Preliminary County Legislative Wrap-Up Available Soon

Due to popular demand, a preliminary legislative wrap-up providing an overview of all legislation of interest to counties will be available and sent to WSAC and WACO members early in the week of March 25. This will provide an early heads-up on what action the legislature took. A final version, reflecting action by the Governor, including vetoes and session law citations will be distributed shortly after April 5, the final day for gubernatorial action.

Scholarship Odds Beat the Lottery

Dependent children of county employees have a chance of about 1 in 55 of winning a $1500 award for the 2002/03 school year. Eligible students have until April 8 to apply for one of five Washington Counties Scholarships.

What does eligible mean? Students must be dependents of county employees who will be enrolled full-time in a baccalaureate degree, associate degree, or vocational/technical certificate program during the next school year. Students who are not eligible are children of WACO and WSAC Executive Board members, Scholarship Committee members, and, substantial contributors to the Fund.

What do they have to do to win? Apply now! Completed applications must be postmarked no later than April 8.

Where do you get an application? Call WACO or WSAC or print one off the web. The application can be found at www.wacounties.org/waco. Just click on Washington Counties Scholarships.

What does completed mean? A complete application includes the signed application form; a separate sheet listing activities, honors and awards; two letters of recommendation; a personal statement (limit 300 words); and a sealed transcript of the student’s most recent grades. The personal statement is very important! No pictures please!

The Washington Counties Scholarship Fund is a joint endeavor of WACO and WSAC.

Hurry! You could have a winner at your house!
Of Interest to County Treasurers
SB 6466, the Treasurers’ Association cleanup bill is awaiting the Governor’s signature. HB 2467, requiring the county treasurer to remit to a taxing district with its own treasurer that district’s pro rata share of the previous month’s taxes by the 10th of the next month. Signed by the Governor. SHB 2169, relating to fire districts’ options for issuing warrants. The bill has a $250,000 minimum above which the option to pay funds by warrants is permitted, and is awaiting the Governor’s signature. HB 2571, authorizing port districts that have their own treasurer to pay claims or other obligations by check or warrant. Awaiting Governor’s signature.

Leasehold Excise Tax
SHB 1521, authorizing the State Treasurer to distribute interest from the local leasehold excise tax account to counties and cities, is on the Governor’s desk.

State Investment Board
HB 2365, increasing the size of the state investment board from 14 to 15. The new member will be an active member of the school employees’ retirement system. The bill is on the Governor’s desk.

NACo Collecting County Comments on New Homeland Security Alert System
Following its release last week of a new “Homeland Security Advisory System,” the White House Office of Homeland Security (OHS) is asking state and local officials to review the terrorism-alert system and provide comments within 45 days. Emergency management officials in every county should already have received a fact sheet on the new warning system.

OHS has asked NACo to coordinate county review of the new color-coded warning grid. County comments may be submitted to HSASComments@naco.org or faxed to Jeff Arnold, NACo deputy legislative director, at 202-942-4281. The deadline to submit comments is April 12, 2002.

The new system is intended to provide law enforcement and the public a clear sense of the risk of terrorist activity. The warnings identify five levels of risk: green, which denotes a low risk of terrorist attack; blue, for a general risk; yellow, for a significant risk; orange for a high risk; and red, for a severe risk. According to the OHS, the advisory system will be the foundation for building a comprehensive and effective communications structure for disseminating terrorism information to all levels of government and the general public.

In the planning stages for several months, the new plan was developed after complaints about the vagueness of four general alerts the federal government has issued since the September 11 attacks.

The system is being adopted immediately by the federal government, and while the OHS does not require counties to adopt the new system it is asking counties to at least use a compatible warning system.

State Grants Available for County Jails — Apply Now
The 2001-03 state capital budget appropriates $3.5 million to assist with local jail expansion projects, including planning. The state Department of Corrections is managing these grant funds and last week sent an announcement of the application process to every county. These grants are separate from the Violent Offender Incarceration/Truth in Sentencing (VOITIS) grants. VOITIS announcements also will be sent soon.

The RFP request deadline is April 5, 2002 and the final proposal deadline is May 24, 2002. Late applications will not be accepted.

RFP packets must be requested in writing. Fax or email a request for CRFP 5655 to Barbara Parry at 360-664-2009 or bparry@doc1.wa.gov. RFP packets will be mailed. Eligible applicants are cities, counties, and Indian tribes responsible for incarcerating or detaining offenders within Washington state.

Of the state appropriation, a minimum of 75 percent may be awarded for construction and a maximum of 25 percent may be awarded for planning. Individual jurisdictions may receive up to $500,000 each for construction and $50,000 each for planning. Total funding is limited to $500,000 per jurisdiction. All other factors being equal, priority will be given to (Continued on page 3)
Bills Passed of Interest to County Auditors

SB 6529, modifying the time period for holding elections to fill vacancies (Auditors’ Association recommendation). Awaiting the Governor’s signature. SSB 6572, specifying that elections of conservation district supervisors are to be conducted according to the conservation district chapter election process and not under Title 29. A seven-member work group must review conservation district election procedures. The chair will be a county auditor, appointed by the president of the County Auditors’ Association. WSAC will also have a member on the work group. Signed by the Governor - C 43 L 02.

SSB 6240, restoring voting rights to felons. Signed by the Governor - C 16 L 02.

Derelict Vessel Bill Delivered to the Governor

ESHB 2376 raises the annual vessel registration fee from $10.50 to $12.50. The additional revenue collected by these increases are specifically earmarked to be deposited into the derelict vessel removal account.

Secretary of State Bills

SB 6321, allowing candidates for office to file electronically. Awaiting Governor’s signature. SB 6324, directing a statewide voter registration database. Signed by Governor - C 21, L 02. HB 2332 (originally the companion bill to SB 6324) directing a statewide voter registration database. Signed by Governor - C 21, L 02. HB 2332 directing a statewide voter registration database. Signed by Governor - C 21, L 02. HB 2332 directing a statewide voter registration database. Signed by Governor - C 21, L 02.

Voting Rights/Felons

SSB 6240, restoring voting rights to felons. Signed by Governor - C 16 L 02.

Governor Locke Convenes Watershed Planning Implementation Committee

With watershed planning now under way in about two-thirds of the watersheds in Washington, attention is beginning to turn to implementation. Chapter 90.82 RCW set out three distinct phases of watershed planning: scooping, assessment and plan development. The 2001 Legislature provided funding for a committee to begin “Phase 4: Watershed Plan Implementation.”

Last month Governor Locke asked about twenty people from around the state engaged in watershed planning under Chapter 90.82 to look at the impediments that stand in the way of implementation and the tools available to improve the chance of success. The committee also will look at options available to fund implementation of locally adopted watershed plans. Recommendations will be submitted to the Legislature for consideration in the 2003 legislative session.

Three county commissioners active in local watershed planning have been invited to serve on the Phase 4 Implementation Committee. They are Clark County Commissioner Betty Sue Morris, Klickitat County Commissioner Joan Frey and Clallam County Commissioner Steve Tharinger. The initial meeting of the Committee will take place on April 4, 2002.

Legislative Information. To track legislation and review Washington laws, go to www.leg.wa.gov. The site also contains point-of-contact information for your representatives and senators.
Meeting with DNR to Discuss Fire Patrol
Members of the Assessor’s Timber Committee, the Treasurer’s Association and WACO plan to meet with the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to discuss implementation of SHB 2104. This legislation passed the 2001 Legislative Session and implements recommendations of a 1997 study done by TriData of the state fire program for forest land. An amendment to the bill limits refunds to small timber owners and sets-up procedures for those owners with multiple parcels in a single county to receive a refund from DNR. It states DNR must compute the correct assessment and allocate one parcel in the county to be used to collect the assessment. The county would then bill the forest fire protection assessment on that one allocated identified parcel. The bill states that the landowner is responsible for notifying the Department of any changes in parcel ownership and limits refunds to 10 or more parcels in 2002 with full implementation by 2006.

For years, the issue of refunds related to small property owners has been a concern of WACO members. Some county treasurers began addressing the fairness issue by preparing and mailing refund forms to all small parcel owners in their county. There is also concern about placing a lien on one parcel for assessments on other parcels that may be bought and sold during a year without being subject to the assessment. Finally the issue of, “what is common ownership?” needs to be addressed.

Hopefully, these issues will be resolved and you can look for an update on these concerns in future issues of The Courthouse Journal.

Johnson to Serve on Forest Practices Board
Governor Locke has appointed Lewis County Commissioner Eric Johnson to the Forest Practices Board. The board establishes rules to protect the state’s natural resources while maintaining a viable timber industry.
Statewide – Digital Pathways Community Broadcast Seminar Series to be Offered

The Association has been working with Washington State University (WSU) and the Certified Public Official (CPO) Program to develop opportunities to deliver training to our counties using satellite technology to reduce the costs for travel and time away from your county. Beginning April 4, 2002, business, health care, education and civic leaders from across the state of Washington are invited to come together within their communities and join a statewide discussion via satellite. Scheduled two-hour community and statewide conversations will take place approximately every seven weeks from April through November. This statewide satellite event is being organized and sponsored by the WSU Center to Bridge the Digital Divide.

Each broadcast will include:

- Live statewide satellite presentation from experienced panel of experts.
- Approximately 30 minutes of live interactive discussion with assembled experts.
- Facilitated local discussion to identify opportunities to work together towards common goals within your community.
- Invitation to participate in a follow-up electronic discussion forum with other business and community leaders with an interest in improving their digital futures.

Cost to attend the entire seminar series is $60 per person, or $10 per session, per person. For more detailed program information or to register, visit the link on the WSAC Web site or go to http://cbdd.wsu.edu.

As part of the CPO program we will be working with WSU and the Center to Bridge the Digital Divide to produce a seminar on E-Government which will be held April 9-11 at the Doubletree City Center Hotel, 322 N. Spokane Falls Ct.

From terrorism and civil disorders to rain storms, fire, and earthquakes, disasters that threaten the ability of courts and other governmental entities to remain open do happen.

With that in mind, the Justice Management Institute (JMI), the Trial Court Leadership Center of the Superior Court of Arizona in Maricopa County, and the National Association for Court Management (NACM) present “Continuity Planning: Keeping the Courthouse Doors Open, or Reopening Them After a Catastrophe” May 14 - 16, 2002 in Phoenix, Arizona.

The workshop is intended for anyone who manages a governmental entity located in a courthouse. Individuals are encouraged to put together multi-agency teams including representatives of all units that would be involved in dealing with a disaster in a courthouse.

Prior to the workshop, attendees will be asked to complete a survey that will describe their experience with courthouse disaster planning, and list plans in place in their communities. The course content will be tailored to reflect the experience and issues identified in the attendee survey. The format will include plenary sessions, panel discussions, and exercises designed to allow the attendees to consider the planning process, experience dealing with a disaster situation, and begin to prepare plans for their courthouses.

Fee for the workshop is $650 including conference materials, continental breakfasts, and breaks. Lodging at the Hyatt Regency in downtown Phoenix is $79.00 per night. The workshop will be held at the Trial Court Leadership Center, located in the Law Library of the Maricopa County Superior Court.

For additional information about this program and registration information contact The Justice Management Institute at dsomerlot@jmijustice.org or call (303) 831-7564.

Certification Testing for Coroners/Medical Examiners

The Oregon Medical Examiner’s office has made arrangements to have registry certification testing for coroners and medical examiners at Mt. Hood Community College, in Gresham, OR, June 15. The certification is by the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators and testing will be from 8:00 a.m. to noon.

Water Quality Conference On Tap

Landowners, scientists, and environmental and planning specialists from all over Washington will gather in Spokane for three days in April to discuss the nonpoint water quality issues. The Achieving Cleaner Water conference, sponsored by the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology), is being held April 9-11 at the Doubletree City Center Hotel, 322 N. Spokane Falls Ct.

Ecology states that more than 60 percent of water pollution now comes from sources such as failing septic tanks, fertilizers from farms and gardens, run-off from roads, leaking oil from cars and animal waste. This runoff, often called "non-point" pollution, ends up in the state's lakes and rivers, causing them to violate state and federal water-quality standards. The conference will address the topics of storm water, restoring wildlife habitat, forest practices and pesticide management, among others.

To register or learn more, call Gina Mulderig at 253-843-9268. There is still time to register in advance, or participants may register at the door. Registration fee is $100 for two days of sessions, $70 for one day only. (Also, a late-registration fee of $20 is in effect now.)
Congratulations to former WACO Executive Director Fred Saeger and his wife, Sandra, on their new status as grandparents! Their daughter Elaine gave birth to a beautiful 6 lb., 4 oz. baby girl on March 16. Elaine and her husband, Craig, have named their new bundle of joy Jessica.

**Calendar of Events**

April 4
Retro Pool Meeting, Best Inn/RV Park, Ellensburg

April 11–12
WSAC Western District Meeting, Rosario Resort, San Juan County

April 23
Basic Contract Training, sponsored by the Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys (WAPA), Rodeway Inn, Leavenworth, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

April 25-26
WSAC Eastern District Meeting, Sun Mountain Lodge, Winthrop

May 1
Certified Public Official (CPO) Public Meetings, Public Information and More: Do You Know the Rules? Ellensburg—Cost: $50 CPO Credits: 2 ( Elective Course)

May 2
Certified Public Official (CPO) Public Meetings, Public Information and More: Do You Know the Rules? Davenport—Cost: $50 CPO Credits: 2 ( Elective Course)

May 3
Certified Public Official (CPO) Public Meetings, Public Information and More: Do You Know the Rules? Richland—Cost: $50 CPO Credits: 2 ( Elective Course)

May 6–10
Washington State Association of County Auditors’ Annual Conference, Red Lion, Port Angeles

May 8
Certified Public Official (CPO) Public Meetings, Public Information and More: Do You Know the Rules? Mt. Vernon—Cost: $50 CPO Credits: 2 ( Elective Course)

May 9
Certified Public Official (CPO) Public Meetings, Public Information and More: Do You Know the Rules? Tacoma—Cost: $50 CPO Credits: 2 (Elective Course)

May 10
Certified Public Official (CPO) Public Meetings, Public Information and More: Do You Know the Rules? Kelso—Cost: $50 CPO Credits: 2 (Elective Course)

May 15–17
ACHS, Spokane

May 20–23
Washington State Association of Sheriffs & Police Chiefs’ (WASPC) Spring Conference, WestCoast Wenatchee Center Hotel, Wenatchee

May 22–24
WIR, Yellowstone County, Billings MT

June 15
American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators certification testing, 8:00 a.m.-noon, Room 2605, Mt. Hood Community College, Gresham, OR.

June 16–19
Government Finance Officers’ Association (GFOA) Annual Conference, Denver, Colorado

June 17
WSALPHO Meeting in conjunction with WSAC Summer Convention, Bellevue

June 17–20
Washington State Association of County Assessors’ Annual Conference, Rosario Resort, Orcas Island

June 18
WCIF Board in conjunction with WSAC Summer Conference, 10:00 a.m.–noon, Bellevue

June 18
Certified Public Official (CPO) Financial Management: Understanding County Government Financing, Bellevue—Cost: $120, CPO Credits: 4 (Core Course). An additional elective course will also be offered at the Summer Convention, topic TBD

June 18–21
WSAC Summer Convention, Bellevue

June 18–21
Washington State Association of Prosecuting Attorneys’ (WAPA) Summer Training Program, Campbell’s Lodge, Chelan

June 22–26
National Sheriffs Association’s Annual Conference, Tulsa, Oklahoma

June 24–28
Washington State Association of County Clerks’ Annual Conference, Best Western Suites, Walla Walla

June 24–28
Washington State Association of County Treasurers’ Annual Conference, Lakeview Inn, Bellingham

July 9–12
Northwest Regional Election Conference 2002, Jantzen Beach Doubletree Hotel, Portland

July 12–16
NACo Annual Conference, New Orleans Parish, New Orleans, LA

July 17–19
ACHS, Clark County

July 24

(Continued on page 7)
Calendar of Events

(Continued from page 6)

August 22
WCIP Board/Rate Setting Session, 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. SeaTac

September 10–13
City/County Planning Directors, Lake Chelan

September 12
WSALPHO Meeting, Spokane

September 18–20
ACHS, Leavenworth

September 19
WCIF/WCIP Boards/Insurance Advisory Committee (All Day Meeting), SeaTac

September 30–October 4
WACO/WSAC Annual Conference, WestCoast Wenatchee Hotel, Wenatchee

October 1
Certified Public Official (CPO) Personnel/Human Resources—Understand the Laws; Maximize Your Personnel System, Wenatchee—Cost: $120, CPO Credits: 4 (Core Course)

October 2
Certified Public Official (CPO) The Class-Act County Government Official—Building Courthouse Partnerships, Wenatchee—Cost TBD, CPO Credits: 2 (Elective Course)

November 14
WCIF Board Meeting, 9:00 a.m.–noon, Eastern Washington Location

November 18–21
Washington Association of Sheriffs & Police Chiefs’ (WASPC) Annual Fall Conference, Red Lion Hotel at the Quay, Vancouver

November 20–22
ACHS, Seattle

December 5
WSALPHO Meeting, SeaTac

December 10–13
Certified Public Official (CPO) Newly Elected Officials Training—Understanding Your New Job at the Courthouse, Olympia—Cost: TBD, CPO Credits: All newly elected officials must attend to become certified

2003 MEETINGS

June 24-27, 2003
WSAC Summer Convention, Spokane

July 11–15, 2003
NACo Annual Conference, Milwaukee County, Milwaukee, WI

September 29–October 3, 2003
Joint WACO/WSAC Conference, Doubletree Hotel Seattle Airport

2004 MEETINGS

June 22–25, 2004
WSAC Summer Convention, Sheraton Tacoma, Pierce County

July 16–20, 2004
NACo Annual Conference Maricopa County, Phoenix, AZ

October 4–8, 2004
WACO/WSAC Joint Legislative Conference, WestCoast Grand Hotel at the Park, Spokane

2005 MEETINGS

July 15-19, 2005
NACo Annual Conference, City & County of Hawaii, Honolulu, HI
CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY COUNSELOR - Masters preferred, but not required. Must possess Washington CDP credential or be able to obtain one. Will work in an IOP evening program case management, evaluations, individual, group and family therapy. Will work with adults and possibly adolescents. Occasional on-call duties. Salary $30,000 + DOE. Great benefits in a beautiful valley with an abundance of recreation. Apply: The Rogers Counseling Center, 900 7th St., Clarkston, WA 99403. Fax résumés to (509) 758-8009, attention Anna. Open until filled. Equal Opportunity Employer.

SECRETARY OR LEGAL ASSISTANT - Columbia County Prosecutor’s Office is seeking a self-starting individual with multi-tasking, secretarial and computer skills. Legal experience preferred but not required. Sole support staff for two-attorney office with diverse duties including criminal and civil. Salary DOE, range from $1,420 to $2,047 for secretary, or for Legal Assistant entry level salary $2,039/month. Send résumé to Conrad Hoskins, Columbia County Prosecuting Attorney, PO Box 270, 116 N. 3rd Street, Dayton, WA 99328. Phone: (509) 382-1197.

SAN JUAN COUNTY PERMIT CENTER seeks a Deputy Director to act as Deputy Building Official and manage building section. Serves as Acting Director when Director is not available. Develops and manages an efficient building permit review process. Supervises employees engaged in the review of building plans and construction for compliance with the Uniform Codes & local building regulations. Also directs supervisory experience and finance experience, with two years experience as a mechanic with five of those years at the supervisory or management level or five years as Lead Mechanic II. High school diploma or GED equivalent. A valid WA State Class A commercial driver’s license and acceptable driving record. Applications and a complete job description may be obtained from Grays Harbor County Management Services, 3rd Floor Admin. Building, Suite 33, P.O. Box 790, Montesano, WA 98563, (360) 249-4144 or on our website at www.co.grays-harbor.wa.us. Closing March 29, 2002 at 5:00 p.m. Grays Harbor County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES is seeking an experienced manager to serve as the Forest & Fish Habitat Conservation Plan, Project Manager. We are looking for candidates with background in natural sciences and experience developing and negotiating an HCP. Salary up to $75,000 annually plus benefits. Screening begins April 12, 2002. For more information: http://www.wa.gov/dnr/jobs/4.12.2hcpprjmgr.doc or DNR’s job page at www.wa.gov/dnr/jobs.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES MANAGER - Clark County, WA. Clark County, one of the fastest growing and highly respected counties in WA is seeking a Department Finance Manager. This is an innovative opportunity for the right person to manage, plan and coordinate the financial, staffing and operational activities for the Finance & Grants Management Unit including payroll, accounting, information systems, grants, contracts and budget management functions. Develops significant linkages with program managers; negotiates contracts and conducts operational and financial audits; oversees contract management and monitoring of sub recipients. Processes financial transactions; provides financial reports; integrates financial information in development of the department budget; prepares financial plans, forecasts and staff reports. Bachelor’s degree in accounting, business administration (Certified Public Accountant strongly preferred) and three years experience in public sector accounting and finance experience, with two years supervisory experience. This is a very dynamic environment; detailed position information and applications available at www.clark.wa.gov and from Clark County HR, 1013 Franklin Street, Vancouver, WA. (360)397-6018; TDD (360)397-6032. Equal Opportunity Employer.

THE GRAYS HARBOR COUNTY
Department of Public Services, Equipment Rental & Revolving Division, has an opening for an ER&R Supervisor with a monthly salary of $3,754 to $4,644 DOQ. This position is responsible for the safe, efficient, effective and reliable operation of the vehicle and work equipment pools, the operation of four repair and maintenance shops, and radio communication functions for Grays Harbor County. Minimum Qualifications: Ten years of experience as a mechanic with five of those years at the supervisory or management level or five years as Lead Mechanic II. High school diploma or GED equivalent. A valid WA State Class A commercial driver’s license and acceptable driving record. Applications and a complete job description may be obtained from Grays Harbor County Management Services, 3rd Floor Admin. Building, Suite 33, P.O. Box 790, Montesano, WA 98563, (360) 249-4144 or on our website at www.co.grays-harbor.wa.us. Closing March 29, 2002 at 5:00 p.m. Grays Harbor County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

KITTITAS COUNTY COMPUTER SERVICES DIRECTOR. The Computer Services Director coordinates and administers all County computer resources and advises the Board of County Commissioners on all matters relating to computer resources. Salary: DOE. Minimum Qualifications: Bachelor’s degree in Computer Science or closely related field and five years of experience with NT or UNIX. Five years supervisory experience and possess current knowledge on industry computer hardware and software. Applications can be obtained from the Kittitas County Human Resources Office, 205 W. 5th, Room 107, Ellensburg, WA 98926, (509) 962-7082. E-mail HR@co.kittitas.wa.us. Screening will begin on April 2, 2002 and continue until a suitable candidate is found. Kittitas County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

BUILDING, PLANNING AND SOLID WASTE MANAGER. The Adams County Department of Public Works is seeking a professional with strong leadership and team-building skills to manage our Building, Planning and Solid Waste Division of Public
Employment Opportunities

(KITSAP COUNTY, SENIOR DEPUTY CORONER. Performs technical work to investigate all deaths within the County, determine cause of death, locate, and notify next-of-kin. Requires two years of college courses in anatomy and physiology, bachelor's degree desirable; and two years experience in quasi law enforcement, emergency services, medicine, health services, or related field involving investigative work; or any equivalent combination of experience and education that provides the applicant with the desired skills, knowledge and ability required to perform the work. Previous supervisory experience preferred. This is an at-will position that serves at the pleasure of the Kitsap County Coroner. Salary: $21.55 to $27.51/hr. Closes: 3/29/02. Call (360) 659-3276, visit www.co.adams.wa.us or write to Adams County Department of Public Works, 210 West Alder, Ritzville, Washington 99169.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, PUBLIC WORKS/UTILITIES, KITSAP COUNTY. This position plans, organizes, and manages the activities of the Utilities Division of the Public Works Department including the administration and management of the functions of the Wastewater Utility, Solid Waste Utility and Surface/Stormwater Utility. Requires a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering, public administration, or closely related field, master’s degree preferred, and five years of progressively responsible professional/administrative experience in planning, design, operation/maintenance, and construction of public works facilities, including two years of supervisory or management responsibilities; or any equivalent combination of experience and education which provides the applicant with the desired skills, knowledge and ability required to perform the work. Registration as a Professional Civil Engineer in the state of Washington is desirable. This is an “at will” position that serves “at the pleasure” of the Public Works Director. Salary: $66,289 to $84,593/annually. Closes: 5/03/02. Postmarks will not be accepted. Kitsap County is an Equal Opportunity Employer. For an application packet download from our website at www.kitsapgov.com or contact Kitsap County Personnel, 614 Division Street, MS-23, Port Orchard, WA 98366-4676. (360) 337-7185 extension “0” – 24 hour job line at extension “1”.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, Wenatchee Valley Transportation Council has an opening for an Executive Director. Salary range is $55,000 - $72,000 per year depending on qualifications, attractive benefits package. Requirements include but are not limited to a completed application and résumé and a valid state issued drivers license. This position also requires a minimum of five years of planning experience beyond the trainee level and a degree in physical and/or regional planning, civil engineering, geography, or a closely related field. Applications and job descriptions available at Douglas County Transportation & Land Services, 470 Ninth N. E. East Wenatchee, WA 98802, (509) 884-7173, Monday - Friday 7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. on or our internet site: www.douglascountywa.net. This position is open until April 23 at 5:00 p.m. WVT is does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, treatment or employment in its programs or activities. ADA accommodations available upon request. Equal Opportunity Employer.

SPokane COUNTY CIVIL SERVICE ENTRANCE EXAMINATION CLASSIFICATION: JAIL NURSE, RN. Notice is hereby given that a competitive examination for Jail Nurse-RN in the Spokane County Sheriff’s Department, subject to the Rules of the Spokane County Civil Service Commission, will be conducted as follows: Written test will be scheduled as needed. Oral test will be scheduled as needed to those who achieve a qualifying grade on the written test. Said examination will include tests of proficiency in such matters only as will fairly determine the ability of the person examined to discharge the duties of Jail Nurse-RN in the Spokane County Sheriff’s Department. This test will establish the eligible list from which applicants will be called in order of their standing to complete their background interview, polygraph, and medical test before being qualified for certification. Salary Range: Beginning Monthly Salary to 3-1/2 years–$3,489.96 to $4,261.58. Fringe benefits include medical, dental and vision plan, free $10,000 life insurance, sick leave, vacation pay, holiday pay, and membership in Washington State Public Employees’ Retirement System.

Eligibility: 1. A citizen of the United States must be at least 21 years of age.
2. Height and weight proportional and adequate for physical requirements of job.
3. Vision must be correctable to 20/20–20/30.
5. Must show proof of age and provide a copy of college transcript showing degree and date awarded.
6. Any criminal conviction or falsification on application may disqualify applicant.
7. A high rate of traffic violations and/or accidents, or failure to pass the Washington State examination for driver’s license may disqualify.
8. Candidate must qualify through background review and medical test and will be required to take polygraph covering background and character.
9. Minimum of two years experience with assessment skills in acute and specialty nursing.

Application blanks may be obtained from the Spokane County Civil Service office, 1229 West Mallon between 9:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Closing Date: Open until further notice. Examples of Duties: Assess and treat inmate health problems under direction of jail physician, jail dentist and independently up to limits of licensure. This includes injuries, illnesses and chronic health problems including medical, dental and mental health conditions. Assist the physician during clinical visits. Administer

(Continued from page 10)
Better Late Than Never: State Delivers Money For Drug Treatment
Sunday, March 17, 2002

By NORM MALENG
SPECIAL TO THE P-I

It seems from reading the newspaper these days that there is nothing but bad news coming from Olympia, with headlines about budget deficits, cutbacks and gridlock. What may have been lost among the bad news is a courageous legislative achievement in bringing balance to our strategy against illegal drugs.

With the passage of HB 2338, we have taken a huge step forward in reforming drug sentencing laws. The bill was sponsored in the House by Ruth Kagi, D-Lake Forest Park, and Ida Ballasiotes, R-Mercer Island, and in the Senate by Adam Kline, D-Seattle, and Jeanine Long, R-Mill Creek.

The Legislature last enacted major drug policy reform in 1989 by doubling prison sentence for drug delivery crimes and promising to build a drug treatment infrastructure within the criminal justice system.

The prison sentences were appropriate at the time and have contributed to our reduced crime rate. They have been an effective tool for law enforcement; we have not lost neighborhoods to drug dealers, as has occurred in many major U.S. cities.

The result of tough sentencing laws, however, has been that 25 percent of the prison inmates in the state are there for a drug crime, many for selling less than $50 worth of drugs.

What did not happen after 1989 was the promise of state-funded drug treatment. With the exception of county drug courts, which are funded by county budgets supplemented by federal grants and some state assistance, there has been no attempt to build up treatment as an equal partner with law enforcement.

The bill, now awaiting Gov. Gary Locke's approval, does these three things:
- Reduces the prison terms for minor drug dealers by about 6 months for the first offense, from 24 months to 18 months.
- Captures the money that we would have spent on incarceration within the Department of Corrections.
- Invests that money, up to $8.25 million a year, into drug treatment programs within county criminal justice systems and the state prisons.

The current state drug sentencing laws, which are tough but rigid, will be replaced by a sentencing scheme that will allow prosecutors to distinguish between small-time addicted dealers and those who peddle drugs for profit. The former will still face prison time, but also have drug treatment programs to help them escape the cycle of addiction and imprisonment. Major dealers, and those who sell to minors, will actually face longer terms than they do today.

We have a success rate in drug court of 40 percent. That's an amazing statistic when you consider the powerful hold that drugs can have on people's minds and bodies. Drug court graduates are far less likely to re-arrested than those who simply went to jail for their use of drugs. Drug treatment costs about $2,500 a year, or one-tenth the cost of incarceration. It also offers hope for redemption to people who are otherwise facing a miserable future of addiction and incarceration.

But only a fraction of those in need of treatment can be served by drug courts, and only a dozen of our 39 counties even have one.

We need a balance of treatment and sanctions. The 2002 Legislature has stepped up to the plate with a bold approach that signals a new direction in our drug policy. They did so with bipartisan support and a pledge of state funding that corporates treatment as an equal partner with law enforcement.

We have learned, through our drug court experience, that you can force people to go through drug treatment. Drug court gives defendants a choice -- incarceration or treatment. Many people need the threat of jail to motivate them to change their behavior. A judge, working with a treatment provider, closely monitors the progress or relapse of participants, who are kept honest by regular and random urinalysis tests.

Those who succeed after a year or more of supervision have their cases dismissed. Those who fail the program are found guilty as charged and serve their sentence, in county jail or state prison.

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Police: No More Free Labor

'Footing the bill': State Patrol is paid to investigate crimes at DSHS facilities, but not Buckley, Lakewood departments

Monday, March 18, 2002

By ROB TUCKER
THE NEWS TRIBUNE

Local police departments are balking at investigating crimes at state institutions for free while the state pays the Washington State Patrol $500,000 annually to do a similar task.

The Buckley Police Department will stop conducting criminal investigations at Rainier School for the developmentally disabled on April 1 and turn the task over to the State Patrol.

The action stems from a state contract with the Patrol for law enforcement coverage of all Department of Social and Health Services facilities. Local police get no extra revenue for their coverage of criminal activity at the institutions and offices.

"We've been footing the bill for free for 63 years," said Buckley Chief Art McGehee.

The City of Lakewood recently expressed a similar concern about providing free police protection to Western State Hospital, a DSHS facility for the mentally ill. Lakewood asked the Legislature for compensation but didn't get it.

State Patrol spokesman Capt. Glenn Cramer said there may be a misunderstanding about the Patrol's role.

The Patrol, according to a 1996 governor's order, must investigate criminal and major administrative problems in DSHS facilities statewide, including Rainier, if DSHS employees are involved. The Patrol has no authority to investigate crimes involving client-on-client situations, Cramer said.

The Patrol receives about $500,000 annually to conduct the DSHS investigations, he said.

Both institutions are large: Western State Hospital has 1,983 employees and 861 patients. Rainier School has 1,000 employees and 423 developmentally disabled residents.

Buckley's intended action mirrors a step taken by the Medical Lake Police Department last year. Medical Lake police stopped conducting criminal investigations and taking police reports at Eastern State mental hospital in the Spokane County city. The Patrol assumed responsibility, said Medical Lake Chief James Sjothun.

Eastern State Hospital has 694 employees and 312 patients.

Lakewood and Buckley already have agreements with the Patrol that city officers will investigate crimes at the two state institutions. In Lakewood's case, the Patrol can join the case with Lakewood or pursue an investigation if Lakewood decides not to, said Larry Saunders, chief of the Pierce County Sheriff's Lakewood detachment.

Until recently, neither Buckley nor Lakewood officials knew that the Patrol received state funding to conduct DSHS investigations.

 Basically, Buckley citizens have subsidized a state facility, McGehee said.

Buckley hasn't yet estimated the savings to the city for not doing the investigations at Rainier, Mayor John Blanusa said. Buckley police investigate 25 to 30 crimes there annually. Any savings would be significant to the city of 4,100 people, Blanusa said.

Lakewood's situation involves much more police activity and expense. The city's annual police bill for Western State Hospital was $707,764 in 2001.

Lakewood police responded to 1,776 calls at Western State and conducted about 410 criminal investigations last year, Saunders said. The cases included 217 assaults, one homicide, 79 escapes, as well as rapes, thefts, auto thefts and sex crimes other than rape.

Lakewood police would like to continue providing police services at Western State, Saunders said. The officers are closer to the hospital than the Patrol, he noted.

If he continues to work with Western State officials, Saunders said, he can better monitor security measures there and respond accordingly to protect Lakewood residents who live nearby.

"But we can't do it for free," Saunders said.

Chief Sjothun in Medical Lake said criminal investigations at Eastern State were conducted for mostly minor crimes and generated about 100 police reports annually. The Patrol took over criminal investigations at Eastern State from his department last year, he said. Medical Lake officers still respond to emergencies and include the campus in their routine patrols.

At Rainier School, Buckley police typically investigate cases of abuse, assault, rape and theft. As with Medical Lake, Buckley police officers will continue to respond to emergencies at Rainier and continue to include the campus in its routine patrols, McGehee said.

Rainier Superintendent Larry Merxbauer will meet with the Patrol soon about the Buckley decision, said Jan Blackburn, assistant superintendent at Rainier.

Generally, the Patrol first offers any criminal investigation at a DSHS facility to the local police, but if they can't do it, the Patrol will, Cramer said. And that includes client-on-client criminal investigations.

"We wouldn't be deliberately indifferent," he said.

Staff writer Rob Tucker covers Buckley. Reach him at 253-597-8374 or rob.tucker@mail.tribnet.com.