

Courthouse Journal

W W W . W A C O U N T I E S . O R G

Washington State Association of Counties
Washington Association of County Officials

June 22, 2001
Issue No. 7

*Inside the
Courthouse
Journal*

... 2 ...

WSAC Summer Convention
Highlights

WSAC Board of Directors
Appoint & Nominate to
Boards & Commissions

... 3 ...

Counties Show Interest in
Regional Jail Concept

... 4 ...

Transportation Theme
Steers WSAC Convention

... 5 ...

Final Operating Budget
Best for Human Services

... 6 ...

Supreme Court Hears
Challenge to Initiative 722

**MIDNIGHT
THURSDAY
LEGISLATURE
ADJOURNS
SINE DIE**

**JULY 16 -
THEY MEET
AGAIN!!!**

Senate Sends Budget to Governor House Refuses to Enact LEOFF Surplus Bill

At 4:40 AM the morning of June 16, the House finally passed a striking amendment to the Senate Operating Budget. This followed 5 hours of discussion on 100+ amendments of which only a handful was added. The Senate was in agreement with much of the striking amendment and on Wednesday, June 20 began the process of final passage temporarily halted by Sen. West's asking for a review of the "Two subjects rule" as he maintained the inclusion of fee increases in an expenditure budget were outside that rule and thus could not go forward. Lt. Governor Brad Owen ultimately ruled against West's request and the Senate passed the operating budget sending it to the Governor for his signature.

The Governor will be faced with a difficult decision because the House Republican caucus has refused to provide any votes for 2ESSB 6166, the bill that would transfer the surplus funds in the LEOFF 1 retirement system to the state general fund yet budget authorizes the expenditures. The main opposition appears to be the threat from the firefighters and cops that if the bill does not include an additional \$100 million for their members they would oppose it. Most of the budget writers in the House and the Senate have said that is unacceptable to them. Thus dooming the legislation.

Without 2ESSB 6166 local governments will not receive their share of the surplus, \$100-125 million and the creation of a risk pool to pay for long term care and extraordinary medical costs of LEOFF 1 members. Probably more important there will be a \$125 million hole in the state budget. These reductions include \$30 million in ferry fares, \$25 million for payment of tort liability claims, and \$70 million for multi-modal transportation projects. Just how the Governor will address that is not known at this time.

The Legislature did pass ESSB 6167 which results in a \$29 million pension contribution savings for counties.

The final operating budget includes 695 backfill for criminal justice and public health at last year's level plus an annual growth factor. There is no language that limits it to one-time only; however there is no language that says it will be on going. Counties will need to begin getting their message to legislators over the next year as to the importance of these funds. It is also important to thank those legislators who voted for the budget. Those voting in favor in the House were:

Representatives Berkey, Cody, Conway, Cooper, Darneille, Dickerson, Doumit, Dunshiee, Edmonds, Edwards, Eickmeyer, Fisher, Fromhold, Gombosky, Grant, Haigh, Hatfield, Hunt, Hurst, Jackley, Kagi, Keiser, Kenney, Kirby, Lantz, Linville, Lisk, Lovick, Mastin, McDermott, McIntire, Miloscia, Mitchell, Morris, Murray, O'Brien, Ogden, Poulsen, Reardon, Rockefeller, Romero, Ruderman, Santos, Schual-Berke, Simpson, Sommers, H., Tokuda, Veloria, Wood, and Speaker Chopp

Those voting in favor in the Senate were: Senators Brown, Carlson, Constantine, Costa, Deccio, Eide, Fairley, Franklin, Fraser, Gardner, Haugen, Jacobsen, Kastama, Kline, Kohl-Welles, McAuliffe, Patterson, Prentice, Rasmussen, Regala, Sheldon, B., Shin, Snyder, Spanel, Thibaudeau, Winsley

A complete budget analysis and final legislative wrap-up will be published next week in the Courthouse Journal.

As the final hours of the special session ground to a halt efforts to pass shorelines legislation and a state transportation new revenue package failed to materialize. The current law transportation budget of \$3.4 billion does not include any new dollars for cities and counties.

WSAC Summer Convention Highlights

WSAC Summer Convention a Big Success

Over 300 state and local officials and their staff attended the 95th Annual Summer Convention of the Washington State Association of Counties last week in Yakima. A highlight for many was the Scholarship Luncheon honoring those daughters and sons of county employees who have won Washington Counties Scholarships. Ron Hopkins, WSU Provost spoke about the close historic relations between WSAC and higher education and the benefits of higher education to all the citizenry.

Two WSAC Scholarship Tables at

the front of the room hosted two 2001 scholarship winners and Lindsay Diefenderfer, a Past Winner of the Washington Counties Scholarship. Ms. Diefenderfer shared stories of her collegiate studies and travel abroad, culminating in her recent graduation from the University of Washington and plans to enter the foreign service.

The two 2001 Washington Counties Scholarship Winners attending lunch were:

Renata Rollins, Winner of the \$10,000 NACo Presidential Scholarship
Jennica Chudek, Winner of the \$4,000 NACo Presidential Scholarship

Conference participants also enjoyed having several former WSAC Presidents in attendance through the conference and at the traditional Thursday night barbecue dinner.

Sessions on the two conference themes of transportation and of natural resources management were especially

well-attended. Commissioner of Public Lands Doug Sutherland shared good and bad news with a full room on Friday morning, indicating that while some natural resources are in good shape, other programs – including state timber lands need substantial attention and resources. Commissioner Sutherland announced that he will be asking the Board of Natural Resources to raise the management fee for state timber lands.

Tom Fitzsimmons, Director of the Department of Ecology, compared the role of counties in water resources management today with that four years ago: prior to the implementation of watershed planning and water conservancy boards. Several counties also shared their organizational structure for natural resources management, from King County's Land and Water Resources Division with a \$47 million budget to Chelan County's grant-funded Watershed Program.

The Courthouse Journal

The Courthouse Journal is published weekly by the Washington Association of County Officials (WACO) and the Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC).

We welcome your suggestions and contributions. The weekly deadline is noon Thursday.

Direct inquiries and correspondence to *The Courthouse Journal*, 206 Tenth Ave SE, Olympia, WA 98501-1131.

WACO STAFF

Phone: (360) 753-7319
Fax: (360) 664-2812

Fred Saeger, *Executive Director*
Debbie Wilke, *Deputy Director*
Christina Bridston, *Programs Coordinator*
Brenda Bamford, *Financial Operations Manager*
Barbara Sandahl Reeves, *Research Associate*
Kathie Houts, *Administrative Assistant*

WSAC STAFF

Phone: (360) 753-1886
Fax: (360) 753-2842

Bill Vogler, *Executive Director*
Paul Parker, *Assistant Executive Director*
Maureen Morris, *Deputy Director for Urban Counties*
Sophia Byrd, *Policy Director Law & Justice*
Jean Wessman, *Policy Director Human Services, Juvenile Justice, Housing*
Jackie White, *Policy Director Transportation & Land Use*
Vicki Kirkpatrick, *Policy Director, WSALPHO Administrator*
Tom King, *Associate, Research, Telecommunications*
Sally Harrington, *Business and Investment Manager*
Kim Zydek, *Administrative Secretary*
Ginni Peppert, *Secretary*

Board of Directors Appoint and Nominate Members to Boards and Commissions in Yakima

The WSAC Board of Directors met in Yakima during the Summer Convention and made several appointments and nominations to state boards and commissions. Appointed to the County Road Administration Board were Commissioner Dean Burton, Garfield, for counties under 12,000 population; Commissioner Dave Carey, Walla Walla, for counties from 12,000- 125,000; Ken Stone, Cowlitz County Engineer, for counties from 12,000-125,000; and Bob Breshears, Lincoln County Engineer, for counties under 12,000.

The Board ratified the nomination of David Repp, Whitman County Auditor, to the State Council on Aging;

The Board nominated Peter Capell, Clark County Public Works Director, and Paul Bennett, Kittitas County Public Works Director, to the State Public Works Board.

Bill Lehning, Cowlitz County Commissioner, was appointed to the Jail Industries Board.

Craig Larsen, King County Parks Director, and David Veley, Yakima County Parks Director, were appointed to the Parks Funding Task Force.

Joan Frey was re-appointed to the Western Interstate Region of NACo Board of Directors.

Kirke Sievers, Snohomish County Councilmember, was appointed to the Municipal Research and Services Center Board of Directors.

The Board also considered separate bids from Jefferson, Pierce and Grays Harbor Counties to host the 2004 Summer Convention. After reviewing the proposals they voted to recommend to the general membership that Pierce County be awarded the bid for the Sheraton Hotel in Tacoma. The full membership approved the recommendation the next day.

Clark County's System of Care and Washington Association of Juvenile Court Administrators Make Presentation at WSAC Summer Convention

Two of the presentations at the recent WSAC Summer Convention were on prevention and intervention activities for at-risk youth. Clark County's System of Care is a wrap-around system utilizing the County's Community Services Department, their Juvenile Justice system, the local school district, and the local DSHS Child Welfare Office. Children and their families are provided specialized services to meet their needs without having to visit numerous offices and caseworkers that are not necessarily working in a unified fashion. Mike Piper, the Director of Community Services and Corrections, led the panel. Mike provided an overview of the system and the federal grant that enabled the project to get underway. The balance of the panel consisted of Ernie

Veach-White, Clark County Juvenile Court Administrator, Ed Cody, the local DSHS Child Welfare Office Administrator, and Kari Ellis, a special education teacher at the elementary school level.

The other presentation in this area was from the Washington Association of Juvenile Court Administrators and covered topics ranging from "Becca" underfunding to treatment modalities for early offenders, the risk assessment tool, and Court-Appointed Special Advocates. Thurston County Commissioner Diane Oberquell introduced the panel with Walla Walla County's Juvenile Court Administrator, Michael Bates, encouraging them from the back of the room. The panel members consisted of Pete Peterson, Clallam's Juvenile Court Administrator, Sharon Paradis, Benton-

Franklin's Juvenile Court Administrator and one of her employees, Jackie Van Wormer (sp.), and Phil Jans, Chelan's Juvenile Court Administrator. Each panelist took a portion of the subject matter and presented a full account of the activities in that area. The panel also had prepared a bound handout of the highlights of some of their materials, which was very informative and useful for the audience and definitely raised the bar on quality of handouts.

WSAC wants to thank all the panelists from these two sessions for all their work and excellent presentations. For those commissioners who missed these sessions, WSAC staff, Jean Wessman, would be happy to refer you to the panel members for additional information.

Clark County's Youth Commission One of the Highlights of the Summer Convention

Clark County also provided a presentation from their Youth Commission that included the best snacks of the Convention. Commissioner Judy Stanton led the discussion animated by her own sincere interest in this area. Two of the Youth Commissioners were present and delivered excellent information to the audience – Randi Bowers and Carissa

Sauer along with the Clark County Department of Community Services' employee, Beth Houston, Commission Coordinator, who ably staffs the Commission. The audience, while small, was highly enthusiastic about the subject matter and many of the members indicated their intention to start something similar in their own counties. Having

the Youth Commission members speak was an excellent reality check on the upcoming voters in the county. Clark County's Youth Commission has undertaken some challenging areas for comment and recommendations to the Board of Commissioners including density patterns under growth management which the Board was pleased to adopt. They have also introduced town hall meetings of the county's youth that have been well-attended and provided direct comment to the Board.

Counties Show Continued Interest in Regional Jail Concept

County commissioners and at least one city official pursued a lively discussion at the WSAC convention on the prospect of developing "regional jails" to help ease local jail crowding and other jail operations problems. A recently released regional jail study served as the springboard for advice and caution from three panelists and probing questions from the audience.

The report, published last month by the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs, reviews several types of regional jail facilities around the nation and offers 11 recommendations to be considered if and when regional jails

are developed. Among the report's findings and recommendations, the issue of governance seemed to dominate the 90-minute program Friday morning.

While acknowledging that it can be complex to establish, the panelists emphasized the importance of a governance structure that includes all participating jurisdictions as equal decision makers.

Panelist Paul Barnett, director of the Northern Oregon Regional Corrections Facility (NORCOR) in The Dalles, recounted his involvement with such a governance structure, which involves four counties. NORCOR began operating in October 1999 -- six years after the

first regionalization efforts began.

The multi-jurisdictional NORCOR facility is a separate government entity administered by a board consisting of elected representatives from each county and an advisory board consisting of the four county sheriffs. This structure generally is working well, according to Barnett, a former county sheriff. However, operating expenses currently are paid by each county on a pre-determined basis, and this formula is not reflecting actual usage of the jail. The NORCOR board is reviewing options to allocate expenses that would be more equitable for all the

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

partners.

Panelist Ron Walter, Chelan County Commissioner, cautioned the audience to give serious consideration to governance and decision making authority before embarking on any multi-jurisdictional facilities. Chelan County, Douglas County and the City of Wenatchee all contributed to building a regional jail and have shared the jail space since 1984. However, two of the partners have served only in an advisory position -- the Chelan County Board of Commissioners and Chelan County Sheriff retain final authority over the

jail. The result, at times, has been a strained relationship between the partners, Commissioner Walter said. He indicated that the partners are beginning the process to eventually set up a governance structure similar to NORCOR.

A third panelist, state Secretary of Corrections Joe Lehman, commented on the report's recommendation that any new regional jail include the state as a partner. Such a facility could be built partially with state money and house short-term DOC inmates with long-term county inmates, or perhaps serve special inmate populations such as the mentally ill offenders, Lehman suggested. Coun-

ties have identified mental illness as an increasing problem among jail inmates and one that many small counties can't adequately address on their own.

Jim LaMunyon, author of the regional jail study, moderated the panel. Last Friday, the governor appointed LaMunyon to serve as interim chief of the Washington State Patrol while the governor continues a national search for a permanent chief. LaMunyon retired from State Patrol's third highest post last year after serving 27 years.

Transportation Theme Steers WSAC Convention

The 95th annual convention of the Washington State Association of Counties pondered the question: "Are we there yet?" After three days of panels, workshops and speakers on various transportation topics, an answer seemed to emerge: "No, but we're working on it."

Still "working on it" in Olympia were the chairs of the Senate and House transportation committees, who had been scheduled to lead off the convention Wednesday with a panel on "Transportation: Where Are We." Fortunately, excellent alternates were avail-

able on short notice: Paula Hammond of the state Department of Transportation, Stan Finkelstein of the Association of Washington Cities and Dale Stedman stepped in for Senator Mary Margaret Haugen and Representatives Ruth Fisher and Maryann Mitchell.

Recently appointed Secretary of Transportation Douglas McDonald kept the post-lunch crowd in their seats and chuckling with his keynote address "I Gotta Go." Reflecting on his 45 days as Secretary, McDonald observed that transportation problems affect all regions of the state and that solutions must

extend beyond the Puget Sound corridor.

Rounding out the Transportation Track at the convention were presentations on how regional transportation managers and policymakers deal with coordination, cooperation and governance issues; how new permit streamlining legislation will affect state highway improvements and county road projects; exploring alternatives to the single-occupancy vehicle; the latest legal and technical information about highway safety and maintenance designed to limit county liability; and a discussion about the Growth Management Act requirement of concurrency for roads and other infrastructure.

WSAC Adopts Resolution Calling for Legal Strategy to Require State to Pay for Unfunded Mandates

The business session of the 95th annual convention in Yakima was high lighted by a vigorous debate on a proposed resolution To Protect Public Health and Safety. The resolution was the result of a similar action taken by the Eastern District during their spring meeting in Colville during April. The original resolution was the result of a debate in Colville that urged counties to refuse funding the incarceration of prisoners arrested by state law enforcement officers if the state did not pay the jail costs. The arguments centered on counties' frustrations over the state's refusal to fund many mandates passed in recent years, especially in the criminal justice area. While all speakers agreed the state has not adequately funded counties there

was concern over the appearance of supporting civil disobedience. Many speakers said their prosecutors and sheriffs would not support such a policy.

After a long debate it was decided to adopt an amended resolution that said in part that "all counties will pursue all appropriate litigation to compel action by the state to fulfill its obligation to adequately fund mandates..." It further directed the WSAC Board of Directors to develop a strategy to help the counties in this effort.

Other resolutions approved by the membership were a resolution in support of the Inland Northwest Economic Adjustment Strategy, which calls for Congress to provide financial support for communities of the region to make stra-

tegic adjustments toward a more sustainable future. They also passed a resolution calling for the Association to support language in state statute that seeks authority in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program to acquire rights in riparian farmlands protected in county critical areas ordinances. Copies of all three resolutions are attached to the back of this *Courthouse Journal*.

Finally, the members approved the Policy Statement for 2001. That is a long document and will be mailed to members as a separate mailing.

Beating the Budget Blues Workshop a Resounding Success

The “Beating the Budget Blues” workshop held last week in conjunction with the annual convention was a huge success. Over 95 county officials participated in the daylong workshop. Participants from WSAC, WACO and many of our affiliates were in attendance. While there were no solutions presented leading us to where or how we can find more money to operate our counties, we did receive useful information to assist us in budget preparation and analysis. Each participant walked away from the workshop with a book, which includes helpful tips and ideas related to local government finance and budgeting. Specific information was also presented on how to present our budget to our citizens. We heard about our restricted funds and strategies for setting up internal service funds, and late in the day we heard a useful presentation on Debt and Capital Financing.

We would like to thank all of our presenters: Len Wood, President, Len Wood & Associates; Roger Neumaier,

Snohomish County Deputy Finance Officer; Craig Warner, Yakima County Chief Financial Officer and Susan Musselman, Susan Musselman Inc. Each presenter brought information on a specific issue and topic to the workshop, which can and will be used by those who attended.

The evaluations completed by the workshop participants gave very high marks for the day. Comments received were: all topics were excellent and on point for budget operations at the county level; many ideas I will look at; emphasis on planning for the long-term; very beneficial material in the workshop; thanks for the hand outs and the book; I appreciate the opportunity to attend a quality workshop. Participants also thought scheduling the workshop in conjunction with the annual conference was positive and that attending as a working group from a county was also beneficial. We also received comments and feedback, which will help us make changes and improvements to future training workshops.

Over the next few months, the CPO

Curriculum Committee will continue to work on developing the Washington Certified Public Official Program. We have looked at several models from other states and will use the information gathered from our assessment earlier this year to develop our course offerings and curriculum. Plans are underway to offer a Workshop for CPO credit at the WACO Conference this fall. Watch for announcements.

If you did not complete the CPO attendance certification form at the conference, please let us know and we will check our records and get one to you. We want to make sure that those who attended this workshop and wish to obtain their certification receive credit. If you have suggestions or comments for us as we continue to develop the CPO program, please feel free to contact our CPO Coordinator, Dema Harris. She can be reached by email at Demagh@aol.com.

Human Services, Juvenile Justice & Housing Final Operating Budget Best for Human Services

Nearly the best of both budgets was included in Human Services. The only areas of concern are the underfunding of Developmental Disabilities transition monies, the limitation on obtaining federal match for the two RSNs who suffer from the redistribution of funding, the apparent loss of ongoing funding for the atypical medication pilot, and the underfunding of “Becca” costs.

In particular, the following are included in this final version of the budget for Human Services and Juvenile Justice:

1. Up to \$5 million of unanticipated receipts received by DSHS shall be used for an integrated services pilot project encompassing mental health, substance abuse, housing, public safety, and primary health care. (NEW)
2. Mitigation for Pierce County getting the McNeil Island violent sexual predator facility is raised from \$200,000 to \$2 million.
3. Contracted juvenile detention

- beds are restored for \$1.3 million in 2002 and \$1.6 for 2003.
4. Continues funding for Family Policy Council and networks at \$6.5 million, a 25% reduction.
5. Continues \$2.5 million for mental health emergency inpatient pool.
6. Funds downsizing at \$4.664 million with anticipated closure of 4 wards. Provisos \$1 million of federal block grant to be used on technical assistance for downsizing.
7. \$822,000 for development of performance measurement system.
8. \$500,000 for prevalence study.
9. Funds Eastern Washington chemical dependency 35-bed inpatient facility for \$3.2 million.
10. Funds chemical dependency treatment for SSI clients to \$2.8 million.
11. Funds additional treatment including for meth at \$2.8 million.
12. Funds “Ticket to Work” at \$4

- million allowing disabled persons to retain their health benefits while employed.
13. Funds DD transition at \$2 million.
14. \$8.330 million for downsizing from RHCs.
15. \$8.792 million for community protection clients or those diverted or discharged from the state mental hospitals.
16. \$5.855 million for reducing caseloads.
17. \$11.152 million for increasing wages for low-wage workers providing care for state-funded services for persons with developmental disabilities.

The budget is available at www.leg.wa.gov. Go to either the House or Senate Fiscal Committee, Appropriations or Ways and Means respectively, and the budget as passed the House June 15, 2001, or as passed the Senate, June 20, 2001. DSHS is from page 36 – 68. The agency detail document should also be available. Questions can be referred to WSAC staff, Jean Wessman.

Supreme Court Hears Challenge to Initiative 722

On Tuesday, June 12, the State Supreme Court heard oral arguments regarding the constitutionality of Initiative 722 (I-722). Tim Eyman was in attendance along with his attorney, Jim Johnson, however, oral arguments in support of I-722 were presented by Assistant Attorney General Jim Pharris. Various parties challenging the initiative were represented by Jim Ahearn, who presented the oral arguments regarding the constitutional deficiencies.

The two areas discussed were: 1) the multiple subject provisions, and 2) the uniformity provisions relative to the property tax. Most of the time was spent on the multiple subject argument because the supporters want, at a minimum, to preserve part of the initiative and the challengers want to have it declared unconstitutional in its entirety. The challengers argued that the rollback of taxes and fees was to take back any increases that had been instituted by the government between the time the signatures were turned in on I-695 and the time that it was voted upon. The remaining sections of the bill dealt with reductions of property taxes and are unrelated to the first provision. Supporters argued that both of them dealt with tax reductions and that the fees, etc., rolled back under Section 1 were just a minor item. Challengers countered that, in many cases, the fees and charges far exceeded the tax refunds, giving examples of cities where the increase in water rates exceeded the refunds from their property taxes as high as ten to one. An-

other example given was a hospital district that would have had to refund back their increase in their hospital charges. The argument that the fees were just incidental or insignificant seemed to be adequately countered by the challengers. Also discussed was whether the taxpayers, seeking a refund of "taxes," understood that they were voting, not only on taxes, but all of the other fees and charges that were swept up in this broad definition.

The remainder of the time the discussion centered on whether Sections 3 and 4 violate the uniformity provision of the Washington State Constitution relative to property taxes. Supporters argued that it was not a violation of uniformity because it was an "exemption" and the legislature was allowed to grant exemptions. To support this argument, the proponents argued that the legislature had broad discretion and could grant partial exemptions to property. The challengers pointed out that taxpayers whose values grew at a slower rate than two percent would see their share of the tax burden actually increase and result in an increase in property taxes. The challengers went on to point out that, if the supporters were correct, that the legislature has the authority to grant partial exemptions, they could restrict the value of all homes to \$20,000 and a mansion on Lake Washington would be taxed the same as a small mobile home in some rural area which clearly violated the constitutional provision that all properties would be valued and taxed uniformly.

During rebuttal, one justice asked the supporters to explain how this example would meet the uniformity test. The best the supporters could muster was something to the effect that the legislature would probably never do anything like that because it would be too controversial politically.

The questions were varied and came from several different justices. To this observer, it appeared that there was some question in their minds over the multiple subject issue, but there seemed to be less doubts that Sections 3 and 4 had some serious uniformity problems when it came to the property tax administration.

If the court determines that the Initiative contains multiple subjects, then it would be declared unconstitutional in its entirety. If the court feels that I-722 is not a violation of multiple subjects, then they must deal with the issue of the "uniformity" of Sections 3 and 4. The court has three alternatives: 1) uphold the initiative in its entirety; 2) declare it entirely unconstitutional; or 3) declare it partially unconstitutional. We hope the court will render a decision as soon as possible. The consensus is that there could be a decision in two to three months, which should be early enough for most jurisdictions to know what the rules will be as they begin to enter into their fall budget cycle and prior to such time as the assessors find it necessary to set levies.

Law & Justice

Getting Jail Inmates to Cough Up the Cash for Medical Costs

As reported in the May 25 Courthouse Journal, 28 Washington counties now require jail inmates to pay a portion of the cost of medical care, pharmaceuticals, or both.

Clallam County is most recent to adopt a co-pay policy. Other jurisdictions interested in following suit may contact Clallam County administrator Dan Engelbertson, who can provide copies of the Board of Commissioners resolution enacting the co-pay and other sup-

porting information. RCW 70.48 provides that reasonable fees may be collected from jail inmates to defray the cost of medical services they receive while incarcerated.

Counties currently implementing at least one element of an inmate co-pay program are: Asotin, Benton, Chelan, Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Franklin, Grays Harbor, Island, Jefferson, King, Kitsap, Kittitas, Klickitat, Lewis, Lincoln, Mason, Okanogan, Pacific, Snohomish,

Skagit, Skamania, Spokane, Stevens, Thurston, Walla Walla, Whatcom, Whitman and Yakima.

Medical-care co-pays range from a low of \$3 in Kittitas County to a high of \$12 in Mason County. Most counties charge in the \$5 to \$10 range. Pharmacy co-pays range from \$5 to the full cost of the prescriptions.

Health, Public Health & Solid Waste

Compared to U.S., Washington Residents are Healthier and Live Longer

Washington can claim to be healthier and longer-lived than the national average, according to the *Washington State Vital Statistics 1999*, a report released by the State Department of Health.

An important health indicator of newborns – the percent of infants born with low birth weight (less than 5 pounds, 8 ounces) – is much lower than the national figure. In Washington nearly 6 percent of babies were of low birth weight in 1999 compared to almost 8 percent in the U.S. “Washington has consistently reported fewer numbers of low birth weight babies for at least the past decade”, says Pat Starzyk, births research investigator for the department.

In 1999, the infant death rate reached an all-time low of five deaths for every 1,000 live births. The infant death rate in 1989 was nearly twice as high (9.2 deaths per 1,000 live births). By contrast, in 1910, the rate of infant deaths was 93.5 infant deaths per 1,000 live births. Infant mortality rates are much higher for infants weighing less than two

pounds (423.1 per 1,000 live births) than for heavier infants (1.6 per 1,000 live births). The largest number of deaths occurred within 24 hours.

Heart disease remained the greatest single cause of death of all age groups in 1999, killing nearly 11,500 residents or 26%. Cancer took the lives of nearly 10,700 people (24 percent) and stroke killed about 3,700 (8.5 percent). The percentage of deaths caused by heart disease and cancer is lower, and from stroke, slightly higher, than the latest available national figures (1998).

Accidents and cancer were the leading killers of young children (under age 14). Cancer drops to number three or four among 15-34 year olds. The leading causes of death among 15-34 year olds in 1999 were suicide and accidents. Suicide remained among the top four in the 35-54 age group. Babies (up to age 1) were more likely to die of congenital defects, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, or complications related to low birth weight.

2.6 percent of deaths were caused by drugs and alcohol. There were 594 drug-induced deaths in 1999 and there were 551 alcohol-induced deaths.

On an average day in Washington State in 1999, there were 218 births, 120 deaths, 115 marriages and 78 divorces. Nearly 80,000 babies were born in 1999 and 75 percent were born to women aged 20-34. Nearly 28 percent of all births were to single mothers, a significant increase from the 23 percent recorded just a decade ago. Emily and Jacob remained the most popular names for babies in 1999.

Nearly 25 percent of those who died in 1999 were between the ages of 85 and 94. Average life expectancy in Washington was 80.6 for women and 75.5 for men. The national average (latest figures for 1998) was 79.9 for women and 73.8 for men.

Marriage and divorce rates showed little or no change. In 1999 there were 41,868 marriages and 28,278 divorces. Divorces and annulments are most likely among people age 35-39. Roughly 25 percent of women and 18 percent of men were under 30 when their marriages ended.

News in Brief

WSAC Welcomes New Intern

WSAC welcomes its newest legislative intern, Selena Hopkins. She got a crash course in county issues by attending WSAC's Yakima convention for her very first week. For this summer and the following legislative session she will work with Paul Parker and Sophia Byrd on growth management in rural counties, watershed management and criminal justice issues. She looks forward to pursuing her interests in legislative politics here at WSAC.

Selena is a second-year law student at the University of Washington Law School. After starting college at the University of Alaska in Fairbanks she transferred to Oberlin College in northern Ohio and received a BA in Politics. She has had lots of experience in local and statewide politics; she has worked in the Fairbanks office of Alaska Governor Tony Knowles, for Senator Edward M. Kennedy in Washington, D.C., for Representative John Davies in the Alaska

Legislature, for political parties in Alaska and Ohio, and for Alaska Legal Services providing assistance to people with few resources. Selena has worked on political campaigns since she was old enough to wave from the back of a float in a parade. Most of her land-use experience to date consists of talking with her dad about his work as a Planning & Zoning Commissioner in her hometown.

Selena grew up on her parents' 20 acres of woods in Fairbanks and loves it there! Ask her where the best place is for scooping up three king salmon at a time in a dip-net, or why she didn't tip over when a seal once climbed aboard her kayak to hitchhike a ride. She now lives in Seattle and enjoys her view of drawbridges and mountains.

WCRP Annual Summer Conference

The WCRP summer conference will be held July 17-20, 2001 at the West-Coast Grand Hotel at the Park, downtown Spokane. Fee: **FREE** to anyone from WCRP member counties; all others: Enterprise Risk Management training,

\$15; Leadership training, \$35.

July 17: Carl Groth of Willis Risk Solutions will speak on “Enterprise Risk Management,” an emerging concept in public-sector risk management, 1-5 p.m.

July 18: Internationally known Business Coach/Author John Scherer offers tips and tools to help both new and veteran government leaders achieve goals by creating people-based strategies. He will show how to make the right decisions you will feel good about! His presentation runs from 8 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Lunch is provided. A reception will follow at the hotel.

July 19: New Director/Employee Orientation - members new and old are invited to this get-acquainted session from 8-10 a.m.

Board of Directors annual workshop meets from 1:30-4:30 p.m.

Banquet: An Italian-style dinner served on the patio at the beautiful Arbor Crest Estate begins with a social hour at 5 p.m. and wraps up with a light-hearted but touching live presentation by Dr. Erik

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

Stauber, Professor of Veterinary Medicine at WSU.

July 20: WCRP's Board of Directors gather for its annual meeting from 8:30 a.m. to noon.

Public Works Board Director Returns to Local Government

Pete Butkus, executive director of the state Public Works Board since 1986, leaves that post at the end of the month to become assistant city manager for the recently incorporated city of Sammamish in King County.

Butkus, whose political roots are in city government, previously served as mayor of Pullman from 1980 to 1986 and as a Pullman police officer in the 1970s.

In his tenure with the Public Works Board – from its inception – Butkus oversaw the distribution of more than \$884 million in low-interest loans from the Public Works Trust Fund to local governments for infrastructure projects. Of the total, \$88.2 million went for 61 county projects.

John LaRocque, Operations Manager for the Public Works Board, will assume the director's duties while the 13-member Board and the state Office of Community Development work on permanently filling the position.

WSAC Seeks Applicants for Vacancy on the Pipeline Safety Committee

In response to the Bellingham pipeline explosion in June 1999, the Legislature was established a number of safety requirements and a Citizens Committee on Pipeline Safety. The purpose of the Committee is to advise state, federal and local governments on matters regarding hazardous liquid and gas pipeline safety, routing, construction, operation and maintenance. Kittitas County Commissioner Bill Hinkle has served as a county representative on the Committee since its creation last summer but has announced his resignation from that position.

WSAC will forward names of interested county elected officials or staff to the Governor, who is the appointing authority for the 13 member committee. Please contact Paul Parker at WSAC to indicate your interest in the appointment.

WSAC Fills Parks Funding Task Force Seats

The WSAC Board of Directors last week selected Craig Larsen, Director of the King County Parks System and Dave Velej, Director of Yakima County Parks to serve on a legislative task force to analyze local park and recreation needs with a specific focus on maintenance and operations costs and funding sources. The 20 member task force will

report back to the legislature by December 1, 2001.

Redistricting Update for Counties Available Upon Request

Franklin County has thoughtfully shared with WSAC an article titled "Redistricting Update For Counties: Navigating Through the Minefield After Census 2000."

The author's premise is that counties face a particularly daunting task of redistricting because of both a changing political landscape and significant upheavals in redistricting law during the past eight years. Other county commissioners, prosecutors and auditors may find it particularly interesting.

According to the Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys (WAPA), the article provides an excellent summary of the federal Voting Rights Act and related case law, including the Supreme Court's April 18, 2001 decision in *Hunt v. Cromartie*. The article's author, Mississippi attorney Benjamin Griffith, recently presented his work at the International Municipal Lawyer Association Mid-Year Seminar in Washington, D.C.

Although the document is not available electronically, WSAC staff will mail it to county officials upon request. Please contact Sophia Byrd at 360-753-1886 or sbyrd@wacounties.org.

Environment, Land Use & Resources

Federal Funds for Salmon Pass House

Local governments and Indian tribes in Washington and other western states would split about \$600 million for salmon recovery efforts in the next three years under a bill that passed overwhelmingly in the House of Representa-

tives last week.

"It sends a message that there is strong support from Congress to fund salmon recovery," said Rep. Rick Larsen, D-Washington. "This is a way we can use federal dollars to help locally

defined projects."

The bill, co-sponsored by more than 50 lawmakers from Pacific Coast states, would require the states to develop salmon recovery plans and to pass the federal fish money on to ground-level groups or governments working on the issue. Support in the Senate is expected, but it is likely to be a tough fight to get the money actually appropriated.

Okanogan County Sues Federal Agencies Over Water Rights

Okanogan County filed suit this week against three federal agencies over water use restrictions imposed by the agencies that it alleges violate state water law. The US Forest Service in 1999 suspended the federal permits of Methow River irrigators in order to meet river flows needed for salmon.

The lawsuit, filed in federal district court in Spokane, contends that the US

Forest Service, the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service have taken actions to restrict irrigation rights and establish instream flows for fish contrary to state water law. The federal agencies, on the other hand, argue that provisions of the Endangered Species Act mean that farmers cannot withdraw water from the Methow River if their use results in less water for

fish than what was available 100 years ago, when settlers first came to the valley.

"The Methow Valley is being singled out to test a flawed policy that clearly violates federal law," said Craig Vejraska, an Okanogan County Commissioner.

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

The United States Supreme Court has frequently ruled that water rights

administration is an issue of state – and not federal – law. The County and other plaintiffs seek compensation for land-

owners denied the ability to exercise their water rights.

Employment Opportunities

COUNTY ENGINEER, County Public Works Road Department - oversee the County's Road Departments operations. Performs supervisory, administrative and professional engineering work in directing the County's Road Department operations. BS degree in Civil Engineering with four (4) years engineering experience of which at least two (2) years of work experience is associated with county road administration and supervision. Salary: \$3,838 - \$4,889 per month, depending on qualifications. Obtain application and job description from Pend Oreille County Personnel Office, W. 625 Fourth Street, PO Box 5025, Newport, WA 99156-5025, phone (509) 447-4119. Application Deadline: July 6, 2001.

PLANNING DIRECTOR, County Public Works, Planning Division - directs and leads the day to day operations of the Planning Division of the Public works Department. Ensures efficient and quality administration of all Division's activities and responsibilities. Desirable Qualifications: Undergraduate BA degree in planning, natural resource/environmental planning, economic or community development (or related field) and 4 years of progressively responsible planning experience (preferably in the public sector). Salary: \$3,014—\$3,892 per month depending on qualifications. Obtain application and job description from Pend Oreille County Personnel Office, W. 625 Fourth Street, PO Box 5025, Newport, WA 99156-5025, phone (509) 447-4119. Application Deadline: 4:00 p.m. July 27, 2001.

JUVENILE COURT ADMINISTRATOR, Lewis County Juvenile Court - Full time exempt position. Salary: Range 63, \$4,423.58 to \$4,904.17. Closes: July 2, 2001 at 5:00 p.m. This is a management position in the Lewis County Juvenile Court, responsible for all day to day operation of Juvenile detention Center with capacity of 24 inmates. Responsible for budget of \$1.9 million, supervises management team, 7 probation officers, 14 detention officers and numerous volunteer Guardians Ad Litem. On call 24

hours per day. Exposure to violent youth, parents and public. May be required to physically restrain violent, aggressive youth. May serve as probation officer and perform other related duties. Minimum qualifications include: BA degree in Criminology, Sociology, Psychology, Public Administration, Science or related field, and five (5) years progressive experience. Preference given to applicants with Juvenile Probation Officer experience. Pick up an application package between the hours of 8:00 am and 5 pm from: Lewis County Juvenile Court, 1255 SW Pacific Avenue, Chehalis, WA 98532. Application packets may also be requested by calling (360) 740-1178.

ASSOCIATE PLANNER, Skagit County Planning & Permit Center - Coordinates the preparation or administration of comprehensive, sub-area, and community growth management plans; public land use policy and legislation; natural resource land and open space conservation; transportation; capital facilities; land use regulations; environmental review; information systems; or other similar planning programs. Requires a Bachelor's degree in planning, geography, public administration or affairs, environmental studies, or related field and two years of experience in a planning process related to comprehensive or regional planning, growth management, development review, code implementation or any combination of experience and education which provides the applicant with the desired skills, knowledge and ability. Masters degree preferred, but not required. A.I.C.P. certification is preferred but not required. Applications and job announcements are available from our website: www.skagitcounty.net or by calling our Job Hotline at (360) 336-9480 or 1-800-548-7957. Position pays: \$3,204.60 - \$3,432.24 per month. Closes: 6/25/01.

DIRECTOR OF ELECTIONS, Washington State/Office of the Secretary of State (an exempt recruitment): provides leadership and guidance for the administration of election processes and the de-

velopment of election policies within the State of Washington. This position is in the immediate office of an elected official and, as such, is exempt from civil service. Applicants are encouraged to apply as soon as possible. This recruitment will remain open until the position is filled. **Location:** Olympia, Washington. Legislative Building (the Capitol Building). **Compensation:** The Elections Director serves at the pleasure of the Secretary of State. Salary \$65,000 to \$80,000, depending upon qualifications. Plus a generous benefit package including health, dental, and life insurance, retirement, and an optional deferred compensation program. Group rate life, disability and long term care insurance programs also available. **Application Process:** Interested candidates may apply by submitting 1) a current resume; 2) a cover letter stating why you are interested in this position and how your background addresses the candidate profile listed in this announcement; 3) the names of five or more personal and professional references (along with statement from the applicant granting permission to contact); and 4) the affirmative action information requested at the end of this announcement to: Toni Murray, Human Resource Mgr., Legislative Bldg, PO Box 40227, Olympia, WA 98504-0227. You may also submit your materials by fax or email. Fax submissions: (360) 586-5629 (please note fax will be received by clerical support staff in an open system). Email submissions to: tmurray@secstate.wa.gov. For further position information or assistance call (360) 902-4145 (v) or (800) 422-8683 (TTY).

Coming Events

June 23-27

National Sheriffs Association Annual Conference, Marriott Marina, Fort Lauderdale, Florida

June 24-29

Washington State Association of County **Clerks Annual Conference**, Howard Johnson Hotel, Everett

July 13-17

NACo Annual Conference, City & County of Philadelphia

July 17-20

WCRP Annual Summer Conference, WestCoast Grand Hotel at the Park, Spokane

July 18-20

ACHS (Association of County Human Services) Meeting, Port Angeles

July 19-20

CRABoard Meeting, CRAB Offices, Olympia

September 9-12

International Association of **Assessing Officers (IAAO)** Annual Conference, Miami, Florida

September 10-11

Washington State Assn of County Treasurers' Legislative Meeting,

Summit Inn, Snoqualmie Pass

September 19-21

Washington Finance Officers Association Annual Conference, Wenatchee

September 19-21

ACHS Meeting, Ellensburg

September 27-28

WSAC Eastern District Meeting, East Wenatchee

October 1-5

WACO Annual Conference, Port Ludlow Resort & Conference Center

October 11-12

WSAC Western District Meeting, Long Beach

October 18-19

CRABoard Meeting, CRAB Office, Olympia

November 14-16

ACHS Meeting, Silverdale

November 12-15

WASPC Annual Fall Conference, Doubletree Hotel, Pasco

November 14-16

WSAC Fall Legislative Conference, Silverdale Hotel on the Bay, Silverdale

November 14

WCIF Board Meeting, in conjunction

with WSAC Fall Legislative Conference, 10 am - 12 pm

January 29-31

Legislative Rally and Tri-Association Reception, Olympia

June 18-21, 2002

WSAC Summer Convention, Bellevue Inn & Bellevue Hilton, Bellevue

July 12-16, 2002

NACo Annual Conference, New Orleans Parish, New Orleans, LA

September 30-October 4, 2002

WACO/WSAC Joint Conference, WestCoast, Wenatchee

June 24-27, 2003

WSAC Summer Convention, Spokane

July 11-15, 2003

NACo Annual Conference, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

September 29 - October 3, 2003

WSAC/WACO Joint Conference, Vancouver

July 16-20, 2004

NACo Annual Conference, Maricopa County, Phoenix, Arizona

July 15-18, 2005

NACo Annual Conference, City & County of Hawaii, Honolulu, Hawaii