

the Courthouse Journal

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*Washington Association of County Officials
Washington State Association of Counties*

**July 31, 2003
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Former WACO Executive Director Lyle Watson Dies

Former WACO Executive Director Lyle Watson, 86, passed away on July 11 from complications of Parkinson's disease. Lyle was the first executive director of WACO, and served in that capacity from 1960 until 1988 when he took over as Mayor of Olympia. Lyle was elected mayor in November, 1977 and was the last mayor of Olympia under its previous city commission form of government. The three-member body was replaced by a seven-member council-manager government in 1982. Lyle served one term as mayor before retiring.

Prior to his 18 years as the head of WACO, Lyle served as a Clallam County

Commissioner and also worked for the Washington State Tax Commission. He enjoyed the continuation of his long term love of tennis in his retirement, and for many years was a top-ranked player in the 75 and over age group.

Lyle is survived by his wife of 61 years, Doris; two daughters, Merry and Lynn; a son, Jeff; and five grandchildren. Memorials can be made in Watson's name to the Kiwanis International Foundation's Iodine Deficiency Fund, 3636 Woodview Trace, Indianapolis, IN 46268.

White House Staffer Runs with The Bulls

Last month Eric Ciliberti, a staff assistant to President Bush for government relations was a speaker at the WSAC Summer Convention in Spokane. After his presentation he told Clark County Commissioner Betty Sue Morris that he was going to vacation in Spain in July and that he was going to run with the Bulls of Pamplona. The following is his first-hand story of his incredible adventure.

"Hi Commissioner Morris! As promised, I wanted to give you the lowdown on my trip to Pamplona, Spain for the running of the bulls. The running of the bulls was one of the scariest and most exhilarating experiences that I have ever gone through...if you have 3 minutes, here is a recap of what happened."

"There were five of us who ran on the first day of the festivities (July 7)...the police rounded us up and put us near the beginning which is not where you want to be. The first rocket went off that signaled the bulls were in

the pen. Everyone cheered. The second rocket went off which signaled the release of the first four bulls. However, we still had not moved yet and the bulls were coming. The third rocket went off which signaled that all 16 beasts had been released. We were barely moving at this point."

"I made the executive decision to high-tail it out of there and started to turn on the jets. One of my buddies was right behind me and I kept looking back to see the bulls. What I did see was scarier -- you couldn't see the bulls, but you could see the flash bulbs from the balconies above which meant the bulls were in full stride and coming fast."

"I rounded the last corner and saw another buddy against the fence. The Police promptly prodded me to go (VA! VA! VA!) and a huge throng of people came flying around the corner. At this point I knew the bulls were only about 10 seconds behind me. I ran full speed down 'Death Alley' continued

through the tunnel and into the Plaza de Toros to the chants of thousands of Spaniards in the stands. I then saw all of the bulls come flying by one at a time and into the holding pen for the night's bullfight."

"The fun was not over -- it was just beginning! A long story short: they released the baby bulls one at a time into the crowd on the arena floor and we were running for dear life. I was diving, running, jumping into the stands. It was total mayhem!"

"One of the bulls chased an

Australian over a fence and starting running through the bottom of the arena which is exactly where I was. I looked up and saw a bull charging me! I froze in complete terror and the bull missed me by a foot. He passed me, but not before I punched him in the side of his 1,500 pound body. The bull proceeded to flip my buddy over a fence and chased my other buddy down knocking him to the ground and thrusting his horn through my buddy's shorts. It was unbelievable!"

"Anyway, I survived and am now

back at work. I've dealt with the bulls in Pamplona and now dealing with the other bull --um, stuff, -- back in Washington! ~:)

"Take care and sorry for the long email. Just wanted to fill you in!"

-- Eric Ciliberti

The Courthouse Journal

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We welcome your suggestions and contributions. The deadline is noon Wednesday.

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August County Calendar

- 1 The county treasurer, upon request, shall furnish the county legislative authority with a list of lands owned by the county and subject to special assessments. RCW 36.33.160
- 11 By this date, each elective and appointive department head is to file an estimated budget for the ensuing fiscal year, with the county auditor. If estimates are not filed in time, the auditor shall deduct and withhold as a penalty from the salary of each official failing to comply, \$10 for each day of delay, not to exceed \$50 in one year. RCW 36.40.010, .030
- 11 On or before this date, the county legislative authority, assisted by the county road engineer, shall prepare and file with the county auditor estimated county road expenditures for the ensuing fiscal year. RCW 36.82.160
- 15 Filing of autopsy reimbursement requests by coroners and medical examiners due in State Treasurer's office for January-June of 2003. RCW 68.50.104
- 18 County assessor to forward to the Department of Revenue a valuation abstract of local assessments. RCW 84.48.010
- 31 Up until this date, the county assessor is authorized to place property that is increased in value due to construction or alteration for which a building permit has been issued, on the assessment rolls for the purposes of tax levy. The assessed valuation of the property shall be considered as of July 31. RCW 36.21.080
- 31 Up to this date, when any mobile home first becomes subject to assessment for property taxes, the county assessor is authorized to place the mobile home on the assessment rolls for purposes of tax levy. The assessed valuation of the mobile home shall be considered as of the July 31 immediately preceding the date that the mobile home is placed on the assessment roll. RCW 36.21.090

NOTE: Legislative Committee schedules and agendas can be found at <http://www.leg.wa.gov/wsladm/calendar.cfm>

Elections, Licensing and Recording

Thousands to cast ballots by Internet in 2004 elections

By Sam Hananel, Associated Press, 7/12/2003

WASHINGTON (AP) - Imagine casting a vote for president from a cybercafe in Thailand, an aircraft carrier in the Persian Gulf or a laptop computer at home.

Thousands of people serving in the military and American civilians living abroad will have that option next year in the nation's most extensive Internet voting experiment, viewed by some as a step toward elections in cyberspace.

The Secure Electronic Registration and Voting Experiment, which began as a tiny demonstration project in the 2000 general election that involved just 84 voters, could give 100,000 voters the chance to cast absentee ballots online in next year's presidential primaries and general election.

The Pentagon-run program will be limited to eligible voters whose homes in the United States are in South Carolina and Hawaii or in a handful of counties in Arkansas, Florida, Minnesota, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Utah and Washington.

"Internet voting takes just seconds instead of weeks if you were to put that ballot in the mail and send it off," said Polli Brunelli, director of the Pentagon's Federal Voting Assistance Program. "What we're trying to do is make sure that we have an alternative out there for those people who are unable to vote by mail."

If it proves successful, the \$22 million program could be expanded to serve more than 6 million voters in the armed forces living here and abroad, their dependents and nonmilitary U.S. citizens residing overseas.

Voters using SERVE can register to vote and cast their ballots from any computer using Microsoft Windows with Internet access. Local election officials will use the system to process voter registration applications, send ballots to voters and accept voted ballots instantly. Long delays in counting absentee ballots, a factor in the disputed 2000 presidential election, would be relegated to the past.

Security remains the top concern for the system's coordinators and fodder for critics.

"I think Internet voting is a good idea for this population if you can assure security, but I'm not confident that they can do that," said John Dunbar, a project manager at the Center for Public Integrity, a nonpartisan government watchdog group. "It wouldn't take much for some smart hacker to send around a virus that lays in wait for someone to issue a vote."

Other computer security experts call the project an open invitation to election tampering.

"We're opening up a whole host of opportunities for voter coercion and voter fraud," said Rebecca Mercuri, a research fellow at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government who specializes in studying electronic vote tabulation.

Mercuri said even the most secure systems can be cracked, hacked or left vulnerable to Internet viruses, leaving the ballot contents and the voter's identity open to perusal.

"If we have this going on in commerce and all other transactions on the Internet, why would people think we can avoid it in voting?" she said. "This is just an experiment that's doomed."

Brunelli said her office is taking unprecedented security measures to ensure system integrity, including intrusion detection systems, redundant firewalls and penetration tests by friendly hackers.

A team of the nation's top computer security experts has identified possible threats and measures to guard against them. Sophisticated encryption technology will scramble messages containing the ballots, and voter identity will be verified through digital signature, a prearranged procedure to authenticate the voter's signature.

"With this population, we have made the casting of the Internet ballot as safe, if not safer, than with the mail in ballots," Brunelli said. "If we reach a point where things are vulnerable, and we can't guard against that, we won't go forward."

In Washington state, where seven counties participate in the Pentagon

program, Secretary of State Sam Reed sees the effort as a way to create a better-informed electorate. He expects the entire state to begin full online voting within 10 years.

Kay Maxwell, president of the League of Women Voters of the United States, said she welcomes the idea of Internet voting if it increases turnout.

"Anything making it easier for people to vote and participate is something we support as long as security is addressed," she said. "A lot of us harken back and like the idea of going to the precinct, but times do change. We need to do things differently, we need to keep up."

On the Net: Secure Electronic Registration and Voting Experiment: <http://www.SERVEUSA.gov>

Gov. Gary Locke Appoints Hunter to Fish and Wildlife Commission

Gov. Gary Locke last week appointed John A. Hunter IV to the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission. Hunter most recently served as a Chelan County Commissioner. The primary role of the nine-member commission is to establish policy and direction for fish and wildlife species and their habitats.

"John's extensive background in government and business will enable him to help the commission effectively direct the Department of Fish and Wildlife," Locke said. "His strong administrative and leadership skills and experience working with county officials will be a valuable asset to the commission."

As a county commissioner, Hunter worked with other county officials in Eastern Washington, particularly in the upper Columbia River area, as the region began to organize for salmon-recovery planning.

Prior to serving as Chelan County Commissioner, Hunter was a councilman for eight years and then mayor of the City of Cashmere. He has also worked as a division manager for the Brogdex Co. and EcoScience Corp.

Hunter earned his bachelor's degree in economics and business from Belmont Abbey College in Belmont, NC.

The appointment to the six-year term is effective July 24, 2003.

State Fish & Wildlife Asks for Assistance on Commercial Fishing License Suspensions

SHB 1057 established a license suspension review committee, which will make recommendations to the Director of Fish & Wildlife on qualifying violations that could result in commercial fishing license suspension. The committee is comprised of five voting members, three of which are to be peer-group members who hold a commercial fishing license. Will Roel, Chair of the Fish & Wildlife Commission is asking for

recommendations to this committee.

A letter was sent to counties soliciting your assistance. If your county has nominees they should be addressed to Will Roel, Chair, Fish & Wildlife Commission, 600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, WA 98501-1091.

Senate Land Use & Planning Committee to Discuss Annexation Policy

The Senate Land Use and Planning Committee will be holding a work session on annexation and outside utility agreements on August 21, from 5:00 - 8:00 pm at the Yakima City Council Chambers. The work session will provide an opportunity for local governments, private sector, special purpose districts and the public to inform the committee about their perspective on outside utility agreements.

Outside utility agreements were a method cities used to provide utilities to property owners outside of the city limits as long as they didn't contest future annexations. Legislation was introduced last session to reinstate the authority for cities to use these agreements to annex. The bill passed the House and failed to pass out of committee in the Senate. WSAC opposed the bill last year and will continue to oppose it until the cities agree work with counties on their annexation issues.

Scott Merriman, of WSAC, is organizing the panel presentation. The panel will have 15 minutes to present the counties' perspective. If you have a perspective that you would like to offer, please contact him

General Government Issues

State Archives Remedies Growing Pains

The Imaging and Preservation Services section of the State Archives has moved into a 10,000 square foot facility in Tumwater that doubles its size, and has allowed them to add more equipment. Recently purchased equipment includes to mid-volume film processors to expand the brown toning capacity, two auto-feed microfilm cameras, a high quality 35 mm camera, and an additional film processor. In the next few months microfilm scanning services as well as paper scanning services will become available. An open house is being planned for sometime in August; watch your mailboxes for invitations!

The Imaging and Preservation Services section of the State Archives offers a variety of services to local government. If you have a back file of microfilm that you need converted to digital images for a new or an existing imaging system, they can help. If you produce digital images from an existing imaging system and you need to implement a cost-effective program to meet your archival requirements, Archives can help to eliminate any

concerns you may have regarding the long-term archival storage of your permanent records. This service provides an archival microfilm security copy of computer-scanned digital image records.

If you have any questions, please contact Greg Mennegar, Manager of Imaging and Preservation Services located at 711 Tumwater Blvd SW, in Tumwater.

Courthouse Ramblings

Al Nielson, Stevens County deputy prosecutor, has been appointed to the Tri-County Judicial District Superior Court, by Governor Locke. In his new position as a Superior Court Judge, Nielson will be serving Stevens, Ferry and Pend Oreille counties.

Nielson has more than 20 years of legal experience. He began his career in

private practice and was elected Ferry County prosecuting attorney in 1983. He then moved to Stevens County in 1998, where he has been the chief criminal deputy prosecuting attorney.

* * * * *

Bob Carlton, Columbia County Assessor since January, 1987, has resigned that office effective August 8. Bob is

moving on to a job in public relations and advertising at a firm in Lacey. Congratulations and best of luck to Bob in not only such a big career change, but for a big move from one side of the state to the other!

Training and Upcoming Events

<i>Training or Workshop</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Information</i>
SEPTEMBER 2003			
WAPA Special Assault Training Program	Leavenworth	September 3 - 5	(360) 753-2175
WAPA Juvenile Training Program	Leavenworth	September 7 - 9	(360) 753-2175
CPO Training - Ethical Dilemmas: Integrity as a Tool for Successful Public Officials	SeaTac	September 30	(360) 753-1886
NOVEMBER 2003			
CPO Training - Making a Difference in County Communications: Speak and Write More Confidently	TBD	November 6	(360) 753-1886
April 2004			
WAPA Spring Training Program	Spokane	April 21-23	(360) 753-2175

Mark your Calendars for CPO 2003.....

2003 CPO Scheduled Courses

<u>September</u>	Ethical Dilemmas: Integrity as a Tool for Successful Public Officials (Full day Core course – 4 credits)	September 30, SeaTac
	Conducting and Managing Effective Meetings (Half day Elective course – 2 credits)	September 30, SeaTac
<u>October</u>	Making a Difference in County Communication: Speak and Write More Confidently (Full day Elective course – 4 credits)	October 30, Eastern WA Location TBD
<u>November</u>	Making a Difference in County Communication: Speak and Write More Confidently (Full day Elective course – 4 credits)	November 6, Western WA Location TBD

CPO Credit Update: Your CPO Transcripts have been updated with the 2003 course credits for all classes held to date. If you would like to check your credit totals, request your transcript. We have several county officials who will receive their CPO designation at the Joint Fall Conference. An awards ceremony is being planned for those who have completed the requirements. There is still time to complete your requirements. Those officials currently needing the Ethics class to complete their core requirements can register attend and receive their certification at the conference.

Early in September you will all receive a new training needs assessment. This assessment will be very important as we plan the 2004/2005 training calendar. Always, if you have suggestions or comments about the program, please share them with us.

Calendar of Events

Meeting	Location	Date	Information
2003			
IACREOT Conference	Denver, CO	July 29 – August 3	www.iacreot.com
Western Councils of Governments Annual Conference	Mt. Bachelor Village Resort, Bend, OR	August 12 – 15	(360) 577-3041 Steve Harvey or (509) 943-9185 Gwen Rasmussen
WCIP Board of Directors Rate Setting	Wyndham Gardens, SeaTac	August 21	(360) 586-0466
Washington State Association of County Assessors' Fall Conference	Red Lion, Kennewick	September 8 - 11	(360) 336-9370
County & Regional Planning Directors/City Planning Directors Joint Conference	Campbell's Resort, Chelan	September 9 - 12	www.geocities.com/wsacrpdc
WSAC Fall Eastern District Meeting	Marcus Whitman Center, Walla Walla	September 11 – 12	(360) 753-1886
Association of County Human Services (ACHS)	Moses Lake	September 17 – 19	(360) 786-5585
WCIF/WCIP Insurance Advisory Committee 2004 Renewal Meeting, WCIP and WCIF Board of Directors	WestCoast Hotel, SeaTac	September 18	(360) 586-0466
Washington Association of County Treasurers' Legislative Meeting	Summit Inn, Snoqualmie Pass	September 22 – 23	(360) 753-7319
Washington State Emergency Management Association (WSEMA) Fall Conference	Red Lion Hotel, Pasco	September 23 – 24	John Scheer at jscheer@co.franklin.wa.us
WACO/WSAC Joint Fall Conference	DoubleTree Hotel Seattle Airport	September 29 – October 3	(360) 753-7319
WCIF Board of Trustees	DoubleTree Hotel, SeaTac	October 1	(360) 586-0466
WSAC Fall Western District Meeting	DoubleTree Hotel, SeaTac	October 2	(360) 753-1886
WCIF/WCIP A.C.E. Committee Meeting	Yakima	October 15	(360) 586-0466
L & I Retro Fall Meeting	TBD	October 16	(360) 753-1886
WSAC Fall Western District Meeting	Fort Worden State Park	November 7	(360) 753-1886
WASPC Fall Conference	Campbell's Resort, Chelan	November 17 – 20	(360) 486-2380
Association of County Human Services (ACHS)	Seattle	November 19 – 21	(360) 786-5585
2004			
WSAC Legislative Rally	Olympia	February 5	(360) 753-1886

Calendar of Events (continued)

WSAC Spring Eastern District Meeting	Campbell's Resort, Chelan	April 8 – 9	(360) 753-1886
WSAC Spring Western District Meeting	Heathman Lodge, Vancouver	April 22 – 23	(360) 753-1886
WASPC Spring Conference	Yakima Convention Center, Yakima	May 24 – 27	(360) 486-2380
National Sheriffs' Association	Seattle	June (TBD)	www.sheriffs.org
WSAC 98 th Annual Summer Convention	Pierce County, Sheraton, Tacoma	June 22 – 25	(360) 753-1886
WAPA Summer Conference	Chelan	June 23 – 25	(360) 753-2175
NACo Annual Conference	Maricopa County, Phoenix, AZ	July 16 – 20	www.naco.org
County & Regional Planning Directors/City Planning Directors Joint Conference	Campbell's Resort, Chelan	September 14 – 17	www.geocities.com/wsacrpd
WACO/WSAC Joint Fall Conference	Spokane	October 4 – 8	(360) 753-7319
WASPC Fall Conference	Shilo Inn, Ocean Shores	November 15 – 18	(360) 486-2380
2005			
NACo Legislative Conference	Marriot Wardman Park Hotel, Washington, DC	March 3 – 4	www.naco.org
WASPC Spring Conference	WestCoast Wenatchee Center Hotel, Wenatchee	May 23 – 26	(360) 486-2380
WSAC 99 th Annual Summer Convention	WestCoast Hotel at Columbia Center, Kennewick	June 13 – 16	(360) 753-1886
WAPA Summer Conference	Chelan	June 22 – 24	(360) 753-2175
NACo Annual Conference (City & County of Hawaii)	Honolulu, HI	July 15 – 19	www.naco.org
County & Regional Planning Directors/City Planning Directors Joint Conference	Campbell's Resort, Chelan	September 13 – 16	www.geocities.com/wsacrpd
WACO/WSAC Joint Fall Conference	Ocean Shores	October 3 – 7	(360) 753-7319
2006			
WSAC 100 th Annual Summer Convention	TBD	June TBD	(360) 753-1886
NACo Annual Conference	Denver, CO	July 21 – 26	www.naco.org
2007			
NACo Annual Conference (Sponsored by the counties in the Metropolitan Richmond Area)	Richmond, VA	TBD	www.naco.org

Attachments

Opinion -----

Friday, July 18, 2003

Annexation will help county budget

By John D. Warner and Robert C. Wallace, Guest Columnists

Even as the King County Courthouse is being seismically upgraded to withstand the next big earthquake, the financial foundations of county government are shaking badly. As county residents, we all need to understand what this means for regional services we tend to take for granted -- including public health and safety programs, regional parks and human services, public records, elections and other basic functions of government.

The Budget Advisory Task Force appointed last fall by County Executive Ron Sims was asked to look at the financial challenges facing the county's general government services. The task force's membership was diverse. As co-chairmen, we were joined by former Govs. John Spellman and Booth Gardner, retired judges and business and non-profit professionals from varied backgrounds. Our report confirms the county's fiscal challenge is very real. It just isn't a result of the recession, and there is no silver bullet to resolve the problem.

Voters in this county didn't vote to pass Initiative 747 but we're living with its consequences. More than 70 percent of the county's general revenues are from property tax, growth of which is capped by I-747 to 1 percent per year plus new construction. In total, county general government revenues are growing at less than 2 percent per year. But the cost of general government services is growing at 5.5 percent to 6.5 percent per year.

This gap has required the county to cut more than \$90 million from its general government budgets in the past two years. Nearly 10 percent of the employee positions in general government service functions have been eliminated. Discretionary services such as parks and human services (and their employees) have been cut by more than 30 percent.

The gap isn't a one-year problem. Looking ahead, budget cuts of \$15 million to \$25 million will be required each year. Should the public care?

Yes, because the county provides services we all rely on: public health, courts, the sheriff. None of us want to see absentee ballot problems get worse. Nor do we want to see the county release dangerous prisoners from jail because of budget shortfalls. We don't want to see the public records system unable to track who owns property or much longer delays in getting a civil trial or the end of county support for parks and human services. This is what is at stake if the financial challenge is not resolved.

No part of county government is exempt from the need to find efficiencies and re-examine the way it does business. Employees must be challenged to find efficiencies or risk contracting out of their work. Attention must be paid to controlling costs of salaries and benefits that constitute more than 75 percent of the general government expenses. The county can no longer provide contract services to cities (such as district court) at less than full cost. Business practices of the county need to be unified and streamlined. Modern information management and financial systems must be implemented.

There is reason for optimism. The parks division has undergone a dramatic transformation in the past two years; it's become more efficient and entrepreneurial and has saved more than \$11 million.

The county needs to put new effort into completing its land-use vision. As growth management was implemented here more than 12 years ago, it was agreed that cities should be urban service providers and the county should be a regional service provider with responsibility also for rural areas.

But annexations and incorporations have left behind a patchwork of urban areas that remain the county's responsibility. Nearly 220,000 people live in these areas, in places such as Eastgate, White Center, Lea Hill, Klahanie, Kingsgate. These people depend on the county to provide roads, local courts, jail and police service.

Unfortunately, such services cost a lot more than the revenues generated by these same areas. County taxpayers as a whole are heavily subsidizing these local services at the expense of regional services. And that is something the county can no longer afford to do.

In our view, it is critical that remaining urban unincorporated areas annex to cities. Residents of these areas must become city residents. The hard truth is that service levels to these areas must be reduced if the county can't raise new revenue from these residents. The only other way to reduce the "urban subsidy" is to spend less on unincorporated area roads and divert those dollars to pay for higher-priority services such as police protection. This is tough medicine, but we strongly recommend the county act on these steps as part of its 2004 budget.

There are no easy fixes. Delay will make problems worse. King County must act now to properly align expenditures and revenues and continue to find efficiencies.

John D. Warner and Robert C. Wallace are co-chairmen of the King County General Government Budget Advisory Task Force. Warner recently retired from The Boeing Co., where he was senior vice president and chief administrative officer. Wallace is CEO of Wallace Properties Inc. and managing partner of Wallace Properties Group.