Next week WSAC members and other county officials come to Olympia to deliver the county message on a number of critical bills and issues. If you can’t come to town, please take time to pick up the phone and talk to your legislators (many of them report being swamped in e-mails). Among the key issues we will be pushing with lawmakers are:

- **Sales Tax Sourcing (HB 2500, SB 6515):** This is the legislation that taxes retail sales at the point of delivery. WSAC supports sourcing with adequate mitigation for jurisdictions that lose revenue. This week the Association of Washington Business (AWB) formally endorsed sourcing. Representative Jim McIntire, Chair of the House Finance Committee, has presented a detailed transitional mitigation proposal supported by a mix of state funds and funds recaptured from winners. It is scheduled for executive session next week. WSAC’s Legislative Steering Committee has endorsed this approach.

- **Civil Liability Reform:** The issues of interest to counties on this topic are included in everything from stand alone bills to larger bills combining various liability issues. Allowing the use of evidence on seatbelt use in highway torts is an example of the sort of issue that would lower county costs. Another example is reducing interest on judgments to better reflect market rates from the current 12% per annum.

- **GMA Amendments:** During the interim a group of stakeholders representing cities, counties, business, the state and environmentalists devised a set of constructive updates to GMA. These amendments would help preserve rural unincorporated communities (HB 2905 and SB 6237) and family farms (HB 2563 and SB 6238). SB 6592 improves the plan update process by increasing the cycle from 7 to 10 years and streamlining requirements for small, slow growth counties. HB 2960 and SB 6534 improve land banking provisions for rural counties.

- **Funding for Counties:** There are a series of proposals in the Legislature to provide funding for counties, including those low tax base counties that received a total of $5 million last year. There are also proposals for extraordinary criminal justice costs, for special voter approved criminal justice levies for use by counties that are at or near the $1.80 limit, and proposals to fund law libraries and indigent representation. In addition, there is a proposal to gradually shift a portion of the timber excise tax for harvests on public lands to counties.

- **Smoking in Public Places (HB 1868 and SB 5791):** In accordance with the recent court ruling on the powers of local boards of health on this issue, these bills would have the Legislature make this decision.

- **State Habitat Acquisition Plans (SB 6242):** This bill would require the state to take a coordinated approach to habitat acquisition. The current approach has concentrated the purchases in a few areas of the state, including counties that already include a disproportionate amount of public land. It is hoped that a
more deliberate process will increase purchases of threatened habitat in rabidly urbanizing areas. In addition, HB 2275 and SB 6082 amend the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program to ensure PILT payments to counties, increase local input to purchase decisions and give counties improved access to funds.

- **No New Unfunded Mandates:** Unfortunately election year pressures encourage cash strapped legislators to consider funding good ideas with someone else’s budget. We thank legislators for their discipline last year. We encourage them to not back slide this year.

WSAC will be sharing issue papers and talking points on these and other issues with members in the coming days. While you are busy deleting those worms and viruses, keep a look out for information from us. We have also sent all WSAC members the latest legislative guide with contact listing for your legislators. You can also find information by going to www.leg.wa.gov but remember, this year a phone call to your legislator or their aide may work best.

If you are actually coming to Olympia, make sure to make your appointments now. It is cut-off week and legislators are very busy.

**Time is Running Out to Rally!**

The time is near! If you have not sent in your registration for the 2004 WSAC Legislative Rally scheduled for February 5, please fax it now to 360 753-2842. Do not miss out on the opportunity to hear speaker, Senator Bill Finkbeiner, Senate Majority Leader.

Lunch is scheduled from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. at the Ramada Inn - Governors’ House, 621 Capitol Way S, Olympia. The afternoon can then be spent with appointments you have made with your legislators.

At 5:30 p.m. you are again invited back to the Ramada Inn for a no-host bar and a reception. This is a great time to visit with your fellow commissioners and councilmembers.

If you would like to register please call Barbara at (360) 753-1886 and you can be register over the phone.

We look forward to seeing you on February 5.

 NOTE: Legislative Committee schedules and agendas can be found at http://www.leg.wa.gov/wsladm/calendar.cfm
New Property Tax Proposal for Criminal Justice Purposes
SB 6205 would allow counties to impose an additional regular property tax levy of up to $0.50 per year for six consecutive years if the initial levy is approved by voters. The levy would be over and above the statutory rate of $1.80. Proceeds from the levy must be used exclusively for criminal justice purposes.

The approval vote would have a supermajority requirement stating at least 60% of the voters must approve when turnout exceeds 40% of the voters at the last general election or voter approval must exceed 24% of the votes in the last general election when the voter turnout is less than 40%.

2004 Assessor’s Legislative Conference Next Week
The County Assessors’ Association will hold its annual legislative conference in Olympia next week on February 3-5. The meetings kick-off Tuesday, February 3 with an Executive Board breakfast at the Ramada Governor House at 7:30 am. The full Association breakfast will be held at 8:00 am in the Washington Counties Building. Various committee meetings commence at 9:00 am with the Timber Committee. Assessment Standards will meet from 10:15 am until Noon. After lunch the Ratio/Levy Committee will meet from 1:00 pm until 2:00 pm. The Open Space Committee will meet between 2:00 pm and 3:00 pm and the Education Committee will conclude the day meeting at 3:00 pm.

On Wednesday, February 4 the group will begin with a 7:30 am breakfast with Rep. Jim McIntire at the Ramada Governor House. Committee meetings begin at 9:00 am with the Technology Committee at the Washington Counties Building. At 10:15 a.m. the Legislative Committee will review bills of interest to the Assessors. Time is allowed Wednesday after lunch for meetings with legislators. Please make your appointment now!

February 5, Thursday will include a 7:30 am breakfast meeting with Senator Bob Morton and/or Representative Rich DeBolt at the Ramada Inn. The conference will wrap-up with an Assessor’s business meeting and reports on results of visits with legislators.

Senator Sheldon Tweaks County Use of Rural Sales and Use Tax Credit
Senator Tim Sheldon (D-Mason County) moved Substitute SB 6113 from Committee this week, sending a message to counties that the .08 percent sales and use tax credit for rural economic development must be used only for financing public facilities for economic development that generates or retains jobs. The Substitute Bill does away with the provision withholding funds from counties that do not use the money consistent with legislative intent; it requires only that counties annually report to the state auditor on fund use.

Senate Passes Economic Development Package
The State Senate this week passed economic developments three bills on a bipartisan basis that would extend tax incentives for high tech research and development and rural economic development, and expand the current tax increment finance program.

SB 6239 would extend tax incentives for research in specific technology areas and construction of research facilities. The incentives include sales tax deferrals and exemptions for qualified investments in research and development (R&D) facilities, and a business-and-occupation (B&O) tax credit for qualified R&D expenses.

Qualified industries include advanced computing, advanced materials, biotechnology, electronic device technology and environmental technology. Accountability tools to measure the long-term effectiveness of incentives would be provided. The legislation would also extend the sales tax deferral to research facilities built by the universities and would eliminate the B&O tax on federal research grants to small businesses. SB 6239 passed by a vote of 35-13.

SB 6240 would extend the sales tax exemption on construction of manufacturing and research facilities in rural areas as well as the B&O tax jobs credit. The legislation would also continue the B&O tax credit for help-desk enterprises in rural areas. SB 6240 passed by a vote of 49-0.

SB 5364 expands Washington’s current tax increment finance authority. It allows counties, cities and ports that levy 60% or more of the regular property taxes within the TIF area to create tax increment districts. As in current law, it would redirect 75% of the new construction revenue to the tax increment district, but only that revenue from construction directly resulting from the TIF infrastructure – not from related valuation increases.

As passed by the Senate, SB 5364 includes several amendments addressing concerns raised by WSAC and WACO but it does not ensure that a county has the ability to choose whether to “opt-in” to TIF creation. WSAC and WACO consider “opt-in” is essential to any expanded TIF program because with 60% levy requirement cities, in most cases, would have the unprecedented ability to redirect future revenues from the unincorporated area to fund TIF improvements within a city.

Current law allows counties, cities and ports that in the aggregate levy 75% of the regular property taxes on property within the area to create a Tax Increment Finance (TIF) district in which future property tax revenue would be redirected to repay debt used to build new infrastructure. Because of the possible revenue impacts to fire districts, the legislature has allowed them to opt-out of TIF district creation and subsequent revenue diversion. SB 5364 passed by a vote of 44-5.

The House Finance Committee will hear a different version of TIF legislation on Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. It is expected to include the “opt-in” provisions sought by WSAC and WACO.
Attempts to Reverse County and City Sourcing Gains Continue

As the cover story reports, the sourcing legislation continues to gain momentum. A group of cities are trying to convince Senators to fund mitigation by returning gains in counties, cities, and transits to the losing cities on a permanent basis. This would allow the state to provide mitigation at no cost to the state. Many Senators have heard from losing cities, but have yet to hear from the jurisdictions that would benefit from sourcing. If you are a winner, you need to let your Senator know that you think it is about time for some of your taxpayer’s sales tax to come home. WSAC officially supports mitigation, but feels that the state has to have a major role in funding that mitigation.

Labor Pressure to Increase Pension Benefits Continues

Both parties feel pressure from labor after last year’s legislation on unemployment insurance, industrial insurance, and public employee wages and benefits. As a result, many public employee pension bills are receiving hearings this session. In addition to the previously reported bills, measures to lift the 60% service credit limit for LEOFF 1 are being heard in Appropriations (HB 2416 and HB 2914) on February 2.

Property Tax Initiative Versions Keep Changing

For those who are following this issue, the first initiative was filed on January 2. This version has been formally withdrawn. The next version was filed on January 5 but is still active. Last week, on January 23, a new version was filed and has not been assigned a number. You can keep up to date on the latest filings at the Secretary of State’s website at: http://www.secstate.wa.gov/elections/initiatives/people.aspx. It does take time to process the text of filings and place them on the website. WSAC sent a PDF file of a faxed copy of the January 23 filing to our fiscal contacts in each county (usually the administrator or

WSAC Jail Survey Reveals Consequences of Revenue Squeeze

Despite the fact that counties as a group are spending more and more of their general fund budgets on criminal justice, 7 out of 10 Washington citizens live in a county with some form of jail booking restrictions. The 25 counties reporting jail restrictions, is an increase from 17 counties with similar restrictions in 1999. In addition, 16 counties, representing 33% of the state population report having capacity related early release. In the last five years 5 counties have gone to their voters to fund jail construction or renovation. Only 2 of those counties have met with success. During the same period, eight counties went to their voters for funds to operate their jail. Only 2 of those counties were successful. Thank you to all of you for participating in the survey. It helped legislators understand that the growing custody crunch for counties and state prisons is not some random occurrence. While the cost of custody keeps growing steadily, the inability of the state and county governments to keep pace with this growth means the system must receive more cash, or a significant reduction in workload or a combination of both.

County Treasurers’ Legislative Meeting and Hearings

About two dozen county treasurers were in town earlier this week for their annual legislative conference and meetings with legislators. Much of the time was spent discussing a proposed funding mechanism to develop and implement an automated system for the electronic processing of real estate excise taxes (REET). Over the past several months, a committee of treasurers and deputys, chaired by Jefferson County Treasurer Judi Morris, looked into various ideas and began to develop language for a bill. Input also came from the Department of Revenue, as they will be developing the platform for the automated system, the State Treasurer and others. Treasurers’ Legislative Chair Rose Bowman spoke with the stakeholders, including the realtors’ association and title company representatives. The result of these efforts came in the form of a bill which was introduced this week as SB 6671. First, language provides that the treasurers will collect an additional fee on all nontaxable transactions, raising the amount from two to five dollars. Next, an additional fee of five dollars will be collected to set up a REET technology account with the state treasurer for distribution back to the counties, based on the following formula: one-half of the funds would be distributed equally among the 39 counties and the balance would be distributed based on population. This way, the smaller counties would also be able to develop an automated system. The five dollars will be collected from July 1, 2004 until July, 2007, when the fee will be reduced to two dollars for ongoing maintenance of the system. The two dollar fee will sunset in June, 2012.

The Treasury Management bills, which are also part of the WACO Legislative package, HB 2878 and PSSB 6296, were both heard on Wednesday. Rose Bowman testified before the House Local Government Committee and Lisa Frazier, Mason County, joined her for the hearing in the Senate Government Operations Committee. Both bills are being amended to take care of some language the coroners/medical examiners wanted to change in Section 1, regarding property of the deceased. We are expecting them to move out of committee in the next few days.

The other bill the treasurers have introduced this year is SB 6620, modifying the real estate excise tax administration of water rights. The bill resides in the Senate Natural Resources, Energy and Water Committee and has not yet been scheduled for hearing.
Task Force Prepares for Data Collection from Counties

The Emergency Management Council (EMC) Task Force on Local Programs has completed the first draft of an information collection instrument that will be used to gather information from county, city and tribal programs in Washington State about their emergency management programs.

The Task Force is looking at emergency management as a statewide system. While the survey will ask questions about local emergency management programs, the results will be used to paint a picture of the strength and health of the emergency management system in Washington State.

If your county is interested in testing the information collection instrument, and providing valuable feedback, please contact Nicole Simkinson, Project Director, at nsimkinson@wacounties.org. For more information on the Task Force, please visit the website at www.EMCTaskforce.org.

County Clerks’ Bills

SB 6588, technical, clarifying and non-substantive changes to the legal financial obligation provisions of ESSB 5990, was introduced this week and referred to the Senate Committee on Children and Family Services and Corrections. The bill is being sponsored by Senator Jim Hargrove at the request of the county clerks who assumed the collection responsibilities for offenders from the Department of Corrections when ESSB 5990 passed last session.

HB 2580, the county clerks’ miscellaneous fee bill, was heard in House Local Government this Wednesday. Clerks are urged to contact their members on the committee and urge them to pass HB 2580 out of committee. The bill may be amended to include a few minor fixes at the request of the clerks.

HB 2581, the county clerks’ seal bill, will not be getting a hearing this session. The “wafer and wax” language has done us well for 123 years so what’s one more?

SB 6384, imposing penalties against convicted domestic violence offenders to pay for domestic violence programs, was heard Thursday in Senate Judiciary Committee and allows courts to impose a $100 penalty for local domestic violence programs. It is not mandatory and can be imposed on a case-by-case basis.

HB 2379, providing funding for certain justice system activities aka civil indigent defense, will be heard in House Judiciary on Tuesday, February 3, at 1:30 p.m. This year’s bill, and its companion SB 6244, establish an office of civil defense as an independent agency of the judicial branch, whose director is appointed by the Supreme Court. Both bills remove civil representation from the department of community, trade and economic development. Superior Court filing fees are increased to support this function and are split with the Public Safety and Education Account (PSEA). The Governor’s supplemental budget appropriates the state’s entire share of the increase to the office for the coming fiscal year 2005. SB 6606, amending the equal access to justice act, applies only to judicial review of state agency actions. The title piqued our interest.

Juries

SB 6018, reducing the burdens of jury service to increase participation, will be heard in the Senate Judiciary Committee on Wednesday, February 4, at 8:00 a.m. The bill limits service for jurors and requires them to serve not more than every two years. From what we are hearing, some counties would run out of prospective jurors if they are required to meet the requirements of the bill. County clerks, especially in small to mid-size counties, will want to take a good look at this one and contact WACO or Snohomish County Clerk Pam Daniels, the clerks’ legislative chair.

Criminal Justice Assistance

HB 2519, criminal justice property tax levies, is scheduled to be heard in House Finance next Thursday, February 5, at 8:00 a.m. Its’ companion in the Senate, SB 6205, was heard in Ways and Means earlier this week. The bills are sponsored by 19th Legislative District Senator Mark Doumit and Representative Brian Hatfield in an effort to give troubled counties the option of asking local voters if they will pay up to 50 cents per thousand dollars of property value to keep their communities safe. Pacific County Commissioner John Kaino and Pacific County Sheriff John Didion gave compelling testimony in support of the bill. Officials from all counties are encouraged to support HB 2519 on Thursday if possible. Even if your county does not expect to use HB 2519 or SB 6205, it just goes to show “one size does not fit all” but we are all in this together!

The WACO Board of Trustees voted support of both bills.

HB 2584 and SB 6300, changing the requirements for extraordinary criminal justice assistance, is another bill geared to all counties and sponsored by Representative Brian Hatfield and Senator Mark Doumit respectively. The bills change “aggravated murder” to “homicide” as eligible to be considered for reimbursement. That would take an eligibility field of eleven to over 200. The Office of Public Defense prioritizes the applications of counties when they incur extraordinary costs and sends them on to the legislature for an appropriation, hopefully. Pacific County Commissioner Pat Hamilton and Sheriff John Didion were on hand to testify in support of both. They argued that the days are gone when counties can solve their problems internally and today one event can decimate county reserves. The WACO Board of Trustees voted support of both bills.

HB 2661, creating a fugitive website, was heard in House Criminal Justice and Corrections Committee but may be stalled by price tag. The fiscal note estimated it would cost the Department of Corrections $500,000 to develop and maintain the site.

HB 2379, providing training to peace officers, also known as the “Saul
Gallegos’ bill, passed out of the House Criminal Justice and Corrections Committee this week. The bill provides $1,000,000 from the state general fund to the Criminal Justice Training Commission for defensive training. HB 2771, creating the crime of cyberstalking, and HB 1982, revising the standards for release of information on sex offenders was also voted out of committee.

**Tuesday is Weapons Day**
The entire agenda of the House Judiciary Committee on Tuesday, February 3, at 1:30 p.m. is dedicated to firearms bills that include:
- **HB 2493**, effective date of renewed concealed pistol permits.
- **HB 2600**, provisions governing possession of firearms by person found not guilty by reason of insanity.
- **HB 2671**, provision relating to possession of firearms.
- **HB 2701**, prohibiting weapons in restricted access areas of airports.
- **HB 2791**, surrender of weapons by perpetrators of domestic violence.
- **HB 3128**, prohibiting weapons in the state legislative building.

**Coroner and Medical Examiner Issues**
**SB 6951**, eliminating the state forensic pathology fellowship, will be heard in the Senate Government Operations and Elections Committee on Tuesday, February 3, at 1:30 p.m. **SB 6951** reroutes Death Investigations Account funds from the University of Washington to the Forensic Investigations Council to pave the way to establish a state forensic pathologist whose duties will mirror those of the fellow in providing autopsies to counties. The fellow position has been largely vacant in the past several years and the funds have not been utilized. **SB 6951** is a Forensic Investigations Council proposal and a priority bill of the Washington Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners (WACME) and WACO.
Increasing Marriage Licenses for Domestic Violence Funding
HB 2481 - increasing marriage license fees by $10 to fund community-based domestic violence programs was heard and passed out of committee this week. The bill is now in the House Rules Committee.

County Auditors Voice Concern over HB 2694
HB 2694 - revising distribution of funds for operating and maintenance of very low-income housing projects was heard in House Local Government Committee on Wednesday. The bill authorizes the county, rather than the auditor, to retain 5% (rather than up to 5%) of the funds collected for the collection, administration, and local distribution of the funds. Testifying on the auditors’ behalf was Thurston County Auditor Kim Wyman. Kim testified that she could not speak to the specifics about any one county, other than her own, but that the association had concerns about the language in section one. She also explained the intent and use of the O&M funds and that the auditors do not "keep" the money collected. One representative asked for clarification for the record whether the auditors’ association opposed the bill or just had concerns. Kim responded that since the association only opposed section one she was testifying with concerns. The companion bill SB 6467 is scheduled for a hearing next week on Monday, February 2 at 1:30 p.m. in Senate Financial Services, Insurance & Housing Committee, Senate Hearing Room 1. (See related article under the Human Services section of this Courthouse Journal)

Vehicle Registration at Residence Address
HB 2941 - requiring vehicle registration at the residence address was heard in House Transportation Committee on Tuesday. Douglas County Auditor Thad Duvall testified on behalf of the Auditors’ Association as the Licensing Committee Chair. Thad pointed out some of the difficulties county auditors would incur when trying to implement the bill. He questioned how the county auditors and their staff would be able to determine if a citizen’s vehicle were actually registered to their place of residence. The bill is largely supported by the law enforcement community.

Auditors Recording/Privacy Bill Scheduled for a Hearing
SB 6573, states that when any instrument is presented to a county auditor or recording officer for recording, the document shall not contain the following information: (1) A social security number; (2) A date of birth identified with a particular person; or (3) The maiden name of a person’s parent so as to be identified with a particular person. The bill is scheduled for a hearing in Senate Government Operations Committee on Tuesday, February 3 at 1:30 p.m. in Senate Hearing Room 3.

Elections
On Friday, January 23, The House State Government Committee heard HB 2420, which would remove the provision in law that requires the corresponding oval to be filled in next to the write-in candidate’s line on optical scan systems, in order for the vote to be counted. Dean Logan, King County Director of Records, Elections and Licensing Services, testified in support of the bill. He also signified his support for HB 2433, allowing a candidate to run for more than one office in an election as long as one of the races is for a PCO, a temporary position, or a position paid on a per diem basis for which there is no filing fee. An amendment made it clear that a candidate may run for only one additional office. Both HB 2420 and SBH 2433 passed out of committee this week and are in House Rules.

Also heard by State Government and passed out of committee to Rules were HB 2742, correcting statutory references and properly recodifying statutes into Title 29A RCW, and HB 2743, clarifying election-related crimes, both Secretary of State request bills. SB 6417, the Senate companion bill to HB 2742, was heard by the Senate Government Operations and Elections Committee and was given a do pass recommendation to Senate Rules. House Committee members in both committees are still working on HB 2744, implementing the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) and on its counterpart in the Senate Government Operations and Elections Committee, SB 6419.

On Monday, January 26, the House Local Government Committee heard testimony on HB 2669, establishing a pilot project to examine the use of instant runoff voting for nonpartisan offices. The bill is basically designed for the City of Vancouver, because voters have approved a ballot measure to do so and need approval of the legislature. The bill was developed with input from OSOS.

The House Technology, Telecommunications and Energy Committee held a joint hearing with the House State Government Committee, Tuesday, to hear HB 2745, enhancing the integrity of voting systems and requiring a paper trail on Direct Recording Electronic (DRE) voting machines. Present to listen to testimony were auditors Kim Wyman, Thurston County and Bob Terwilliger, Snohomish County. Following testimony from Secretary of State Sam Reed and Elections Director Dave Elliott, the committee heard from two experts (by phone) in the field of voting technology and security. The first was Dr. David Jefferson from the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, in Livermore, CA. Dr. Jefferson has served on several Task Forces for the California Secretary of State over the years, including those studying touchscreen voting and Internet Voting. He also said he has counseled against Secure Electronic Registration and Voting Experiment (SERVE) Internet Voting. Seven counties in this state are currently involved in a pilot project for SERVE, which will offer Internet Voting to overseas and military voters this year.

Dr. Jefferson’s basic message was there must be voter verification because it is beyond human ability to produce
Elections, Licensing and Recording (continued)

bug-free software and that large and random samples must be taken after elections to provide voter confidence. His suggestion was that both computer scientists and statisticians should work with the OSOS to ensure that copies of source codes for any software used, be available to the state, and that such language should be written into law.

The second expert who joined the dialogue by phone was Julian Bowery, office of the Deputy Prime Minister, in London. In the U.K., they are conducting 17 e-voting pilot programs, covering 1.4 million electors. They have what is called multi-channel voting, allowing people to vote how they wish, e.g. polling place, by mail, paper, Internet voting, telephone voting and television voting. He did state that voter participation was most popular by mail (doubled) and that people found it very convenient and easy to vote electronically. Again, he counseled that source code in software must be open to government technicians.

Auditors’ Election Co-Chairs Pat McCarthy, Pierce County and Kim Wyman, Thurston County, sat in on the House State Government Committee, Tuesday, to hear on HB 2725, replacing the blanket primary with party caucuses, and HB 2767, establishing a closed primary.

In the meantime, Pat McCarthy gathered information from auditors concerning past elections, and what the approximate costs of those would have been under the two major blanket primary replacement proposals before the legislature: the modified blanket primary and the open primary, private choice system.

Election Hearings Next Week
On Tuesday, February 3, SB 6493, changing provisions relating to responsibility for costs of elections, will be heard in the Senate Government Operations and Elections Committee, at 1:30 p.m. This bill declares that no city, town, or district is responsible for any election costs involved in electing statewide officers or ballot measures. Costs associated with the election of statewide officers and ballot measures in even-numbered years shall be paid for by the county. This bill comes out of the Regional Transportation Investment District (RTID).

District Court Judges who receive a majority of the votes cast in a primary election will appear alone on the general election ballot, in SB 6518. If the candidate receives at least one percent of the vote, he or she would join Supreme Court Justices, Court of Appeals and Superior Court judges, and the Superintendent of Public Instruction on the general election ballot, with no second place candidate appearing. SB 6518 will be heard by the Senate Judiciary Committee, Wednesday, February 4, at 8:00 a.m.

The House Local Government Committee will hear HB 2932 on Thursday, February 5, at 1:30 p.m., providing that in the case of a local park and recreation district with no current operating levy, the county governing authority, in answer to petition by the district board of commissioners, may waive the requirement and forgive up to two election cycles of debt.
Water Legislation Muddled

Legislation regarding instream flows was heard in both House and Senate Committees this week. WSAC testified on HB 2396 and SB 6376, indicating support for efforts to set and meet flows that are hydrologically-based. WSAC testimony also indicated that instream flows should be set by a watershed planning group, if one was willing to do so, and if not, by the Department of Ecology. WSAC also opposed the provision in HB 2396 that would impose a moratorium on issuance of new water rights in a basin until an approved streamflow implementation plan was in place.

The legislation developed by the Governor’s Office to revise the “use it or lose it” doctrine and initiate a statewide water rights adjudication still has not been introduced. But, bills have been introduced and scheduled to establish water courts as a new means of adjudicating water disputes. Watch for more on this.

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program Revisions Touted

HB 2275, amending the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program in significant ways, was heard this week in the House Capital Budget Committee and is likely to move from Committee soon. The measure will allow counties to apply for habitat conservation funds, riparian protection funds and farmland preservation funds, improve local input into state land purchases, and require state agency payment in lieu of taxes (PILT) and noxious weed payments.

Legislators Question Forest Land Conversion Legislation

Despite support from DNR and the timber industry (and no known opposition) members of the Senate Natural Resources, Energy and Water Committee were skeptical that SB 6227 would improve and simplify the process that takes place when a landowner decides to get out of commercial forestry and convert the land to another use – usually to residential or commercial development.

Lewis County Commissioner Eric Johnson explained that the basic concept behind SB 6227 is to apply the Forest Practices Act rules to forestry, apply the GMA rules to land development. The bill, developed by WSAC collaboratively with DNR and DCTED, would remove the current requirement that all counties and cities adopt a forest land conversion ordinance. Instead, those counties with substantial conversion activity would assume responsibility for conversion from DNR and regulate that activity through their GMA critical areas ordinance and a clearing and grading ordinance.

Commissioners Promote Historic Courthouse Fund

Jefferson County Commissioner Dan Titterness and Mason County Commissioner Herb Baze joined WSAC staff in supporting SB 6539 this week. The bill, sponsored by Senator Mike Hewitt (R- Walla Walla County) would create a Historic County Courthouse Fund to support the renovation and rehabilitation of 28 qualifying historic courthouses across the state. A $93 million capital investment need has been identified, ranging from $30 million for the Jefferson County Courthouse to $15,000 for the Columbia County Courthouse.

A companion measure, HB 2980, sponsored by Rep. Lynn Kessler (D- Grays Harbor County) is scheduled for the House Trade and Economic Development Committee on Tuesday, February 3 at 1:30 p.m. The bill is supported by the State Trust for Historic Preservation.

Governor Locke Nominates Projects for EPA Watershed Initiative Program

The Governor’s Office has submitted six watershed projects to the EPA for funding consideration. The six projects include:

- Nisqually River Watershed (Proposal from the Nisqually Tribe);
- Skagit River Watershed (Joint proposal with Skagit River Cooperative);
- Nooksack River Watershed (Joint proposal with the Nooksack Tribe and the Lummi Nation);
- Hood Canal-Union River Watershed (Joint proposal with the Skokomish Tribe);
- Walla Walla Watershed (Joint proposal with the state of Oregon).

Each year, the EPA solicits nominations from the nation’s governors for watershed projects to be considered for funding under the EPA Watershed Initiative program. Each governor is allowed to nominate two watershed projects, an unlimited number of joint governor/tribal watersheds, and an unlimited number of multi-jurisdictional watersheds for consideration. Last year, a joint Washington/Oregon nomination – the Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership – won an EPA Watershed Initiative grant in the amount of $700,000.

It will be several months before the EPA makes its decision on which projects will receive funding.

The Supreme Court Reverses Their Decision on Annexations

In a rare move the state Supreme Court reversed its decision in a unanimous decision today, in Grant County Fire Protection District No. 5 v. City of Moses Lake, 145 Wn.2d 702 (2002), and concluded that the petition method of annexation is constitutional.

As a result of the state supreme court's reversal of its decision in Grant County Fire Protection District No. 5 v. City of Moses Lake, the "landscape" of annexation law in this state has changed, once again. The major consequences of the court's new decision are summarized as follows:

The "old" petition method of annexation in RCW 35.13.125-.160 and in RCW 35A.14.120-.150, that is based on the assessed valued of the property, is once again valid. All annexations that have been accomplished under the old
method are valid.

Since the 2003 legislature established a new "alternative" method of annexation, the "50-50" method as provided in RCW 35.13.410-.460 and in RCW 35A.14.420-.450, there are now two different petition methods of annexation available to cities. Outside utility agreements (under which property owners agreed to future annexation in exchange for having city utility service extended to their property), that cities had entered into with property owners prior to the court's original decision in Grant County Fire Protection District No. 5 v. City of Moses Lake, are enforceable according to their terms. Most, if not all, of these agreements had been rendered unenforceable by the court's original decision.

WSAC will continue to perfect legislation with AWC on another method of annexation that is based on interlocal agreements. Earlier this week, WSAC reached a conceptual agreement with AWC and the bill is being drafted.

**Growth Management Discussions Continue**

This week the both Land Use committees held a hearing on the Best Available Science bill. The homebuilders and the business community testified against the bill. The committee chair has asked all the parties to see if we can reach an agreement. Discussions are ongoing. The GMA workgroup failed to reach an agreement on a bill to extend the timelines for updates. AWC and WSAC introduced SB 6592, it extends the update cycle to 10 years for all counties; establishes a basic update for slow growing counties; and provides grandfathering for updates that occurred two years prior to the due date. Please call your Senators and ask them to support the bill. WSAC staff will be asking to have the threshold for a basic update increased to 75,000 for counties. We have reached an agreement with all but one party on HB 2905/SB6238-the LAMIRDb bill; the environmental community would prefer to have the development be consistent with the type of development that existed in the LAMIRDb when they were designated. Please call your Representatives and Senator and ask them to support these 2 bills.

**Both Committees Hold Hearings on the Flexibility for Farms Bills**

Staff and farm advocates traveled from Chelan County to testify on these bills this week. In addition to their testimony, Darcie Nielsen, San Juan County commissioner, testified in support of the bill. Nobody testified against the bills so they should have an easier time making it through the process.

**New Land Use Bills This week**

HB 2960 is the GMA workgroups request bill that provides flexibility for certain counties to designate and develop industrial land banks. WSAC is supporting this bill.

HB 2811-allows CTED to develop rules to decide what is in the State's interest for a local government to submit to the State for a 60 day review under the GMA. This bill should reduce the number of development regulations a county must submit to CTED for 60 day review.

HB 2805- creates the blue ribbon commission on land use and local government finance to understand and make recommendations on the impact that current trends in city and county revenue sources and expenditures may have on land-use decisions made by counties and cities and meeting the goals of the growth management act.

HB 2811-requires the buildable land counties and cities to post their permit timeline performance reports on their website.

HB 3028-is San Juan County’s request legislation that would allow rural counties to have detached accessory dwelling units in order to meet affordable housing problems in the rural areas.

HB 3068-is King County’s request legislation to study the barriers to annexation.

SB 6409-expands the industrial land bank provisions to all 39 counties.

SB 6570-declares that no county or city may adopt a comprehensive plan or development regulation that precludes the siting of essential public facilities. It also requires specific timelines for issuing permits; decision making criteria; and a process to mitigate the siting impacts. The bill is retroactive.

SB 6592-creates a 10 year comprehensive plan review and updates cycle; creates a basic update requirement for counties under 60,000 and grandfathered updates two years prior to the update.

**Key Land Use Next Week**

2/2/04 House Local Government - Hearing Rm E  1:30 pm
1. HB 2960 - Designating processes and siting of industrial land banks.
2. HB 2811 - Establishing permit processing timelines and reporting requirements for certain local governments subject to the requirements of RCW 36.70A.215.
3. HB 2805 - Creating a blue ribbon commission on land use and local government finance.
4. HB 3028 - Authorizing accessory dwelling units in rural counties.

2/4/04 House Local Government Full Committee - Hearing Rm E  8:00 am
1. HB 3068 - Requiring the department of community, trade, and economic development to study annexation progress in certain counties.
2. HB 2829 - Revising provisions relating to incorporations within urban growth areas.

2/5/04 House Local Government Full Hearing Rm E  1:30 pm
1. HB 2730 - Modifying impact fee provisions.
2. HB 2915 - Providing for metropolitan park districts.
3. HB 2932 - Allowing forgiveness of certain election costs.
4. HB 2952 - Permitting leave sharing policies for local government employers.
House Local Government Committee -
Hearing Rm E   2/5/04  8:00 pm
1. HB 2841 - Providing for flood
control zone district administration.
2. HB 2891 - Providing for withdrawal
from and addition to a public utility
district.
3. HJR 4216 - Amending the
Constitution to allow four year excess
tax levies for metropolitan park districts
and library districts.

2/2/04 Senate Land Use and Planning -
Senate Hearing Rm 3
1. SB 6409 - Expanding the eligibility
of counties to designate industrial land
banks.
2. SB 6534 - Designating processes and
siting of industrial land banks.
3. SB 6238 - Providing for rural
development.
4. SB 6592 - Distinguishing growth
management update responsibilities
between slower and faster growing
cities and counties.
5. SB 6335 - Clarifying critical areas.
a. (Possible continuation of public
hearing from 1/22.)
6. SB 6237 - Providing nonagricultural
commercial and retail uses that support
and sustain agricultural operations on
designated agricultural lands of long-
term significance.  a. (Possible
continuation of public hearing from
1/26.)
7. SB 6476 - Designating manufactured
housing communities as nonconforming
uses.
8. SB 6477 - Imposing impact fees on
manufactured housing communities.
9. SB 6587 - Imposing fees to mitigate
adverse environmental impacts.

2/5/04 Senate Land Use Committee -
Senate Hearing Rm 3   1:30 pm
1. SB 6661 - Allowing assumptions of
water-sewer districts by code cities.
2. SB 6624 - Authorizing accessory
dwelling units under specified
circumstances.
3. SB 6471 - Providing for greater flood
control management and maintenance.
General Government Issues

Chief Financial Officer Bill
HB 1594 - the chief financial officer in a charter county was amended with the agreed upon language and was passed out of committee this week. The bill is now in House Rules Committee. If you have a Representative on the Rules Committee please contact them and ask them to “pull” the bill. Rules Committee members are: Frank Chopp, Bruce Chandler, Roger Bush, Jim Clements, Richard DeBolt, William Eickmeyer, Bill Grant, Kathy Haigh, Brian Hatfield, Sam Hunt, Fred Jarrett, Lynn Kessler, Steve Kirby, John Lovick, Joyce McDonald, Kirk Pearson, Laura Ruderman, Sharon Tomiko Santos and Beverly Woods.

Are you the Marrying Type?
Legislation introduced by Rep. Zach Hudgins (D-King County) would allow county commissioners and councilmembers -- along with legislators and city council members – to perform marriages. HB 2424 was heard last week in the House Family Law Committee.

Local Government Infrastructure Tracking System Progressing Nicely
The Public Works Board, the Transportation Improvement Board, and the Infrastructure Assistance Coordinating Council are working together to create a database that will track upcoming Local Government infrastructure projects. This information will help demonstrate to the Legislature and the public the infrastructure needs of Local Governments across the state. It will also assist state and federal programs to track upcoming demands on their resources.

Your assistance is needed! In order for this project to succeed, information from your Capital Facilities Plan, Capital Improvement Plan/Program, Water System Plan, Sewer System Plan or Comprehensive Plan (whichever one you have) is needed to enter into the database. Information is being gathered on 13 different systems from the years 2004 to 2010.

The systems that information is being collected for include:

- Adult Criminal Detention
- Cultural, Recreational & Historical Facilities
- Domestic Water
- Sanitary Sewer
- Energy
- Health & Medical
- Juvenile Criminal Detention
- Public Buildings & Facilities
- Roads, Streets, Bridges & Surface Transportation
- Emergency & Other Public Safety
- Solid Waste & Recycling
- Storm Sewer
- Telecommunication

Initially, information will be collected for 629 jurisdictions: 281 Cities/Towns, 39 Counties, 76 Port Districts, 28 Public Utility Districts, 29 Tribes, and 176 Sewer & Water Districts. As of February 1st, we have received information from over 90 jurisdictions.

Below is an example of the format that would be the most useful for entering the data:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Proposed Improvement</th>
<th>Estimated Cost</th>
<th>Funding Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Main Street &amp; 1st Avenue 12” Loop</td>
<td>$400,000, $100,000, $500,000</td>
<td>PWTF Loan, City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3rd Street Sewer</td>
<td>$200,000, $200,000</td>
<td>City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Outfall Construction</td>
<td>$2,400,000, $2,400,000</td>
<td>PWTF Loan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Well No.2 – Total Rehabilitation</td>
<td>$414,000, $414,000</td>
<td>DWSRF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Elm Street – 12” Main</td>
<td>$100,000, $100,000</td>
<td>City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sewer Main Replacement</td>
<td>$750,000, $1,000,000, $1,750,000</td>
<td>CDBG, Rural Dev Loan/Grant</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

However, if you already have this information as part of an existing document, please just send in a copy. Board staff realizes that you may not have information through 2010, but any information that you can provide starting with 2004 would be most helpful. Also, if the information can be sent in an electronic format, it would make the job much easier.

Please mail, fax, or email your information to: Bill Cole, Public Works Board, PO Box 48319, 711 Capitol Way, Suite 102, Olympia, WA 98504-8319, Phone (360) 586-4125, Fax (360) 664-3029, Email billc@cted.wa.gov.

If you have already sent your information, thank you!
Interlocal Cooperation Bid Requirements (HB 2615)

HB 2615 was heard in House State Government Committee on Wednesday January 28. The bill provides a legislative fix to the attorney general’s opinion that last year ruled that purchasing off of an Interlocal agreement with another government was not legal unless it met all other requirements of law including legal advertising.

Since most master contracts were only advertised in their own jurisdictions the AG ruled local governments taking advantage of these contracts through the Interlocal Agreement Act that did not meet the requirement of advertising in a newspaper of general circulation within their own county were not in compliance of the law. The result has been to cast a shadow on use of purchasing contracts offered by the state, federal and U.S. Communities, a consortium of the NACo, the U. S Conference of Mayors and the National League of Cities.

HB 2615 only requires the secondary agency to conduct some additional electronic advertising.

Please contact members of the House State Government, Chaired by Rep. Kathy Haigh, and urge them to pass this bill out of committee.

Privacy Bill

SB 6257, protecting personal and identifying information was heard in Senate Judiciary Committee on Friday. WASPC Executive Director Larry Erickson testified in favor of the bill, but recognized that other local government offices may have problems with some of the language in the bill and reported to the committee as well as the bill’s prime sponsor, Senator Brandland that WASPC, WACO, and the county auditors will be meeting on Friday afternoon to work on language that can be offered as a striking amendment. Following Larry’s testimony was Thurston County Auditor Kim Wyman, who thanked the committee for the opportunity to testify on the bill and stressed to the committee that the county auditors are very sensitive to both the identity theft issue, and the issue of safety for law enforcement officers and their families and will be working with the stakeholders on this bill to draft language that both parties can live with.

The companion bill HB 2558 is scheduled to be heard at 1:30 p.m. in House Judiciary Committee.
**Member’s Corner**

**A Commissioner and a Rancher**

*(by Jeanie Senior, Klickitat PUB - Ruralite January 2004)*

Joan Frey is both a rancher and a Klickitat County Commissioner.

“I think the interesting thing about my life is the two extremes,” says Joan, now in her fourth term -- 13th year -- on the county board of commissioners. “I have trouble transitioning in the morning.”

Rancher Joan is out early, wearing farm clothes as she works with her husband, Danny, feeding cows on their ranch above the Klickitat River.

Then it’s back to the house to shower and change clothes and become Commissioner Joan, heading out on the 45-minute drive to the county seat of Goldendale.

“Sometimes I have to look down at myself, look at my high-heeled shoes to make sure I’ve made the transition,” she jokes. “Woe be to those who get the hybrid.”

Joan recalls the first Mid-Columbia Economic Development District (MCEDD) meeting she attended.

“Dan and I were in Grass Valley shearing sheep,” she says. “I had to go from there to the MCEDD meeting. I smelled so bad; people were just edging away from me.”

Sometimes, she says philosophically, “You just run out of time and you just gotta go with hay in your hair.”

Joan is the first -- and, so far, only -- woman elected to the county board of commissioners.

“I’ve often felt that I may not have been the best woman for the job, but I’m the best first woman for the job,” says Joan. “I hope there will be many other women.”

She then was defeated by four votes on her first try for the county board. After the election, she attended Clark College and took classes on environmental biology. She was named to the county planning commission.

“I took those four years to prepare myself, then I ran again and was successful in 1991,” she says.

She thinks what she calls “my very grassroots background” helped her get elected.

“I guess it maybe helped a traditional constituency accept me,” she says. Joan is one of three county commissioners.

“It’s pretty much a full-time job for three people,” she says. “There’s no administrator or county court judge, so we get to do it. Thank goodness we have good department heads, good staff.”

With the timber industry mostly gone from Klickitat County, Joan says, the huge challenge is somehow getting economic stability back into the county.

Toward that end, the county is investing landfill dollars -- fees paid to the county from the giant regional landfill -- into infrastructure to attract businesses.

“There’s a great work ethic in Klickitat County,” Joan says. “We’ve been working hard to fill that unemployment gap, and it’s been tough, but I think we’ve got it moving now. I think in the next year we’re going to see some real progress in jobs. I’m excited. I think we’re going to make a difference.”

She says the goal is to find jobs and businesses that won’t change the county’s character.

“There’s a balance there for me, of course, that’s diversified, smaller industries,” she says. “But when you become ‘discovered’ -- as Klickitat County has -- the pressure is on that you lose that rural agrarian culture you’ve had for so many years that draws people here.

“I don’t want that to be sacrificed. One of the most important things to me is to do well, have better jobs and still retain that character.”

In muddy jeans and boots, fending off a 5-day old calf she is bottle-feeding, Joan is so at home as a rancher that it is hard to believe she is not originally from Klickitat County -- or even from a rural area.

She was born and raised in Portland, leaving when she was 26, after she and Danny married.

Divorced with three children, she had been working as a grocery checker.

Danny’s sister was her babysitter.

When their relationship became serious, he wondered if Joan could adjust to ranch life. That wasn’t an issue.

“I was a kid that that never quite fit into Portland, no matter how hard I tried,” says Joan.

In the city, she would walk a considerable distance to a riding academy, where she would rent a horse for $5 and ride all day.

“When he and I met and got serious, his dad wanted him to come back on the ranch,” she says. “I said, ‘Ho-ho, let’s just see here.’ Culturally, I didn’t know I’d get that far away from Portland.”

For years, Danny worked off the ranch, driving a long truck and then working in the woods. Joan and Danny subsequently bought a truck in partnership with his folks. She and her father-in-law did the farm work until 1991, when she was elected to the county board.

In what many ranchers would view as a real understatement, Joan says, “it’s kind of hard to make a living ranching.”

Joan and Danny raise a few chickens, pigs and sheep, but their main operation is a cow-calf business. In the winter they feed the cattle on the home place; in the summer, they truck them north toward Mount Adams, where they have a federal grazing permit.

“It’s kind of tough to stay in the business,” Joan says. “It takes some kind of commitment. I’ve never been able to make the logic work. You work extremely hard, you get hurt, you don’t make money. I still can’t figure out why I don’t ever want to quit.”

None of Joan and Danny’s five children ranch with them.

“They’re all pretty wise kids,” she says. “They don’t want to take on this job.”

Daughter Connie Anderson ranches in Arlington, Oregon; son Dan Chase lives adjacent to the home ranch; Merina Chase lives in Portland; Debbie Frey is in Seattle, and Donna Wentworth is in Hamilton, Montana. They have 11 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

“When people say, it’s a ‘lifestyle,’ that’s a cavalier thing to me,” Joan says.
of ranching. “I feel I’m actually producing something for society, and I feel good about that. You have to like animals, enjoy the challenge of dealing with something that weighs anywhere from 1,200 pounds to a ton and be able to walk away.”

“It’s wonderful to meet the challenge -- of the psychology of dealing with cattle and horses; a good set of dogs is a challenge. I have just always liked being challenged.”
### Social Services, Juvenile Justice, and Housing

#### Hearings of Note Feb. 2 – 6

This is the final week of hearings in the policy committees of the House of Origin. Lots of changes to agendas can be anticipated as frantic bill sponsors and supporters attempt to get their bills both heard and passed out of committee. All committees have changes but it always seems like the health and human services committees are particularly susceptible so check on the agenda of your favorite committee right up to the scheduled time of the hearing through www.leg.wa.gov, the leg info site.

**House Committees:**  
House Appropriations will be busy hearing and passing bills as their cut-off is Feb. 10. Usually they have a marathon session on the Saturday before which is Feb. 7 this year. At this time no agendas are announced and interested parties will have to check the day of the hearing. They are currently scheduled every day at 3:30 pm.

House Children & Family Services  
2/2/04 1:30  
Public Hearing on a variety of child welfare bills.  
Executive Session on:  
- **HB 2548** – Creating a food bank outreach pilot program  
- **HB 2769** – Reducing hunger  
- **HB 2828** – Creating the homeless families services fund

2/5/04 1:30  
**HB 2936** – Creating additional requirements for criminal history checks for persons having supervised and unsupervised contact with minors, developmentally disabled persons, or vulnerable adults  
**HB 2963** – Requiring background checks for all department of social and health services employees and contractors

House Criminal Justice & Corrections  
2/3/04 10:00  
**HB 2849** – Eliminating credentialing barriers for sex offender treatment providers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bill Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HB 3065</td>
<td>Revising partial confinement options for certain drug offenders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House Finance</td>
<td>2/5/04 8:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HB 2724</strong></td>
<td>Providing tax exemption for certain services for developmentally disabled persons</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>HB 2600</strong></td>
<td>Revising provisions concerning possession of firearms by persons found not guilty by reason of insanity</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>HB 3078</strong></td>
<td>Revising timelines for sealing juvenile records</td>
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<tr>
<td>House Local Government</td>
<td>2/5/04 8:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HB 3028</strong></td>
<td>Authorizing accessory dwelling units in rural counties (San Juan County bill)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>HB 2663</strong></td>
<td>Requiring use of respectful language in the Revised Code of Washington regarding individuals with disabilities</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SB 6555</strong></td>
<td>Eliminating credentialing barriers for sex offender treatment providers</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SB 6577</strong></td>
<td>Ordering a study of reporting requirements for community action agencies</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SB 6299</strong></td>
<td>Requiring the adoption of policies regarding health evaluations for and the administration of psychotropic drugs in schools</td>
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**Senate Committees:  
Senate Children & Family Services & Corrections  
2/4/04 8:00  
**SB 6555** | Eliminating credentialing barriers for sex offender treatment providers |

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**Senate Committees:**  
Senate Children & Family Services & Corrections  
2/4/04 8:00  
**SB 6555** – Eliminating credentialing barriers for sex offender treatment providers  
**SB 6577** – Ordering a study of reporting requirements for community action agencies  
**SB 6609** – Revising timelines for sealing juvenile records  
2/6/04 8:00  
**SB 6678** – Authorizing the release of patient records for the purpose of restoring state mental hospital cemeteries  
**SB 6680** – Clarifying that individual providers of home care are nonstate employees  
2/6/04 8:00  
**SB 6700** – Requiring the use of respectful language in the Revised Code of Washington regarding individuals with disabilities  
**SB 6651** – Mandating the creation of a medical necessity definition  
**SB 6474** – Exempting certain prescription drugs from the provisions of RCW 70.14.050 (excludes all drugs used to treat mental illness from the drug formulary list)  
**SB 6451** – Preserving nursing home funding  
2/5/04 10:00  
Work Session: Home Care Workers Union Contract  
Public Hearing:  
**SB 6536** – Clarifying that individual providers of home care are nonstate employees
The Courthouse Journal – January 30, 2004

Public Health and Human Services (continued)

SB 6657 – Clarifying collective bargaining processes for individual providers

Senate Ways & Means
Monday – Thursday 3:30
Executive Sessions – agendas not announced

The Following Two Articles are taken from the Children’s Alliance Digest

Low-Income Patients

Left Waiting for Care

Health providers that accept their cases are overwhelmed

Monday, January 26, 2004
by Heath Foster
Seattle Post-Intelligencer Reporter

The morning she fell, Gwendolyn Smith was getting ready to go shopping. No big drama to it: She just wanted to buy a bargain cell phone so she could keep better track of her family. But somehow, as she dressed, she stumbled and shattered her ankle on her bedroom floor. "I hollered and screamed like a baby," she said. The triple break was serious enough that doctors in the emergency room of Swedish Medical Center's Providence Hospital quickly admitted the 45-year-old grandmother for surgery. Little else in her case would move fast. Because she is poor, Smith got to a hospital but I couldn't find a way. "I never ran into a situation before where I had to nurse my cranky babies at home. "It's easier to get a cat or dog spayed than it is to get care for your kids," his wife, Trish Dale, 27, complained.

Gwendolyn Smith's case is no anomaly in the reach of many. "While we aren't seeing a wholesale dismantling (of the health care system), all these small problems such as earaches, asthma, dressing changes and bouts of the flu are becoming the bread and butter of ER work, they say.

For many patients turned away by their local doctors and community hospitals, the overburdened Harborview Medical Center on Seattle's First Hill has become the hospital of last resort. The 127-year-old trauma hospital is dedicated to serving all patients regardless of their ability to pay. Patients drive from places as far away as Idaho and Yakima to get a prescription filled, a tooth pulled, a bone set or vital follow-up care. "They wait in line with other sad, sick, unhappy people," said Dr. Michael Copass, Harborview's chief of emergency services. "It's not a nice time."

A new study by the state Medical Assistance Administration has found that between 1998 and 2002, the availability of doctors accepting Medicaid coupons dropped by 26 percent. At the same time, the number of uninsured people, which in 2002 accounted for 11 percent of the state population, or nearly 650,000 residents, has been bubbling upward. Though traditionally generous in providing health insurance to low-income people, Washington has cut access to Medicaid and the state's Basic Health Plan over the past few years because of severe budget shortfalls.

Meanwhile, the recession has left the newly unemployed patients seeking emergency services. "It's not a nice time."

These hurdles also cause some to give up on care altogether. When Snohomish father Shannon Dale was turned away by his children's longtime pediatrician in December because of a change in his family's Medicaid coverage, he took his two flu-ridden sons to Monroe's Valley General Hospital ER. But Matthew, 1, and Joey, 2, were running fevers and coughing uncontrollably, and he was told he would have to wait several hours to see a doctor. Dale decided it would be better to nurse his cranky babies at home. "It's easier to get a cat or dog spayed than it is to get care for your kids," his wife, Trish Dale, 27, complained.
At the same time, those with more pressing health problems are finding they must travel enormous distances to get care.

Two weeks ago, 27-year-old Mary Gilley traveled 312 miles from Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, to Harborview for pelvic surgery she needed because of a nasty car accident last spring. The restaurant cook and mother of two was unable to find an experienced surgeon in Idaho or Spokane willing to accept her Medicaid coverage. "The hardest thing is going to be driving back home for six hours with this metal plate in my hip," she said. "But I am thankful that I was seen by one of the best surgeons in the country."

A two-tiered system

Doug Porter, head of the Medical Assistance Administration, said his agency's new research shows that patients' difficulty accessing care has more to do with the enormous growth in Washington's Medicaid population than it does with doctors slamming doors in people's faces. The number of primary care and specialty doctors accepting Medicaid fee-for-service payments actually grew slightly between 1998 and 2002, but was not nearly enough to keep pace with the 12 percent leap in the number of people insured through Medicaid. And an increasingly concentrated group of doctors is providing the bulk of the care for Medicaid patients. About a quarter of the doctors who accept Medicaid saw 70 percent of the state's Medicaid patients in 2002. Health care experts say this is further evidence that the haves and have-nots in Washington receive care in a two-tiered system. Those with insurance through their jobs with private employers or the government see one set of health care providers, while those on Medicaid or without insurance see another. Many of those doctors work for a network of federally funded community, neighborhood and rural health clinics.

Though experts say the quality of care inside clinic doors is generally good, patients sometimes must wait weeks for an appointment. And community clinics can't provide specialty follow-up care, such as a workup on gastrointestinal pain, orthopedic surgery or cancer treatment. Porter insists these access issues are not a crisis. But he acknowledged that Medicaid patients don't get the same level of access as the privately insured. "To those who say we must not create a two-tiered health system, I say it's too late," he said. The realities of that two-tiered system came into play the hot evening last August when Gwendolyn Smith was rushed to Swedish Providence with her badly broken ankle and a foot she says was "facing the wrong way."

Although Swedish's Web site boasts that its "exceptionally skilled" orthopedic surgeons have made Swedish of one the nation's "foremost orthopedic centers," their services are out of reach for most poor people. Only two of the 50 orthopedic surgeons on staff at Swedish's three campuses accept Medicaid patients, said Dr. Rayburn Lewis, the medical director for Swedish Providence. The spine surgeon who admitted Smith tried to transfer her to Harborview, but that hospital was overwhelmed with orthopedic patients of its own. After more than a week of searching, Swedish Providence found a staff podiatrist just a few months out of his residency eager to take on Smith's case. He operated on Smith on her 11th day in the hospital. "From the top of Swedish on down, a large number of medical staff were unhappy with this turn of events," Lewis said. "This amount of delay is more than we would have liked to have seen." The surgeon who admitted Smith, Dr. Paul Schwaegler, said his practice stopped taking Medicaid patients more than two years ago when it was unable to negotiate a reimbursement rate to cover the cost of patient care. Instead, the group makes donations to charitable causes, he said. "Since there would be no limit to the number of patients we would see under such a contract, it would represent unlimited losses," he said. "This would be an unsound business decision for the corporation.

Vince Schueler, a community health expert for the state Department of Health, explained that in years past, doctors were able to balance out the low reimbursement rates they received caring for Medicaid patients with the much more generous rates private insurers paid. But private insurers cut their payments in response to soaring medical costs, and doctors also face skyrocketing premiums for liability insurance. A 2001 UW study found that primary-care practices earning more than 20 percent of their income from Medicaid tend to operate at risk of financial failure.

There's a tendency to say this problem is the fault of evil, greedy doctors, but most doctors are people of good will doing the best they can in a difficult system," Schueler said. "They are really, really struggling with the difficult choice between taking care of people and their ability to operate a business. It is no picnic."

But many doctors who provide care to low-income people in community clinics and hospital emergency rooms feel strongly that private-practice doctors and many not-for-profit or public hospitals are not bearing their fair share of the burden. Johnese Spisso, Harborview's chief operating officer, said she has been struck recently by the blatancy with which physicians and other hospitals are referring their uninsured patients to her hospital -- which does not get any government subsidies to care for them. Patients often arrive with hospital discharge instructions directing them to the Harborview ER for their follow-up care, complete with MapQuest directions. In recent weeks, Harborview saw a south Puget Sound woman who lost her insurance soon after a hysterectomy and was directed by her doctor to drive 120 miles north for follow-up care. In another case, an uninsured east Pierce County woman was suffering from an infection at risk of spreading to her brain. Her ear-nose-and-throat specialist offered to do the needed surgery for free if she could find a way to pay for a nearby hospital surgical suite. She couldn't, so she ended up at Harborview.

To cope with the increasing numbers of uninsured and Medicaid patients coming to emergency rooms for services they should be getting in doctors' offices,
hospitals have been expanding their emergency rooms and even opening their own clinics. Three months ago, Harborview opened a Fast Track Clinic attached to its ER to deal with the uncomplicated health care needs clogging the waiting room, such as urinary tract infections and dressing changes. And in Snohomish County last week, a community clinic opened to serve the poor and uninsured, an effort spearheaded by the outspoken director of Providence Everett Medical Center’s trauma center, Dr. Tony Roon. Boeing layoffs, an acute physician shortage and especially low Medicaid reimbursement rates helped push 93,000 people into Providence Everett’s two emergency rooms in 2002. The hospital estimates 18,000 of them were turned away by doctors who would not accept Medicare or Medicaid coverage. The Everett clinic, staffed by volunteer doctors, expects to treat 8,000 patients and lose $115,000 in its first year. Locally, the creation of the clinic is an inspiring example of community leaders and health care professionals teaming up to do something about the access crisis.

But it's also a reflection that many have stopped counting on the state or federal government to keep the poor and recently unemployed healthy." You can't count on Washington, D.C., or Washington state to help us," Roon said. "Until there is health care reform, there really is very little you can do, except for small steps."

New Leader Tackles Troubled Agency

Seattle Times
Jan. 27
By Jonathan Martin
Seattle Times staff reporter

OLYMPIA - The lobbyists and legislators were still nursing their morning coffee, but Uma Ahluwalia was buzzing around the hearing room with business cards and handshakes. She is four months into her new job running Washington's Child Protective Services and foster-care system, and the mammoth task hasn't yet dimmed the determined 37-year-old's enthusiasm. But as the morning hearing began, one veteran legislator, heading to the dais, patted Ahluwalia on the back and offered a knowing, good-luck-to-you smile. She could use the encouragement. Before she had time to fully unpack, Ahluwalia oversaw more than $13 million in lawsuit settlements and launched special investigations into the high-profile deaths of two children under her agency's oversight. Then, last month, the Department of Social and Health Services was on the receiving end of a key state Supreme Court ruling, which said foster children are entitled to safe homes and that inadequate funding is no excuse for failing to provide them.

Ahluwalia (pronounced Ah-LEW-wa) inherited those problems and more, many of which took root long before her arrival. Thus far, lawmakers and child advocates have refrained from criticizing Ahluwalia's agency, hoping she is as reform-minded as her reputation would make her appear. But it is a huge ship to turn. Her agency, the Children's Administration, has a $455 million annual budget and last year investigated child-abuse complaints involving 45,500 children, 8,000 of whom ended up in foster care. Her staff is highly unionized and is asked to make thousands of subjective decisions a day. There are critics to the political left and right.

"The job is next to impossible," said Sen. Jim Hargrove, D-Hoquiam, the ranking Democrat on the Senate's Children and Family Services Committee. The first few months, Ahluwalia said, made her wonder if she was "insane" for turning down a more familiar job as a social-services administrator in Maryland. "That's a scary part of being a child-welfare administrator, right," she said, her speech gilded slightly in an Indian accent. "You are a surrogate parent. You can never say there is a time when no child is going to get hurt. In the middle of the night you wake up in a cold sweat."

Born in southern Indian and raised in New Delhi, the daughter of a children's author, Ahluwalia has an impressive résumé. In the late 1980s, she worked as a social worker in the city's sprawling slums while maintaining a 4.0 grade-point average in master's courses at the University of Delhi. She married a fellow student, Manddeep, and they emigrated to the Baltimore area in 1990. Within six years, she'd gotten a second master's and was running the social-services department of Maryland's Prince George's County, equivalent in size to Pierce County. Her boss, Al Collins, was hired as chief of staff for newly elected Gov. Parris Glendening, and Collins talked Ahluwalia into the political world. After two years as Glendening's human-services adviser, Ahluwalia became the congressional liaison for the embattled District of Columbia child-welfare services. She stayed less than a year before moving to Olympia.

She has been a quick study, according to child-welfare experts, latching onto the progressive idea that parents — even those accused of child abuse — should have a say in their child's foster-home placement. She's started pushing that model in Washington so enthusiastically that some child-welfare advocates wonder if she shouldn't first learn what's been tried here. "She knows how to move things along," Collins said. "She'll have to moderate her need to be aggressive. She quickly understands where she wants to get to, but some people are slower to get on board."

The DSHS job opened last summer with the unexpected death of 54-year-old Rosie Oreskovich. The search committee went through two rounds of searches, rejecting a popular internal candidate before hearing of Ahluwalia through advocacy circles. She impressed the committee by dropping in unannounced at an Olympia child-welfare office before being interviewed. She's since visited all 44 of her agency's offices, from Clarkston to Forks. "I know public child welfare quite well, but I don't know the state," she said of her visits. "I want the social workers to get to know me, and know I wasn't a political appointment."

Sen. Val Stevens, R-Arlington, has been one of DSHS's toughest critics, but she likes Ahluwalia's "roll up her sleeves" leadership. "I believe her approach is fresh, because she came
from out of state," said Stevens. "There is none of this incestuous, not-wanting-to-step-on-toes attitude that permeates into the people who've been there forever." Ahluwalia's office, which overlooks a rooftop air-conditioning unit, is dominated by a huge poster with a star for each foster child adopted last year. It was left by Oreskovich, but Ahluwalia's decision to keep it is practical, not sentimental. One of her priorities is to find out why an increasing number of complaints of child abuse or neglect are being ruled "inconclusive" by her staff, rather then being substantiated. The percent of "founded" abuse complaints fell to 16 percent last year from 40 percent in 1999. Federal auditors flagged the trend last year, concerned that children might be left in homes, only to be abused over and over again. "In some ways, now is when there is opportunity, when you still have goodwill," Ahluwalia said.

That goodwill may be tested in the coming months. First will come reports by independent committees investigating the high-profile deaths last year of two children, Emerald Champagne-Loop of Bellingham and Rafael Gomez of Ephrata. Previous fatality reviews spotlighted baffling decisions by DSHS staff members, eroding public confidence in the agency. Next, and more important, the landmark Jessica Braam class-action lawsuit that was before the state Supreme Court is headed back to Bellingham for a second trial. The lawsuit seeks to end DSHS's practice of moving foster children from home to home, and the first trial ended with a huge defeat for Ahluwalia's agency. If DSHS loses a second time, it is possible that a judge not Ahluwalia will oversee a key part of foster care. At least 10 states, faced with similar lawsuits, settled and worked with reformers. Tim Farris, the Bellingham attorney who filed the Braam lawsuit, sees Ahluwalia's choice as an early test. "The jury's still out on Uma Ahluwalia," he said. "Will she partner with the children and work with us? Or will she continue to fight the children's demand to eliminate practices that harm them?"

Such pressures made Oreskovich, who didn't have children, a legendary workaholic. Ahluwalia said having children of her own is a source of strength but also adds stress. "It (child-abuse prevention) is more real when you have children," she said. "It's hard not to take what you see at work home with you."

**NACo Award of Excellence Applications Available**

NACo's 2004 Award of Excellence applications are now available. The deadline for receipt back at NACo is March 24. Through sponsorship by the Aetna U.S. Healthcare, the National Organization on Disability (NOD) has provided NACo with funds to present a $1,000 cash award to a NACo member county whose outstanding program or project enhances the ability of people with disabilities to participate in the processes, programs, and activities of county government. Eligible programs could include, for example, collaborations of multidisciplinary teams to support and coordinate care; a comprehensive, coordinated, early intervention system; specialized recreation facilities or projects; innovative improvements in access to public information; or creative training or educational programs for the disabled.

This year's application process is now underway. The application can be found online at the NACo website, www.naco.org under awards. This year's award will be presented at NACo's Annual Conference in Maricopa County (Phoenix) AZ at the annual awards reception. The conference is scheduled for July 16 – 20, 2004.

For more information, contact Jacqueline Byers at 202-942-4285 or jbyers@naco.org.

**Affordable Housing Bill, HB 2060, Revisited**

House Local Government held a hearing on January 28 on HB 2694. This bill makes changes to HB 2060, enacted in 2002 which authorized a $10 recording fee to be collected on documents filed with the County Auditor's office. The original bill allowed up to 5% to be retained by the Auditor for the collection of the fee with the remainder divided 60/40. 60% was to stay at the county level to be used for affordable housing projects and 40% was returned to the Housing Trust Fund again for affordable housing projects for the very low income.

Several county community services departments had voiced concerns that they lacked the administrative funds to handle the administration and distribution of the funds out to the community for projects. In several areas, the required interlocal agreements between cities and counties as well as the stakeholder participation has proved very time-consuming and challenging for the county department who is required to take the lead. Other concerns about the wording regarding use of the funds for rental vouchers and the required study by Washington State University on vacancy rates had also arisen since the passage of the bill. HB 2694 attempted to address all these concerns with amendments put together by a group of primarily low-income housing advocates. To solve the administrative issue, it was suggested that 5% be retained by the county for not only collection but administration and distribution of the funds.

The WSAC Legislative Steering Committee has taken a reluctant position in support of the bill as a solution to the administrative problem knowing there may be concerns from the auditors. Such concerns were raised by the auditors at the hearing. Other concerns were raised by the apartment owners association regarding other sections of the bill. The committee chair, Rep. Sandra Santos, is interested in the parties working together to reach a compromise. The prime sponsor, Rep. Sharon Santos has called a meeting for the week of Feb. 2 – 6 to work on language.

Please see a related article under the auditors section of this Courthouse Journal.
**House Moves RTID Bill**
The House Transportation Committee passed out of committee this week **SHB 2531** out of this committee this week. This bill amends the existing RTID statute to expand where and what the funding can be spent on. This bill would also allow other counties and cities across the state to create their own RTIDs. Finally, it changes the funding options that would be available.

**Next week’s bills run the gamut:**

2/2/04 House Transportation - House Hearing Rm B 3:30 pm
1. **HB 2319** - Regulating traffic signal preemption devices.
2. **HB 2662** - Using pictograms in transportation signs.
3. **HB 2576** - Outlawing studded tires.
4. **HB 2822** - Authorizing the use of high-occupancy vehicle lanes by low-emission vehicles.
5. **HB 3075** - Allowing small motorcycles to stop and proceed through traffic signals.

2/3/04 House Transportation Committee - House Hearing Rm B 3:30 pm
1. **HB 2607** - Using dock lease revenue for private passenger-only ferry grants.
2. **HB 3012** - Providing Kingston-Seattle and Southworth-Seattle passenger-only ferry service.

2/4/04 House Transportation Committee - Hearing Rm B 3:30 pm
1. Transportation innovative partnerships.
2. **HB 2609** - Creating the Private-Public Partnership Program (P4).
3. **HB 2649** - Adjusting population thresholds for membership on the county road administration board.
4. **HB 2648** - Revising county road project reporting.

2/5/04 House Transportation Committee - Hearing Rm B 3:30 pm
1. **HB 3008** - Designating highways of statewide significance.

2/4/04 Senate Highways and Transportation Committee - Senate Hearing Rm 1 3:30 pm
Public Hearing:
1. **SB 6540** - Creating a transportation debt limit.
2. **SB 5874** - Clarifying tolling authority of regional transportation investment districts.
3. Puget Sound Regional Council Executive Board Membership (S-4163.1).
4. **SB 6436** - Opening HOV lanes on weekends.
5. **SB 6612** - Directing priorities of the statewide multimodal transportation plan.
6. Relating to high occupancy toll lanes (S-4299.2).
7. Updating the commute trip reduction program (S-4292.1).

**County Road Administration Board Request Bills Get a Hearing Next Week**
CRAB’s two request bills are scheduled for a hearing in the House Transportation Committee on February 4th at 3:30 pm. **HB 2649** adjusts the population thresholds for board membership and **HB 2648** cleans up some of the reporting requirements. WSAC will be testifying in support of these bills.
CERTIFIED PUBLIC OFFICIAL TRAINING

“There ought to be a Law – Understanding the Legislative Process and Your Roles and Influence in the Outcome”

- How ideas become laws in the legislative process?
- How well do you communicate with the legislature?
- What works – letters, calls, or personal one-on-one visits?
- What is your role, or the role of your Association?

Location: February 5 Olympia

“Are you Prepared - Emergency Management for Local Officials”

- What are your roles and responsibilities in an Emergency?
  - What is your role in public information?
- What is the role of State Agencies – what is their authority?
- What are the functions of an Incident Command System?
- The latest information on Homeland Security and impacts in Washington State

Locations:
February 19 Vancouver
February 25 Colfax
February 26 Ellensburg

“Minimizing Risk: When Employer/Employee Actions make Front Page News”

- What actions by public employers or employees become front page news?
- How can you reduce your chances of being the Lead Story on the 6 O’clock News?
- What policies and procedures should be in place to reduce your liability?
  - What do you provide and say to the media when they ask?

Locations:
March 3 Yakima
March 4 Mount Vernon
March 10 Cheney
March 11 Lacey

More Info/Registration: http://www.wacounties.org/CPO/CPO.htm

Coming Attractions in 2004 – CPO Core Courses
- Financial Management
- Human Resources
- County Government Structure - Roles and Responsibilities.
### Training and Upcoming Events (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Training or Workshop</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Information</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FEBRUARY 2004</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>CPO Training - &quot;There Ought to be a Law&quot; - Understanding the Legislative Process</td>
<td>Ramada Inn - Governor’s House</td>
<td>February 5</td>
<td>(360) 753-1886</td>
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<tr>
<td>CPO Training - Emergency Management 101</td>
<td>Water Resources Education Center, Vancouver</td>
<td>February 19</td>
<td>(360) 753-1886</td>
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<td>CPO Training - Emergency Management 101</td>
<td>Community Education Training Center, Colfax</td>
<td>February 25</td>
<td>(360) 753-1886</td>
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<tr>
<td>CPO Training - Emergency Management 101</td>
<td>Ellensburg Inn, Ellensburg</td>
<td>February 26</td>
<td>(360) 753-1886</td>
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<td><strong>APRIL 2004</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>WA Association of Prosecuting Attorneys Spring Training Program</td>
<td>Spokane</td>
<td>April 21-23</td>
<td>(360) 753-2175</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>May 2004</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>WA Association of Prosecuting Attorneys Support Staff Training Program</td>
<td>Campbell’s Lodge, Lake Chelan</td>
<td>May 12-14</td>
<td>(360) 753-2175</td>
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<td><strong>JUNE 2004</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>WA Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners’ Training</td>
<td>Campbell’s Lodge, Lake Chelan</td>
<td>June 21</td>
<td>(360) 427-9670 x 752</td>
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<td><strong>JULY 2004</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>WA Counties Risk Pool - Risk Managers Training</td>
<td>Shilo Inn, Ocean Shores</td>
<td>July 20</td>
<td>(360) 586-7447</td>
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<tr>
<td>WA Counties Risk Pool - Board of Directors Workshop</td>
<td>Shilo Inn, Ocean Shores</td>
<td>July 21</td>
<td>(360) 586-7447</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>September 2004</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>WA Association of Prosecuting Attorneys - Juvenile Training Program</td>
<td>Icicle Inn, Leavenworth</td>
<td>September 12-14</td>
<td>(360) 753-2175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WA Association of Prosecuting Attorneys - Drug Training Program</td>
<td>Icicle Inn, Leavenworth</td>
<td>September 15-17</td>
<td>(360) 753-2175</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
County officials are invited to join with representatives of the Governor’s office, the Attorney General, and tribal leaders statewide at this summit. Many of you have already received information on the date, place and time. Further details will be coming from the Governor’s office shortly.

(Submitted by Mike Doherty, Clallam County Commissioner)

Washington State Tribal/County Criminal Justice Summit
“We’re Better Together”

March 3 and 4, 2004

Agenda Items Include:

- Domestic Terrorism
- Methamphetamine Lab Clean-up
- Domestic Violence
- Juvenile Justice
- Cross-Deputizing
- Mutual Aid

For additional information please contact:
The Governor’s Office of Indian Affairs at 360 753-2411 or
heatherp@goia.wa.gov

To reserve your room, contact the
Little Creek Hotel
Shelton, WA
1 800 667-7711
(per diem is available)

To register, please fill out the information below and fax or email to Sharon Morrow at 360 407-0221 or SharonM@atg.wa.gov

Name______________________________________________________________

Tribe/Organization________________________________________________________

Address, City, State, Zip____________________________________________________

Phone_______________________________Fax_______________________________

Email______________________________________________________________________
Chelan County Sheriff Mike Harum is the new Sheriffs’ Association representative to the WACO Board of Trustees. The position became vacant after Snohomish County Sheriff Rick Bart was elected as WACO Secretary-Treasurer, in October. Harum will serve in the unexpired term until October, 2004, when he can run for the regular two-year term.

Washington Economic Development Association to Hold Economic Development Leadership Training

The Washington Economic Development Association (WEDA) will hold a one-day economic development leadership training as part of its two-day Winter Conference at the Red Lion Hotel in Olympia on February 11, 2004. The training is designed for newly elected officials, board members and new staff in economic development.

Confirmed speakers at the forum include Maury Forman, Education Director of the Washington State Department of Community, Trade & Economic Development, Gary Smith, Economist for Washington State University. Our luncheon speaker will be Jim Sorenson, a corporate facilitator and consultant, who will speak about Leadership in Economic Development. Jim was the highest rated presenter at Washington’s Economic Development Games in 2003. Also on the agenda are economic development practitioners throughout the State of Washington discussing “Best Practices in Economic Development”. Register on-line at: http://www.wedaonline.org/weda/winter_legislative_conference.htm.

The training will provide an overview of economic development including a look at the myths of the Washington economy, what it takes to be a leader in economic development and the different types of economic development with case examples. These will provide attendees with skills that they can use in their communities.

Registration is $70 for members and $95 for non-members. Registration includes: Learning to Lead: A Primer on Economic Development Strategies a general overview of the major issues related to economic development. The intent of the book is to help decision-makers make informed choices regarding their community strategies. And, The Ten Commandments of Economic Development, a small 10-page book that gives a community words to live by if they want to be successful in their economic development program. Both books are co-authored by Maury Forman, one of our guest speakers.
## Calendar of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Information</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2004</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>WA State Association of County Assessors</td>
<td>Olympia</td>
<td>February 3 - 5</td>
<td>(360) 753-7319</td>
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<tr>
<td>WA State Association of Counties</td>
<td>Ramada Inn - Governor’s House, Olympia</td>
<td>February 5</td>
<td>(360) 753-1886</td>
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<tr>
<td>Legislative Rally</td>
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<tr>
<td>NACo Legislative Conference</td>
<td>Hilton Washington &amp; Towers, Washington, DC</td>
<td>February 27 - March 2</td>
<td><a href="http://www.naco.org">www.naco.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>WA State Association of County Auditors</td>
<td>Sun Mountain</td>
<td>March 16 - 18</td>
<td>(360) 753-7319</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recording Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>WA Counties Insurance Pool Board Meeting</td>
<td>Red Lion Yakima Gateway, Yakima</td>
<td>March 18</td>
<td>(360) 586-0466</td>
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<tr>
<td>WA Counties Insurance Fund Board Meeting</td>
<td>Red Lion Yakima Gateway, Yakima</td>
<td>March 18</td>
<td>(360) 586-0466</td>
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<td>Insurance Advisory Committee Full</td>
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<td>Membership Meeting</td>
<td>Red Lion Yakima Gateway, Yakima</td>
<td>March 18</td>
<td>(360) 586-0466</td>
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<td>WA State Property Records Education</td>
<td>Sun Mountain Lodge, Winthrop</td>
<td>March 19</td>
<td>(360) 753-7319</td>
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<td>Partners (PREP) Meeting</td>
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<td>WA County Administrative Association</td>
<td>Leavenworth</td>
<td>March 24 - 26</td>
<td>(360) 397-2232</td>
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<td>Annual Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>WA State Association of Counties - Eastern</td>
<td>Campbell’s Resort, Chelan</td>
<td>April 8 - 9</td>
<td>(360) 753-1886</td>
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<td>District Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>ACE Committee (Payroll &amp; HR)</td>
<td>Yakima Convention Center</td>
<td>April 14</td>
<td>(360) 586-0466</td>
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<tr>
<td>WA Counties Risk Pool Risk Managers</td>
<td>Icicle Inn, Leavenworth</td>
<td>April 14</td>
<td>(360) 586-7447</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roundtable</td>
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<td>WA Counties Risk Pool Spring Board</td>
<td>Icicle Inn, Leavenworth</td>
<td>April 15</td>
<td>(360) 586-7447</td>
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<td>Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>WA Association of Prosecuting Attorneys</td>
<td>WestCoast Ridpath Hotel, Spokane</td>
<td>April 21-23</td>
<td>(360) 753-2175</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring Training Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>WA State Association of Counties Western</td>
<td>Heathman Lodge, Vancouver</td>
<td>April 22 - 23</td>
<td>(360) 753-1886</td>
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<td>District Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>WASPC Spring Conference</td>
<td>Yakima Convention Center, Yakima</td>
<td>May 24 - 27</td>
<td>(360) 486-2380</td>
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<tr>
<td>WA Association of Prosecuting Attorneys</td>
<td>Icicle Inn, Leavenworth</td>
<td>June 3-4</td>
<td>(360) 753-2175</td>
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<td>District Court Training Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Washington State Association of County</td>
<td>Hallmark Inn, Moses Lake</td>
<td>June 14-16</td>
<td>(360) 753-7319</td>
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<td>Assessors (WSACA) Annual Conference</td>
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<td>Washington State Association of County</td>
<td>Lakeway Inn, Bellingham</td>
<td>June 16 - 18</td>
<td>(360) 753-7319</td>
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<td>Auditors’ Annual Conference</td>
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<td>Washington Association of Prosecuting</td>
<td>Campbell’s Lodge, Lake Chelan</td>
<td>June 23-25</td>
<td>(360) 753-2175</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attorneys (WAPA) Summer Training Program</td>
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<td>National Sheriffs’ Association</td>
<td>Seattle</td>
<td>June 26 - 30</td>
<td><a href="http://www.sheriffs.org">www.sheriffs.org</a></td>
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<td>County Clerk’s Association 2004 Summer</td>
<td>North Bonneville Hot Springs Resort, Skamania</td>
<td>June 22 - 25</td>
<td>(360) 753-7319</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>County Treasurer’s Association 2004 Summer</td>
<td>Heathman Lodge, Vancouver</td>
<td>June 22 - 25</td>
<td>(360) 753-7319</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>WSAC 98th Annual Summer Convention</td>
<td>Pierce County, Sheraton, Tacoma</td>
<td>June 22 - 25</td>
<td>(360) 753-1886</td>
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### Calendar of Events (continued)

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<tr>
<td>IACREOT 33rd Annual Conference</td>
<td>San Antonio, TX</td>
<td>July 15-24</td>
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<tr>
<td>NACo Annual Conference</td>
<td>Maricopa County, Phoenix, AZ</td>
<td>July 16 - 20</td>
<td><a href="http://www.naco.org">www.naco.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WA Counties Risk Pool Annual Board Meeting</td>
<td>Shilo Inn, Ocean Shores</td>
<td>July 22</td>
<td>(360) 586-7447</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WA Counties Risk Pool Summer Conference</td>
<td>Shilo Inn, Ocean Shores</td>
<td>July 20 - 22</td>
<td>(360) 586-7447</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WA Counties Insurance Pool Rate Setting Meeting</td>
<td>Wyndham Gardens, SeaTac</td>
<td>August 19</td>
<td>(360) 586-0466</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WA Counties Insurance Pool Board Meeting</td>
<td>Radisson Hotel, SeaTac</td>
<td>September 16</td>
<td>(360) 586-0466</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WA Counties Insurance Fund</td>
<td>Radisson Hotel, SeaTac</td>
<td>September 16</td>
<td>(360) 586-0466</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance Advisory Committee</td>
<td>Radisson Hotel, SeaTac</td>
<td>September 16</td>
<td>(360) 586-0466</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County &amp; Regional Planning Directors/City Planning Directors Joint Conference</td>
<td>Campbell’s Resort, Chelan</td>
<td>September 14 - 17</td>
<td><a href="http://www.geocities.com/wsacrpd">www.geocities.com/wsacrpd</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WACO/WSAC/WAPA Joint Fall Conference</td>
<td>Spokane</td>
<td>October 4 - 8</td>
<td>(360) 753-7319</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACE Committee (Payroll &amp; HR)</td>
<td>Yakima Convention Center</td>
<td>October 13</td>
<td>(360) 586-0466</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WA Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs Fall Conference</td>
<td>Shilo Inn, Ocean Shores</td>
<td>November 15 - 18</td>
<td>(360) 486-2380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WA Counties Insurance Fund 2005 Budget Meeting</td>
<td>Red Lion at Columbia Center, Kennewick</td>
<td>November 18</td>
<td>(360) 586-0466</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WA Association of Prosecuting Attorneys Winter Meeting &amp; Banquet</td>
<td>Crowne Plaza Hotel, Seattle</td>
<td>December 9-10</td>
<td>(360) 753-2175</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### 2005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NACo Legislative Conference</td>
<td>Marriot Wardman Park Hotel, Washington, DC</td>
<td>March 3 - 4</td>
<td><a href="http://www.naco.org">www.naco.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys (WAPA) Support Staff Training Program</td>
<td>WestCoast Ridpath Hotel, Spokane</td>
<td>May 11-13</td>
<td>(360) 753-2175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WASPC Spring Conference</td>
<td>WestCoast Wenatchee Center Hotel, Wenatchee</td>
<td>May 23 - 26</td>
<td>(360) 486-2380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WSAC 99th Annual Summer Convention</td>
<td>WestCoast Hotel at Columbia Center, Kennewick</td>
<td>June 13 - 16</td>
<td>(360) 753-1886</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WAPA Summer Conference &amp; Training Program</td>
<td>Campbell’s Lodge, Lake Chelan</td>
<td>June 22 - 24</td>
<td>(360) 753-2175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IACREOT 34th Annual Conference</td>
<td>New York, NY</td>
<td>June 28 - July 8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NACo Annual Conference (City &amp; County of Hawaii)</td>
<td>Honolulu, HI</td>
<td>July 15 - 19</td>
<td><a href="http://www.naco.org">www.naco.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County &amp; Regional Planning Directors/City Planning Directors Joint Conference</td>
<td>Campbell’s Resort, Chelan</td>
<td>September 13 - 16</td>
<td><a href="http://www.geocities.com/wsacrpd">www.geocities.com/wsacrpd</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WACO/WSAC Joint Fall Conference</td>
<td>Ocean Shores</td>
<td>October 3 - 7</td>
<td>(360) 753-7319</td>
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## Calendar of Events (continued)

### 2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WSAC 100th Annual Summer Convention</td>
<td>Whatcom County, Bellingham</td>
<td>June / TBD</td>
<td>(360) 753-1886</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IACREOT 35th Annual Conference</td>
<td>San Francisco, CA</td>
<td>July 2-7</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>NACo Annual Conference</td>
<td>Denver, CO</td>
<td>July 21 - 26</td>
<td><a href="http://www.naco.org">www.naco.org</a></td>
</tr>
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### 2007

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NACo Annual Conference (Sponsored by the counties in the Metropolitan Richmond Area)</td>
<td>Richmond, VA</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td><a href="http://www.naco.org">www.naco.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IACREOT 36th Annual Conference</td>
<td>Charlotte, NC</td>
<td>July 14-22</td>
<td></td>
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