Governor Locke Appoints Loveland as Director of Department of Agriculture

G overnor Gary Locke announce on Monday that former state senator Valoria Loveland will be the new director of the state Department of Agriculture. Loveland served as a state Senator representing the 16th legislative district from 1993 to 2001. While in the Senate, Loveland served as chair of the Ways and Means Committee. Loveland has held numerous public posts, including Franklin County Treasurer (serving as WACO President in 1990), chair of the state’s Public Disclosure Commission and a member of the Nuclear Waste Advisory Council.

“Agriculture in our state is facing a number of challenges, which Valoria is well suited to take on,” Locke said. “As a lifelong resident of Eastern Washington, she understands the burdens facing the agricultural community. With experience as a key member of our Legislature, she understands public policy and will work well with state decision makers. Valoria’s leadership will be a great asset to the Department of Agriculture.”

Loveland will leave her current position as government relations director at Nuvotec and will begin at the Department of Agriculture on June 1.

“I am honored and delighted to accept this position,” Loveland said. “Preserving Washington’s agricultural sector is one of the governor’s highest priorities and I look forward to leading a great department.”

Other gubernatorial appointments included Stuart McKee, a former Walt Disney Company executive, to direct the state Department of Information Systems, and Roger Nyhus, a Seattle public relations executive, to direct communications for the governor’s office.

Reminder:

If you have not responded to the Elway Poll that was mailed to you recently, please do so now! The Elway Poll is a valuable tool in determining public opinion in Washington State. This survey of local officials is of benefit to WACO and WSAC. If you have sent your response, thank you!
Scholarship Selection Committee Meets May 9th

The Washington Counties Scholarship Selection Committee will meet to complete the last round of reviews before awarding five $1,500 scholarships to children of county employees. Since 1993, 36 awards totaling over $60,000 have been made. The Washington Counties Scholarship Fund is a joint endeavor of WACO and WSAC. The winners for the 2002/2003 school year will be announced in two weeks.

County Auditors’ Conference to be Held in Port Angeles

The Washington State Association of County Auditors will be holding its Annual Conference, May 6-8, at the Red Lion Hotel, in Port Angeles. Early birds who wish to arrive on the weekend prior will be treated to a day touring Victoria B.C., Sunday May 5. The ferry will depart Port Angeles at 8:20 a.m. and leave Victoria B.C. at 4:00 p.m.

On Monday, May 6, following welcoming ceremonies, a workshop will be held on workplace security and there will be a report from the Department of Health’s Center for Statistics on marriage licenses and quarterly death reports. Secretary of State representatives will give an update on their office and the Legislative Committee will summarize what happened during the 2002 legislative session.

Tuesday will be dedicated to training led by Wallace Wilkins, Ph.D., who will lead sessions on “Conflict Free Zones”, “Conflict Resolution”, “Building Cohesive Teams”, and “Strategic Conflict Prevention”. The President’s reception for Grant County Auditor Bill Varney will be held that evening.

Cowlitz County Auditor Kris Swanson will give a synopsis of her political exchange mission to the Philippines on Wednesday and a discussion will be held about an election methods study presenting three voting alternatives that are becoming popular around the country. The morning will wrap up with a business meeting and the Licensing portion of the conference will begin with lunch.

May County Calendar

1 Application for forest land designation is approved unless the county assessor has notified the applicant in writing of the extent to which it is denied. RCW 84.33.130

1 Open space farm and agricultural land application is approved unless the county assessor has notified the owner. RCW 84.34.035

27 Memorial Day observed—Legal Holiday. RCW 1.16.050

31 The county assessor shall have completed the duties of listing and placing valuations on all property, except listing and valuation of construction and mobile homes (August 31). RCW 84.40.040
Budget, Finance and Taxes

Taxing District Boundary WAC to be Changed

The Washington State Department of Revenue (DOR) will hold a public hearing on a CR-102 for a proposed WAC regarding taxing district boundaries and designation of tax code areas. The rule (WAC 458-12-140) needs to be revised to incorporate changes to RCW 84.09.030. DOR anticipates repealing WAC 84.09.030. The hearing date has been set for May 21 at 9:30 a.m. in Olympia.

The new rule explains when boundaries must be established for the purpose of levying property taxes. It also explains that county assessors are required to transmit taxing district boundary information to the Property Tax Division of DOR when there is a change in tax district boundaries or when a new taxing district is established. DOR also intends to expand the rule to incorporate information regarding taxing district boundaries from RCW 17.28.253 (mosquito control districts), 84.09.035 (library, Metropolitan Park, fire protection or public hospital district) and 84.09.037 (school district boundary changes on excess levies).

Written comments can be submitted to: Mark Mullin, Department of Revenue, Post Office Box 47467, Olympia, Washington 98504-7467 or FAX 360-664-0693, by May 21.

Boards and Commissions

Employee Retirement Benefits Board Seeks Nominations

The term of office for the active Public Employees’ Retirement System (PERS) representative appointed to the Employee Retirement Benefits Board (ERBB) is scheduled to expire on June 30. WACO and WSAC are invited to submit nominations for this position for an active PERS member. The appointment, made by the Governor, is from July 1, 2002 until June 30, 2005. The 12-member board specifically addresses issues related to Washington State’s Plan 3 retirement systems and the Deferred Compensation Program. Those who are interested must send an application form and a resume to either WACO or WSAC and we will write a letter of nomination and forward it on to the Department of Retirements Systems for their review and forward it on to the Department of Retirements Systems for their review before it reaches the Governor’s office. The application form is available on the Internet at www.governor.wa.gov/budget/budget2002/budget2002boards/bc_app.doc. Please get this information to our offices no later than April 30.

Positions open on the County Road Administration Board

The County Road Administration Board (CRAB) has two CRABoard members whose terms expire June 30, 2002. This is when Grant County Commissioner Tim Snead and Lincoln County Engineer Robert Breshears’ terms expire.

In compliance with RCW 36.78.040, the two positions must be filled under the following populations:

- Commissioner Snead/population between 12,000 and 125,000
- County Engineer Robert Breshears/population under 12,000

The only restriction is that no more than one member of the Board shall be from any single county. The WSAC Board of Directors may reappoint present members to the CRAB, or appoint replacements. There is no statutory limit on the number of terms served.

Anyone interested in serving on the CRAB should contact WSAC Executive Director Bill Vogler or WSAC Staff Jackie White at 360-753-1886.

Puget Sound Water Quality Action Team is seeking Candidates

The Puget Sound Water Quality Action Team is currently seeking candidates for the county representative position. The Action Team is a 17-member body composed of the heads of ten state administrative agencies; a chair and three members appointed by the governor to represent cities, counties, and tribes; and three non-voting federal members representing the Environmental Protection Agency, National Marine Fisheries Service, and the Department of Fish and Wildlife. The Action Team normally meets twice each year.

The recent retirement of King County Council member, Louise Miller, made vacant the county representative position on the Action Team. Traditionally, the appointee to this position has been an elected county commissioner or council member who serves one of the 12 Puget Sound county governments and actively communicates with peers throughout the region.

Interested individuals should contact Bill Vogler or Paul Parker, staff to the WSAC, at 360-753-1886.

SSB 6572 creates a work group on conservation district elections to prepare recommendations for changes and improvements to district election procedures.

Both committees are to meet during the summer and fall to make recommendations to the 2003 legislature. Please contact Paul Parker at WSAC by May 6, 2002 if you are interested in participating in either effort. The WSAC Board of Directors will select a representative for the Task Force on Green Building. WSAC and WACO will jointly select a representative for the conservation district election workgroup.
DNR Conducting Marina Rent Study

A stakeholders meeting regarding the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Marina Rent Study was held in Olympia April 24. This group has been meeting since January of 2001, and is working on a comprehensive analysis of the current system for establishing marina rents. DNR felt the current method for setting rental rates, as well as alternatives to the current methods should be evaluated in light of the concerns expressed over the past 10 years by members of the marina community.

DNR felt they needed to examine the concerns raised by members of the marina community and thus the rent study group is reviewing alternatives to the current method for determining water-dependent rent. A report will be prepared with the assistance of appropriate outside economic expertise and stakeholder involvement. They asked the affected stakeholders to participate with DNR by providing information necessary to complete this study. For each alternative, the report should:

(a) Describe each method and the costs and benefits of each;
(b) Compare each with the current method of calculating rents;
(c) Provide the private industry perspective;
(d) Describe the public perspective;
(e) Analyze the impact on state lease revenue;
(f) Evaluate the ease of administration.

DNR will present the recommendations by the fall of 2002. If the study concludes that changes are needed, their recommendations will include draft legislation for implementation of changes to the existing statutory method. One of the methods being considered will include fee appraisals of the State owned portions of various facilities.

WACO is your representative in these discussions. The study affects every county in the state with state owned aquatic lands, including counties with marinas or breakwater leases of aquatic lands owned by the State of Washington. If you have comments, questions or concerns, please email Michelle Hagen (mhagen@wacounties.org) and they will be brought forward for discussion.

Public Health and Human Services

County Representative Needed for State Board of Health

The State Board of Health membership term for a county commissioner, councilperson, or county executive serving as a member of a local board of health expires June 30, 2002. WSAC is seeking names of those interested in serving on the State Board of Health to forward to the Governor for consideration of appointment beginning July 1, 2002.

The mission of the State Board of Health is to develop policies to promote, protect, and maintain the health of Washingtonians. The State Board of Health (SBOH) must provide a public forum for development of public health policy in Washington State. The Board has extensive authority to adopt rules it deems necessary to protect the public’s health. In general, local health officers and administrators must enforce the Board’s rules. The SBOH has specific authority in certain areas, including 1) safe and reliable drinking water, 2) prevention, control, and abatement of health hazards and nuisances related to the disposal of wastes, 3) environmental conditions that threaten public health, 4) prevention and control of infectious and noninfectious disease, and 5) health data, including vital statistics.

The SBOH meets 6 to 8 times per year including traveling to locations outside the Olympia/Seattle area. The Board also does some of its policy development work via email, phone call and separate meeting. The time commitment varies depending upon individual board members degree of involvement in issues. The Board covers travel expenses at the state rate.

RCW 43.29.030 details the SBOH composition and appointments. The Board has nine members appointed by the Governor. The tenth member is the Department of Health Secretary or designee. Membership includes: 1) An elected county official who is a member of a local health board, 2) an elected city official who is a member of a local health board, 3) four people experiences in matters of health and sanitation, 4) two people representing consumers of health care, and 5) a local health officer.

If you are interested in serving as the WSAC representative to the State Board of Health, please contact Vicki Kirkpatrick in the WSAC Office. For more information about the Board, go to their website: http://www.doh.wa.gov/sboh.

Upcoming Events and Training

Calling all Clerks! Scholarship Available for Summer Conference of WACCCs

It’s conference time again. There is a conference scholarship available this year for members of the Washington Association of Commissioner/Council Clerk(s). The conference is scheduled in Bellevue, June 18-21, 2002. This will be a full scholarship for up to $500 to cover registration, travel, and lodging expenses.

Application forms may be obtained through Vickie Musgrove, Cowlitz County Commissioners Office: 207 4th Avenue North, Kelso, WA 98626, Phone: (360) 577-3020 or E-mail: MusgroveV@co.cowlitz.wa.us Application deadline is Friday, May 10, 2002.
Western District Meeting Wrap-Up

A bunch of helpful budget ideas, a surprise visit from a former Governor, and great food and friendship all stood out as highlights from the Western District WSAC meeting at Rosario on April 11 and 12. Thanks to host San Juan County for proposing Rosario as a meeting site and getting those great lodging rates!

At the business meeting, members suggested Skamania County, Clark County and Grays Harbor County as potential sites for the fall Western District meeting and agreed upon Olympia as the site for the meeting next spring, if hotel space was available. Later in the meeting, Western District President Betty Sue Morris announced that the Spring 2003 meeting would take place at the West Coast Hotel – Olympia on April 3-4, 2003. Commissioner Morris also announced that Skamania County is the preferred host county for the Fall 2002 meeting, which is scheduled for September 5-6 at the soon-to-open Bonneville Hot Springs Resort in North Bonneville.

County finances dominated discussions at the conference, aided by an excellent budget presentation by GlennISON, Clark County Budget Director. Commissioners and Council members from around Western Washington joined in with responses to the tightening fiscal straits in their respective counties. While a broad variety of situations were reported, the following common themes emerged:

• Teamwork
  1) Work with all stakeholders--the Legislature, cities, county personnel beyond the commissioners, etc.--to come up with solutions
  2) Keep people in the loop so they can understand what's really going on and have a realistic view/expectation--this is particularly pertinent to constituents, but also to employees
• Streamline government services as much as possible by cutting duplicative efforts and consolidating offices and functions where possible
• Try not to reduce FTEs by any method other than through attrition; some suggested buy-outs for those close to retirement
• The reduced work week option has had mixed reviews
• Increase fees for services
• Decrease costs/expenditures (of course)
• Boards and Task Forces
  Budget and finance continued to be the focus during Thursday afternoon presentations on public health and county liability for human services or criminal justice services. Friday sessions focused on water resources issues
  The biggest surprise of the meeting was the appearance of former Governor Booth Gardner. Filling in for absent luncheon speaker Ron Dotzauer, Governor Gardner charmed the crowd with personal and political stories. He shared his troubles and successes in dealing with Parkinson’s Disease, Telling of how it changed him and his views. Governor Gardner also spoke about political leadership and has focused his energy now on health care access.

Asotin Commissioner Uncovers History of Legendary Lynching

Aositin County Commissioner Don Scheibe grew up hearing stories about a local lynching mob hanging a rancher for the attempted rape and murder of a 12-year-old girl. Suddenly, a few weeks ago, solid facts emerged to verify what previously had been a somewhat vague folk tale. Scheibe, poking through a dusty storage box in the courthouse basement, turned up the coroner’s inquest reports related to the 1903 lynching of Will Hamilton.

“I’d heard all my life of him being lynched in Asotin,” Scheibe told the Lewiston (Idaho) Tribune newspaper. “There had been arguments on where it was over the years.” Scheibe’s discovery put those arguments to rest and filled in details about one of the last of Washington’s sordid legacy of lynchings. Hamilton’s hanging was the second-to-last of 18 known lynchings in Washington, according to The Tribune article.

According to the newly uncovered documents, 12-year-old Mabel Richards was last seen walking to Sunday school west of the town of Anatone on August 3, 1903. Her battered body was found in the woods the next day.

Hamilton, a 26-year-old white man, confessed to killing the girl and was jailed in the county seat, Asotin. On the night of August 5, about 100 masked men rode down the hill from Anatone, broke into the jail, took Hamilton behind the courthouse and hanged him from a power line.

Participants in the lynch mob have never been identified, but Scheibe told The Tribune that even though he has no proof he has long suspected his great-grandfather was involved. Scheibe’s family roots in Asotin County reach back into the 1870s.

Scheibe was in the courthouse basement sorting items for an auction when he came across the reports, in storage for nearly 99 years. The county donated the papers to the Asotin County Historical Museum.

Development Moratoria Takings Claims Require Case-by-Case Review

The United States Supreme Court this week declined to expand the rights of property owners across the country. In a closely watched case involving development moratoria imposed around Lake Tahoe, the court ruled, 6 to 3, against a group of property owners and said that such issues must be decided on a case-by-case basis. The ruling preserves the status quo on takings litigation across the country.

The case dates back to the early 1980s, when the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency stopped all development for 32 months from 1981 to 1984 to study environmental problems in the 500-square-mile Lake Tahoe Basin and devise a long-range development plan. Little development has been permitted since that 32-month ban, but for procedural reasons the Supreme Court addressed only that ban, not the continuing restrictions.

Writing for the court, Justice John Paul Stevens noted that although the Fifth Amendment requires government to pay whenever it acquires private property for a public purpose, there is “no comparable reference to regulations that prohibit a property owner from making certain uses of her private property. Land-use regulations are ubiquitous and most of them impact property values in some tangential way — often in completely unanticipated ways,” the ruling said.

(Continued on page 6)
General Government and Miscellaneous

(Continued from page 5)

Treated land use regulations as "takings," Stevens wrote, "would transform government regulation into a luxury few governments could afford." Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist and Justices Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas disagreed. A ban on development lasting as long as that in the Lake Tahoe case "does not resemble any traditional land-use planning device," wrote Justice Rehnquist.

Employment Opportunities

SKAGIT COUNTY—County Administrator— Salary: $70,000-$95,000 Requires a Bachelor's Degree in Public Administration, Business Administration or related field and five years experience in government administration, financial management, human resource management or related areas or any equivalent combination which provides the required skills, knowledge and ability to perform duties and responsibilities of the position. Master's in Business or Public Administration preferred.

County Administrator works under the direction of the three member Skagit County Board of Commissioners and is responsible for: implementing Board policies, carrying out Board directives, overseeing achievement of Board goals and objectives, regularly reporting to the Board and keeping the Board timely advised regarding all strategic, legal, political, labor relations, public safety, agency relations, community relations, operational and financial matters which could materially affect the County, and other matters as directed by the Board.

Applications should submit a letter of interest, resume and completed application to the Skagit County Personnel Department at 700 South Second Street, Room 412, Mount Vernon, WA 98273. The application form may be obtained from our website www.skagitcounty.net or by calling our Job Line 1-800-548-7957. Application deadline is Friday, May 3, 2002, by 4:30 p.m.

YAKIMA COUNTY—PLANNER—Planning Department (Three Positions), Annual Salary Range: $36,404 to $52,185. Yakima County seeks three Planners for rural and environmental planning issues. Hiring Range is up to $37,530 DOQ. (Greater hiring salary requires a pay policy exception.) Planners will be assigned staff reports, technical and field work related to subdivision, zoning, critical areas and environmental project reviews, public assistance and comprehensive planning research. The Planner position requires a Bachelor's Degree in Planning and one year of planning experience, including internships. Masters degree may substitute for experience. Specific assignments will depend on the skill set and experience of the candidates. Check out the County’s website at www.co.yakima.wa.us or www.visityakima.com for more information. Filing Deadline: Friday, May 3, 2002, Yakima County Human Resources, 128 N. 2nd Street, Courthouse Room 412, Yakima, WA 98909, telephone 509-574-2220. Email: human.resources@co.yakima.wa.us.


Employment Opportunities

(Continued from page 6)

ground check through law enforcement agencies will be conducted on all successful applicants prior to their being appointed to this position.

KITSAP COUNTY - Manager – Equipment Services Division, Public Works – Roads & Engineering. Salary: $24.97 - $31.88/hr, $51,937.60 - $66,310.40/yr. Opening Date: April 22, 2002 – Closing Date: May 24, 2002. Application packets available in the personnel office or at www.kitsapgov.com. Required items: Kitsap County Application form. 2) Supplemental Questionnaire. 3) If you would like your technical or college-level education considered, attach copies of transcripts or certificate/diploma verification of education must be received by time of appointment. 4) Application must be received by the personnel office or postmarked prior to may 24, 2002.

General Statement: Plans, organizes, and manages all operations of the equipment services division to assure the efficient and timely maintenance and replacement of the majority of county-owned vehicles and road construction and maintenance equipment and the development of adequate rental rates to cover maintenance, operation and replacement costs. Includes overseeing the operation of the County’s mechanical shops, central stores and sign manufacturing shop as well as underground fueling facilities throughout the County. Work assignments are received with little or no technical instruction and require the selection of course of action and resolution of complex or unique problems with considerable latitude for independent judgment to develop procedures, systems and establish priorities working within the framework of established administrative guidelines. Work is reviewed by the Director for compliance with established policies and objectives and is evaluated through reports, conferences, and results obtained.

Minimum Qualifications: Technical training in fleet management, or closely related field, and five years of progressively responsible experience in large fleet/equipment management, including specification writing with a government agency, with two years of supervisory or lead responsibilities is required; or any equivalent combination of experience and education which provides the applicant with the desired skills, knowledge and ability required to perform the work.

Must be able to meet all traveling requirements of the position. If utilizing a personal or County owned vehicle in the performance of County work, must possess and maintain a valid Washington State Driver’s License and the appropriate amount of automobile insurance.

Prior to employment, a selected applicant must provide a driving record abstract from the Washington State Department of Licensing.

GRANT COUNTY – Deputy Prosecuting Attorney - Salary $42,800 plus; DOE/DOQ. Grant County is seeking a motivated individual for Deputy Prosecuting Attorney. Position will be responsible for providing extensive research and writing for the appeals process and to assist in prosecuting persons charged with crimes, with opportunities to try cases in court. Ideal candidate will have excellent written and verbal communication skills, presentation skills, organization skills, solid legal skills and a desire for criminal trial practice. Previous in-court prosecution, research and writing experience strongly preferred. Member of the Washington State Bar Association required. Also requires valid Washington State driver’s license with no restrictions. Position located in Ephrata.

Grant County offers a generous benefits package. See our website at www.grantcounty-wa.com for more information. Send cover letters, resumes and writing examples to: Grant County, Human Resources, PO Box 37, Ephrata, WA 98823. Open until May 31, 2002, or until filled. EOE.

WHATCOM COUNTY - Public Works, Bellingham - Engineer/Sr. Engineer – Structural design (1 position) and Engineer/Sr. Engineer – Road Design (2 positions). Salary Range: Engineer: $18.94 - $24.72/hr., DOQ and Sr. Engineer: $20.60 - $26.89/hr., DOQ. Both levels require a Bachelor's degree in civil engineering or related engineering field. Engineer level requires 2 yrs. experience in a similar engineering position and must possess a valid E.I.T. certificate at time of hire & throughout employment. Sr. Engineer level requires 4 yrs. experience in a similar engineering position and must be registered as a P.E. in the State of Washington. We offer excellent employer-paid medical, dental & vision benefits for employee and family. Generous vacation & sick leave package, average 12 holidays/yr., and WA State Retirement system (PERS). Optional deferred compensation plans & Flex 125 available. Closing date 5/13/02. For more details & to request required application packet contact Whatcom Human Resources, Bellingham, WA, (360) 676-6802 or visit www.co.whatcom.wa.us. EOE.

PIERCE COUNTY – Public Works & Utilities Department - Civil Engineer 2 - Program Development (Job #2493) - $53,352 - $68,348 Annually. Closes: May 17, 2002. Perform advanced engineering duties associated with corridor studies and associated environmental documentation; project scouting and cost estimating; project prioritization; grant application preparation; and related civil engineering work pertaining to transportation issues and projects. Requires three years of progressive responsible experience related to the position and either a four year degree with major course work in civil engineering or closely related field or substituting for the degree, registration as an Engineering-In-Training with the State of Washington. Experience using AASHTO and Washington Design manual or similar publication/manual is highly desired. Experience with AutoCAD, Land Development Desktop 2000, Stormshed, GIS or other related engineering software program is desired. Union membership is required within 30 days of employment. Application may be obtained at the Pierce County Personnel Dept., www.co.pierce.wa.us/jobs, or (253)798-7480 or TDD (253)798-3965. EOE

THURSTON COUNTY - Dept of the Auditor - Licensing/Recording Manager. Salary Range $3,941 to $5,255 per month. Closing Date: May 10, 2002. (Pos. No. 130030, Spec. No. 0153) This position has overall supervisory responsibility for the Licensing and Recording functions of the Thurston County Auditor’s Office. This is a man-

(Continued on page 8)
Employment Opportunities

(Continued from page 7)

agement position that oversees the processing of vehicle and vessel licenses and titles; and the receipting, indexing, securing, retrieving, and imaging of all recorded documents. This position plans, develops procedures, assigns work, manages training, prepares budgets, and monitor performance. Supervisory responsibilities include 10 full-time staff, temporary personnel, and coordination with 8 sub-agents located throughout the county. This position administers approximately one-third of the Auditor Office’s General Fund budget, plus two separate funds for maintenance and operation of recording and licensing systems and equipment.

Qualifications:

- Bachelor’s degree in accounting, business, public administration, or related field of management.
- Four years of work related experience in the licensing and titling of vehicles and vessels and/or three years of work related experience in records administration and management, including two years of supervisory/management responsibilities.
- Must have knowledge of computer, word processing software and databases.
- Thurston County Licensing and Recording Certification (must obtain within one year of hire).
- Must be bondable

Desired Skills:

- Knowledge of state, federal, and local laws, policies, rules, and regulations governing licensing and titling of vehicles and vessels and recording of documents.
- Knowledge of principles and practices in records management, cash handling, record keeping systems, personnel administration, cross training, information systems, and internal auditing.
- Ability to interface with large data processing systems, plan work flow, delegate and supervise day-to-day work activities, and administer contracts with sub-agents.
- Ability to communicate effectively, both verbally and in writing, with customers and staff.

Selection Process:
To be considered for this position, submit an official Thurston County Employment Application form, along with a current resume, and a cover letter. Must be submitted or postmarked by the closing date. Selected candidates will be contacted for an interview. Contact person: Barbara G. Sandahl, Chief Deputy Auditor (360)-786-5588. This position is not covered by a bargaining unit/union and will not be considered for job share.

Courthouse Ramblings

A retirement dinner/party will be held for Grant County Sheriff Bill Wiester, Saturday, June 15, at the Grant County Fairgrounds, in Moses Lake, beginning at 6:00 p.m. Bill is hanging up his spurs May 31, after 31 ½ years of law enforcement, over 12 as sheriff. For more information, call (509) 754-2011, ext. 468. In the meantime, Grant County Commissioners have appointed Under sheriff Mike Shay to the sheriff’s position, beginning June 1. Shay will run for a four-year term this fall.

* * * * *

Two Skamania County officials have thus far announced that they will not be running for re-election this year. Sheriff Chuck Bryan is retiring from the position he has held since April, 1998, with nearly 30 years in law enforcement. Prosecutor Brad Andersen will be opening a private law practice in Stevenson and is seeking the quarter time position as Skamania County District Court Judge this November. Brad is a current member of the WACO Board of Trustees and has served as prosecutor for two terms.

* * * * *

Okanogan County Prosecutor Rick Weber has announced that he will not seek a third term in November and is planning to go into private practice after the end of the year. Prior to his election in 1994, Rick served as a deputy prosecutor, public defender, and in private practice, 20 years of which was in Spokane.

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Yakima County Treasurer Nancy Davidson is another county official who will be retiring at the end of the year. Nancy was elected to her position in 1990.

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Wahkiakum County Assessor Kay Cochran has been appointed by Governor Gary Locke to the Lower Columbia College Board of Trustees. Kay has been assessor since 1989 and is a long-time member of the Lower Columbia Economic Development Council and the Wahkiakum County Democratic Central Committee.

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Thurston County Sheriff Gary Edwards is one of three Thurston County citizens who were named 2002 “LIVING LEGENDS OF

THURSTON COUNTY” by the Big Brothers Big sisters of Thurston County. Congratulations, Gary!

* * * * *

The National Association of Counties’ April 8 edition of “County News” reports that Clallam County is the rainiest county in the country, with 209 inches of rain a year. Clatsop County, Oregon was second with 190 days of rain, followed by Randolph County, West Virginia and Onondaga County, New York, with 171 inches each, and Erie County New York, with 169 days of rain. No sun damage wrinkles on the skin of those Clallam County officials!
Calendar of Events

April 23
Basic Contracting for Public Officials, sponsored by the WA Association of Prosecuting Attorneys (WAPA), Rodeway Inn, Leavenworth, 8:00 - 4:30 p.m.

April 24-26
WAPA Spring Training Program, Icicle Inn, Leavenworth

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

May 1

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

May 3

May 6-10
Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys-Support Enforcement (WAPA-Sep)’s Annual Conference, Red Lion Hotel at the Quay, Vancouver

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

May 8

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

May 10

May 15-17
WAPA Support Staff Training Program – Icicle Inn, Leavenworth. Administrative Assistant & Victim Witness Tracks, 15 hrs CLE

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

May 30-31
WAPA District Court Training Program – Holiday Inn, SeaTac. 15 hours of CLE

June 10-13
International Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners and Washington Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners Joint Conference, West Coast Hotel, Seattle.

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
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
Association of Washington Cities (AWC) Annual Conference, Yakima

June 19–21
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

(Continued on page 10)
Calendar of Events

(Continued from page 9)

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, Lakeway 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

June 19-21
WAPA Summer Training Program - Campbell’s Lodge, Lake Chelan. Civil & Criminal Tracks, 15 hours of CLE.

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

September 4–6
WAPA Drug Training Program – Icicle Inn, Leavenworth. 15 hrs of CLE.

September 8–10
WAPA Juvenile Training Program – Icicle Inn, Leavenworth. 15 hrs of CLE.

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 Hotel & Convention Center, Wenatchee

September 30–October 4
WAPA Fall Conference, in conjunction with WACO/WSAC Annual Conference – WestCoast Hotel & Convention Center, Wenatchee.

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

October 2
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
WASPC Annual Fall Conference, Red Lion Hotel at the Quay, Vancouver

November 20–22
ACHS, Seattle

December 5
WSALPHO Meeting, SeaTac

December 10–13
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.

December 12-13
WAPA Winter Meeting and Banquet – Crowne Plaza Hotel, Seattle.

2003 MEETINGS

May 19–22
WASPC Spring Conference, WestCoast Grand Hotel, Spokane

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

November 17-20
WASPC Fall Conference, Campbell’s Resort, Chelan

(Continued on page 11)
**Calendar of Events**

(Continued from page 10)

### 2004 MEETINGS

- **May 24–27**  
  WASPC Spring Conference, Yakima Convention Center, Yakima

- **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

- **November 15-18**  
  WASPC Fall Conference, Shilo Inn, Ocean Shores

- **May 23-26**  
  WASPC Spring Conference, West Coast Wenatchee Center Hotel, Wenatchee

- **July 15-19, 2005**  
  NACo Annual Conference, City & County of Hawaii, Honolulu, HI

**News Clippings**

### Work time, not jail time, for county parks

*Editorial from the Seattle Times, Monday, April 22, 2002*

King County Councilwoman Jane Hague offers a promising proposal to re-open parks closed during the county's budget crisis. The Bellevue Republican would partly open 20 parks---with gates open and bathrooms closed---by creating work crews comprised of people facing jail time and fines for misdemeanor charges.

The best outdoor days on the calendar are just around the corner, but numerous King County parks will remain closed unless the County Council quickly approves a temporary solution.

Snohomish County has used similar park work crews for several years, with promising results.

King County's workers would be nonviolent offenders---people cited for driving with suspended licenses, drunk-driving citations and failure to appear in court or pay fines on a range of offenses.

Supervised by county employees, workers would pull weeds, collect litter and trash and keep parking lots clean. Because of liability concerns, they probably would not maintain bathrooms.

King County District Court, currently testing work crews for roadside maintenance, is eager to administer and participate.

The jail is one of the biggest expenses in the county budget. Thousands of hours in jail time could be saved, and courts could see a small increase in fines paid by those who work on a crew and then feel more inclined to pay their overall debt.

Hague's proposal isn't perfect but serves as a temporary solution until broader, more systemic changes are made in county government.

Over time, some parks will transfer to local jurisdictions. King County still has more administrative cuts to make.

And a committee studying park funding may recommend other workable solutions.

For now, Hague's plan makes sense if the county can crest one hurdle: The county agreed not to give work to others that was previously performed by union employees.

The county should therefore make the proposal temporary, perhaps with a sunset clause. More than 20 full-time workers are not doing park maintenance work this summer. Those jobs are gone, at least for now.

County officials could help place those people in other jobs once some parks are transferred to local cities.

Closing parks in a place where people are bonkers for the outdoors is a losing proposition. It smacks of a declining quality of life.

No one wants to hear excuses. Park users expect government to pull out all the stops to make their beloved parks clean and accessible again.