of a telephone PBX/voice mail system with more than 250 users and averaging over 53,000 calls per month. The Applicants must have a BA or BS degree in computer science, business administration, public administration, or closely related field and five years of progressively responsible experience including two years in a supervisory or managerial capacity; or a combination of education and experience which provides knowledge, skills and abilities sufficient to successfully perform the duties of the job. Starting salary is $55,000 or more DOQ. Interested persons are invited to request an application packet from the Okanogan County Department of Human Resources at P.O. Box 791, Okanogan, WA. 98840. A completed application with cover letter and resume must be received by the Department of Human Resources no later than 5:00 p.m. October 26, 2001. For further information, or to request an application packet call Dan Powers, HR Director at (509) 422-7104, email: dpowers@co.okanogan.wa.us. Okanogan County is an equal opportunity employer. http://www.okanogancounty.org

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STATE OF WASHINGTON - Lease Purchase Program Specialist. The Office of the State Treasurer (OST) seeks a Lease/Purchase Program Specialist. Duties include: hands on administration of the state school bond credit enhancement program, responsibility for the Lease/Purchase database and participation in the administration of the state and local lease/purchase programs. Qualifications: advanced Access database skills (query, report writing and data entry) and strong spreadsheet experience. Also required are solid organizational and communication skills. Governmental finance experience preferred. Competitive salary DOQ. Application Deadline October 5, 2001. For application information, visit the OST website at: www.wa.gov/tre, or contact Jeanne Ray, Personnel Officer, OST, POB 40200, Olympia, WA 98504-0200; phone (360) 902-9009; email: jeanne@tre.wa.gov. An Equal Opportunity Employer M/F/D/V

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ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS JUDGE, Environmental Hearings Office, Lacey WA - Open until filled - one possibly two positions with interviews anticipated in early to mid-November. The EHO (Environmental Hearings Office) provides support to four independent boards which hear appeals of environmental decisions made by various state and local agencies. These boards are the Pollution Control Hearings Board (PCHB), the Shorelines Hearings Board (SHB), the Forest Practices Appeals Board (FPAB) and the Hydraulic Appeals Board (HAB). Project Description: the Administrative appeals Judge (AAJ) is a staff position reporting to the EHO Director. The majority of appeals in the EHO are before the PCHB and the SHB. The Director assigns the role of presiding officer in all appeals to the four boards, among the three full-time PCHB members and the AAJ’s. The duties of the position of presiding officer involve the overall management of the appeal, from filing to disposition. The AAJ will be expected to serve as mediator in specific appeals, as assigned by the Mediation Coordinator. The AAJ can be expected to assist board members with legal research upon approval of the Director. Additionally, the Director may
assign the AAJ other duties relating to administrative or legislative matters in support of the agency. The AAJ must be an attorney, licensed to practice in Washington with a demonstrated knowledge of environment law and procedures. Experience in litigation, as an adjudicator or presiding officer is desirable. Interest applicants should submit a letter of interest; a current résumé outlining educational background, names of employers, dates of employment, scope of responsibilities in past and present positions; and three employment references with current telephone numbers. To ensure consideration or for further job description or information please contact the Environmental Hearings Office, 4224 6th Avenue SE, Bldg 2, P.O. Box 40903, Lacey, WA 98504-0903, Attention: Robert V. Jensen, Director. Résumé packets also may be submitted via facsimile transmission or e-mail as follows: FAX: (360) 438-7699, e-mail: robertj@eho.wa.gov. The Environmental Hearings Office is an equal opportunity employer. Women, racial and ethnic minorities, persons with disabilities, persons over 40 years of age, and disabled and Vietnam era veterans are encouraged to apply. For reasonable accommodations please contact Judy Greear (360) 459-6328.

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NETWORK ADMINISTRATOR, COMPUTER APPLICATIONS, Yakima County - Salary: $3,580 per month. Requirements: Bachelor’s degree in Computer Science or related and five years computer network and communication system’s experience OR any equivalent combination of experience and training which demonstrates the possession of the required knowledge, skills and abilities. Description of Duties: the Network Administrator performs a variety of complex activities involving administration of the County’s Local Area Networks, Wide Area Network and voice communication system. The position provides technical assistance to users and management on networking issues. Apply at Yakima County Human Resources Department, 128 North 2nd Street, Room 412 Courthouse, Yakima, WA 98901, (509) 574-2220, human.resources@co.yakima.wa.us or www.co.yakima.wa.us. Yakima County is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer.