

# the Courthouse Journal

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Washington Association of County Officials  
Washington State Association of Counties

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## Sheriffs Elect Officers

King County Sheriff Dave Reichert presided at the Washington State Association of County Sheriffs when the sheriffs met in separate session at the 2004 Spring Conference of the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) this week at Yakima.

The meeting concluded with the election of new officers. Stevens County Sheriff Craig Thayer will serve as president; Vice President, Whatcom County Sheriff Bill Elfo; Secretary/Treasurer, Yakima County Sheriff Ken Irwin; and WACO representative, Chelan County Sheriff

Mike Harum. Their terms will run for two years.

Sheriffs from 27 counties attended the business meeting. The agenda included committee reports, an update on the National Sheriffs' Association Conference in Seattle in June, and discussion of the 2005 legislative issues. WASPC lobbyist Tim Schellberg reported that the following proposals would be pursued next year: palm print identification, protection of personal information, SOSA funding, background checks, DNA testing of arrestees, one-party consent and building mapping.

## WSAC 98<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Convention -- Time is Running out for Early Registration Savings

Register online today for the 98th Annual WSAC Summer Convention and save \$35. You only have until June 7 to save. Don Brunell, Executive Director of the Association of Washington Business and Richard Davis, President of the Washington Research Council are among many speakers we have lined up who will focus remarks and advice on partnership opportunities for counties.

*"Partnerships for Building Stronger Counties and Communities"* is the theme for this year's Convention June 23 to 25 in Tacoma. Click here for updated agenda, registration and hotel information - <http://www.wacounties.org/wsac/calenda>

[r\\_SummerConvention.htm](#)

The WSAC Convention will not only feature many examples of county government working with others, but also includes sessions providing advice on how to partner successfully. The convention-wide dinner will be Wednesday evening, June 23 at the Washington State Historical Museum and includes full access to the Museum exhibits. You will not want to miss this event.

In addition, mark June 22 for an excellent CPO training on the *"Roles and Responsibilities of County Government."* Successful leadership within each county

depends on a clear understanding of the roles and responsibilities of Commissioners, Council members, Executives and other Elected Officials. Building an effective team

to manage county government within these turbulent times requires a unique and varied set of skills. Please take full advantage of this training that is being offered. It will be well worth your time and attention. For more information and to register please follow this link - <http://www.wacounties.org/CPO/Course%20Calendar.htm> .

Both events are being held at the Sheraton Tacoma Hotel. When making your room reservations please mention that you would like the Washington State Association of Counties Summer Convention Rates. We look forward to seeing you all there.

### **The Courthouse Journal**

Published weekly (during Legislative Session) and Bi-weekly (other than Session) 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 Wednesday.

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**Julie Conlan**, Certified Public Official  
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## **Budget, Finance and Taxes**

### **Assessor's Plan Conference**

The Assessor's June conference is planned for Moses Lake on June 14-16. The agenda includes Committee meetings for the Timber, Education, Ratio, Computer Technology, Open Space, Assessment Standards and Legislative Committees. They will also hold a Business Meeting and update plans for the 2004 Fall Conference. Hope to see everyone there.

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

## Supreme Court Upholds Benton on County Seat Question

The Washington state Supreme Court has refused to order certain county offices be housed exclusively at the Benton County seat.

The unanimous opinion, issued May 13, upheld a lower court ruling confirming that the county is within its rights to maintain satellite offices for the county clerk and prosecutor as well as hold most court proceedings at the county's justice center in Kennewick, more than 30 miles from the county seat of Prosser.

After voters failed to support a proposal 20 years ago to move the county seat to the growing population center of Kennewick, the county went ahead with plans for a regional jail and justice center in the larger city. As required by state law the county maintained functional offices in the Prosser Courthouse but over time most of the activity of the clerk, prosecutor and courts occurred in Kennewick. Former Benton-Franklin Superior Court Judge Fred Staples challenged this as an unconstitutional removal of the county seat without voter approval.

Although the Court said that Staples failed to prove a "wholesale removal" of county government functions, in a separate concurring opinion Chief Justice Gerry Alexander expressed concern "over the fact that the record contains a strong indication that at least some of the offices that, according to statute, are to be maintained at the county seat of Prosser have been moved out of that city to Kennewick."

In another opinion issued earlier this year the Supreme Court ruled

against Thurston County's attempt to completely remove prosecutor, clerk and court functions from the courthouse to a proposed jail and justice center outside the county seat.

## Statewide Forums Scheduled on Sex Offender Sentencing

In response to recent state legislation, the Sentencing Guidelines Commission is conducting open public meetings on state sex offender sentencing laws at several locations around the state.

During the 2004 session, the Legislature passed ESHB 2400, which requires the Commission to review and evaluate the sentencing of sex offenders. The Commission scheduled the public meetings in order to solicit comments from victims, families, advocates, judges, prosecutors, defense counsel, law enforcement, sex offender treatment providers, and others interested in the issue. County officials are encouraged to attend one of the following meetings. All are scheduled for 7-9 p.m.

- Edmonds Community College, Tuesday June 1, Rm. 214 Snoqualmie Hall.
- Tacoma Community College, Wednesday, June 2, Rainier Rm. Bldg. 7.
- Yakima Valley Community College, Tuesday, June 8, Anthon 102.
- Spokane Community College, Wednesday, June 9, Rm. 222.
- Whatcom Community College, Tuesday, June 15, 107-108 Sayre Bldg.
- Clark Community College, Wednesday, June 16, Rm. 121 Hanna Hall.

- Seattle University School of Law, Wednesday, June 23, Rm. 109

## Liquor Board Looking for Input

The Washington State Liquor Control Board's Licensing Division is seeking input regarding the agency's notice to cities and counties on liquor license applications and renewals. The Board has sent a brief survey to county contacts and requests your comments to help improve the notification process.

In its current licensing process, the Liquor Board notifies local governments of applications and renewals for annual liquor licenses, such as restaurants, taverns, grocery stores, convenience stores, wineries, and breweries, as well as applications for special occasion licenses, which are events sponsored by nonprofit organizations held for one or multiple days.

Changes to these notices or the notification process would require further discussion and formal rule changes. The purpose of the survey is to gather preliminary input on the current process. The Liquor Board will notify counties and cities if it decides to pursue any rule changes.

Questions about the survey should be directed to Kim Sauer, Licensing Division Customer Service and Quality Coordinator, at 360-664-1626 or ks@liq.wa.gov.

## Congressman Smith Honored

U.S. Representative Adam Smith, 9<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, was honored by the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) at their 2004 Spring Conference in Yakima with the Gene Cotton Award for outstanding contributions to

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## ***Courts, Public Safety, Law and Justice (continued)***

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public safety. Congressman Smith, a former state senator, was instrumental in furthering building mapping, DNA testing, biometric drivers' licenses and other WASPC legislative priorities. He has been an advocate for law enforcement throughout his 14 years of public service and was the lead in a successful campaign to assist in the Gary Ridgeway serial killer investigation with federal dollars.

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## ***Environment, Land Use and Resources***

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### **Projects to Aid Salmon Habitat Honored**

Clark County last week held its fourth annual Sammy Awards honoring people who have gone to extraordinary efforts to restore habitat and boost salmon and steelhead runs in Southwest Washington. At the ceremony, attended by 150 people at Vancouver's Water Resources Education Center, Commissioner Betty Sue Morris said, "Government can't do it all. Government can't even do very much of it."

Eight individuals, organizations and groups were recognized including Kim Klein, a biology teacher at Ridgefield High School; Bill Doty: Doty, who owns a 480-acre tree farm in north Clark County, who worked with Fish First to rebuild salmon habitat where Cedar Creek ran through his property; and Mother Nature's Garden, a puppet show, developed by Clark County employees in collaboration with Portland-area Metro staff and Vancouver's Tears of Joy Puppet Theater. The show conveys the importance of clean water, healthy soil and safe habitat for diverse species.

### **County Parks and Recreation Input Sought**

ESHB 2556, which establishes a Joint Legislative Task Force on criminal background check processes, seeks county participation from a parks and recreation professional. The 15 member task force, which includes law enforcement members and youth organizations, will make recommendations to the 2005 Legislature on criminal background check policy in Washington. Persons interested should contact Paul Parker

at WSAC by June 4, 2004.

### **Ecology Releases Draft Beyond Waste Summary of State Solid and Hazardous Waste Plans**

The Department of Ecology has released draft 30-year plans for the handling and reduction of solid and hazardous waste as part of the "Beyond Waste" project. State law requires these plans and the existing plans are quite out of date. Ecology welcomes and encourages interested parties to give feedback on the draft plans. The Department will make provisions for e-mail and web site responses as well as written comments. Ecology has also arranged a series of public meetings throughout the State during the months of May and June.

The Department's efforts to involve people in its development of their long-range plans began in 2001, with a series of meetings around the state, including 16 "round-table meetings, to discuss future directions for solid and hazardous waste in Washington State. The result of the roundtables and other meeting was this long-term vision statement: "We can transition to a society where waste is viewed as inefficient, and where most wastes and toxic substances have been eliminated. This will contribute to economic, social and environmental vitality."

Since that time, Ecology has talked with citizens, businesses, local governments and others to get input before drafting the plans, which are designed to address solid waste and hazardous waste issues over the next 30 years. Among important initiatives in the draft plans are ways to construct buildings in more environmentally ways; further

reduce and, where possible, eliminate hazardous industrial and household wastes; compost more organic wastes; and measure environmental progress more effectively.

Schedule of remaining public meetings to provide input to Ecology regarding the Draft Beyond Waste Plans:

#### **Ellensburg: June 8, 2004**

1 to 4 pm at Central Washington University, Samuelson Union Building Ballroom, 400 E. University Way; OR

6 to 9 pm at Central Washington University, Samuelson Union Building Ballroom, 400 E. University Way

#### **Lynnwood: June 10, 2004**

1 to 4 pm at Edmonds Community College, Snohomish Hall, 20000 68<sup>th</sup> Ave. W., Lynnwood; OR

6 to 9 pm at Edmonds Community College, Snohomish Hall, 20000 68<sup>th</sup> Ave. W., Lynnwood.

Ecology will be taking comments through August 13, 2004.

### **Local Governments to Hold Joint Work Session**

The House Local Government and the Senate Land Use Committees will hold a joint work session to learn more about the issues local governments are facing in the 2004 update.

The Committee's will hold a joint work session on June 17<sup>th</sup> in Ocean Shores in conjunction with the Association of Cities annual meeting. The work session will focus on the

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## ***Environment, Land Use and Resources (continued)***

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nine counties and the cities within who are required to review and update, if necessary, their comprehensive plans by December 2004. They have asked each local government association to focus on the in compliance costs, such as staff time and outside assistance, incurred by local governments. Members have also expressed an interest in knowing, within the GMA updates context, what is and what is not working.

Staff has sent a request for information to the planning directors in the nine counties. The information will be compiled and

presented on June 17<sup>th</sup>. This will be a great opportunity for WSAC to share with the appropriate policy committees the hurdles and lessons learned so far.

There will be a similar work session in Eastern Washington in August.

### **The Court of Appeals Division II Rules on Ferry County's Appeal**

The Court of Appeals decides against Ferry County on their appeal of the Eastern Growth Management Hearing Board's decision on the inclusion of best available science.

The text of the decision can be found at:  
<http://www.courts.wa.gov/opinions/index.cfm?fa=opinions.opindisp&docid=293510MAJ>

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## ***NACo News***

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### **NACo Steering Committee Nominations Open**

Nominations are now open for the National Association of Counties (NACo) Steering Committees. As a NACo Steering Committee member, you are responsible for debating and creating national policies and priorities affecting counties and serve as NACo's front line in their grass roots efforts. Committees meet at the NACo legislative and annual

conferences and one other time during the year. You will be responsible for your own travel.

Please call WSAC or WACO for nomination forms. The NACo deadline is May 31 and incoming president Angelo Kyle will begin making appointments later this summer.

The 11 Steering Committees are:  
Agriculture and Rural Affairs;  
Community and Economic

Development; Environment, Energy and Land Use; Finance and Intergovernmental Relations; Health; Human Services and Education; Justice and Public Safety; Labor and Employment; Public Lands; Telecommunications and Technology; and Transportation.

# Transportation and Public Works

## Why is Washington's Transportation Plan of Interest to Counties and Cities?

In this update of Washington's Transportation Plan (WTP), local roadway needs will have a more prominent role than they have in past plans. Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) recognizes the importance of including local programs and projects to help ensure a connected transportation system. Virtually every trip in Washington begins and ends on a city street or county road, whether traveling by bike, bus, truck, ferry, or the family car. City and county roads carry over sixty percent of the miles traveled on all roads in the state. In addition, cities and counties own and operate over 89 percent of the transportation roadway system, and cities maintain an additional 7 percent of state highways through urban areas. State highways often serve as main streets for many Washington towns. Local roads link major centers and airports, state and national institutions like universities and parks, and major commercial, agricultural, and industrial centers throughout the state. Often, relatively small investments in local connections can positively impact the state highway system and postpone or eliminate the need for more costly highway mega-projects.

### Washington's Transportation Plan will include local investment in several ways:

1. Include the local needs at a programmatic level (e.g., preservation needs)
2. Include specific local projects as part of an overall state investment

plan.

3. Examine state/local gaps and opportunities for improved connections

### Counties and Cities, work with your RTPOs.

RTPOs will coordinate with and support Counties, Cities, Ports, and other local and regional transportation agencies to develop data and compile adopted needs for the WTP including:

- a. County Road and City Street needs,
- b. Safety needs,
- c. Transit needs,
- d. Airport needs,
- e. Non-motorized needs,
- f. Ports, marine/riverine navigation, and other freight needs.

### For WTP, a local improvement priority must be included in the Regional Plan and:

- be on a road, street, or bridge;
- be on an arterial;

### AND

meet at least one of the following criteria:

- improve the operation of the state system;
- provide connections to freight distribution centers and airports;
- provide connections to commercial, agricultural, and industrial centers; or
- provide connections to federal and state institutions like universities and parks.

### Rep. Ruth Fisher is Appointed to the Transportation Commission

Ruth Fisher of Tacoma has been appointed to a term ending June 30, 2010. Fisher is a former state

legislator. The Washington State Transportation Commission is an independent state agency whose seven citizen members are appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Senate. The commission exercises responsibilities in preparing the state's transportation plan, proposing the state's transportation budget, and working with the governor, the state Legislature, the Secretary of Transportation (whom the Commission appoints) and others across the state in formulating transportation policy. The Commission also oversees the implementation of transportation policy and the operational plans for highways, ferries and intercity passenger rail.

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## Association News

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### Edmonds Announcement for WSAC Secretary-Treasurer

To my colleagues in WSAC:

It has been a great time for me to come into county government. We have been facing new challenges everyday and have worked together to find solutions as counties continue in this time of change. I have spent the last two years working with you and traveling around the state to meet with many of you personally. I knew that for me to be effective in understanding the problems of individual counties, I needed to sit across the table from you in your county and see the issues you are facing.

I am continuing my work at WSAC by running for the WSAC Secretary-Treasurer position. My visits around the state have shown me that we can face this world of change together. Our differences are the things that make us gather with each other to find solutions. I am running because I think that bringing these differences together can help us find better ways for funding our counties; share the lessons we have learned in delivering services to our communities; and continue to bring east and west, urban and rural together in our shared future.

After 10 years of community service working for children and seniors, I was elected to the Washington State Legislature in 1998. During my legislative service, I vigorously pursued improvement in education, senior services, health care, transportation and sustainability of our local communities. I was elected to the King County Council in 2001. I currently serve as Chair of the Natural Resources and Utilities Committee, Chair of the King County Legislative Steering Committee, Chair of the King County Board of Health and a member of the Washington State Board of Health.

I have enjoyed serving you on the WSAC Legislative Steering Committee for the past two years and thank the Executive Board for my appointment as Co-Chair for this coming year. I have also served on the WSAC Board as the representative from King County.

As the Washington Association of Counties moves into a future of many challenges, I want to represent you as the WSAC Secretary-Treasurer. WSAC is supported by many talented commissioners and a committed staff working to make

this future serve our Counties. I am committed to working with all of you to make this future one that we work together to achieve.

As we join in Spokane for our annual meeting in October, I ask you for your support as you elect new officers to lead WSAC into the future.

Sincerely,  
Carolyn Edmonds,  
King County Council Member

### WSAC Board of Director Meeting Dates Change

Please make note of the revised Board of Director meeting dates for the remainder of this year.

**Tuesday, June 22** - 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.,  
Sheraton Hotel, Tacoma (in conjunction with the WSAC Annual Summer Convention)

**Friday, August 13** - 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., Oxford Suites, Yakima

**Tuesday, October 5** - 2:30 - 5:30 p.m.,  
Red Lion Hotel at the Park, Spokane (in conjunction with the Joint Fall Conference)

**Friday, November 19** - 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., Wyndham Hotel, SeaTac Airport, Seattle

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# ***Training and Upcoming Events***

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## **Register Now!**

### **CPO Training**

**“Roles and Responsibilities of County Government”**

**June 22 Tacoma Sheraton Hotel**

**June 30 WSU Spokane Phase 1 Room 118**

Counties in Washington operate under powers granted to them by State Statute. Successful leadership within each County depends on a clear understanding of the roles and responsibilities of Commissioners, Council members, Executives and other Elected Officials. Building an effective team to manage county government within these turbulent times requires a unique and varied set of skills.

Through lecture and small group discussion, case studies and group activities, participants will broaden their knowledge of county government form, function, roles and responsibilities.

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#### ***TOPICS***

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- Key roles and responsibilities of elected and appointed county government officials
- Methods to build a management team designed for your county’s needs and culture
- Techniques to enhance commitment to the County Management Team
- Problem-solving skills and techniques to address those “wicked county problems”
- The roles of social trust within the context of community support for local government
- History and purpose of county government

\* \* \* \* \*

### **CPO Training In July: Bring your team!**

**Communicate, Build Trust and Engage your Community**

**How to Tell your County’s Story**

Your citizens keep asking – Where is my money being spent? What are the services I am paying for? Why do Elected Officials make the decisions they do?

The cost for this full day workshop has been set at \$60 per person. We are able to reduce the cost due in part to the generous contribution from Washington State University Extension to support this important effort. With the reduction in registration cost, we hope that each county will bring a team of 8-10 elected leaders and department heads who will be committed to developing their County Communication Plan.

#### **Workshop Goals**

- Learn about public process strategies that others have used successfully to engage citizens and receive their input
- Focus on developing clear, concise messages for sharing and understanding the difficult issues your county faces
- Build a common format and materials that you can use when you go back to your county to explain your budget, impacts of initiatives and other difficult or challenging issues
- Identify elements of a communication plan to engage your community members in discussion around contentious community issues

## ***Training and Upcoming Events (continued)***

### **Dates and Locations**

- Wednesday, July 7                      Mount Vernon
- Thursday, July 8                        Tacoma area
- Friday, July 9                            Longview/Kelso
- Wednesday, July 14                    Wenatchee
- Thursday, July 15                      Tri Cities
- Friday, July 16                         Spokane

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<b><i>Training or Workshop</i></b>	<b><i>Location</i></b>	<b><i>Date</i></b>	<b><i>Information</i></b>
<b>June 2004</b>			
WA Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners' Training	Campbell's Lodge, Lake Chelan	6/22	(360) 427-9670 X 752
<b>July 2004</b>			
Community Engagement Workshop	Mount Vernon	7/7	* see below
Community Engagement Workshop	Puyallup	7/8	* see below
Community Engagement Workshop	Longview/Kelso	7/9	* see below
Community Engagement Workshop	Wenatchee	7/14	* see below
Community Engagement Workshop	Tri Cities Area	7/15	* see below
Community Engagement Workshop	Spokane	7/16	* see below
* <a href="http://www.wacounties.org/CPO/Course%20Calendar.htm">http://www.wacounties.org/CPO/Course%20Calendar.htm</a>			
WA Counties Risk Pool – Risk Managers Training	Shilo Inn, Ocean Shores	7/20	(360) 586-7447
WA Counties Risk Pool – Board of Directors Workshop	Shilo Inn, Ocean Shores	7/21	(360) 586-7447
<b>September</b>			
WA Association of Prosecuting Attorneys - Juvenile Training Program	Icicle Inn, Leavenworth	9/12-14	(360) 753-2175
WA Association of Prosecuting Attorneys - Drug Training Program	Icicle Inn, Leavenworth	9/15-17	(360) 753-2175

### **1<sup>st</sup> Annual Equipment Expo**

Evergreen Rural Water of Washington (ERWoW), a leading provider of water and wastewater training and technical assistance in the state of Washington is bringing together public works personnel, city clerks and water and wastewater personnel for a one day event, July 15, 2004 at the Satsop Development Park. This event will introduce to them the latest products and services available in their industry.

This is not an "Exhibit Hall"; this is a live event with hands on demonstrations. There will be a digging area where attendees can "test drive" the large equipment, such as excavators, tractors and backhoes. See demos on hydrant diffusers, pumps & generators, confined space safety equipment, sewer line cleaning, vac trucks, billing software and more.

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## ***Training and Upcoming Events (continued)***

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There will be training classes where operators can earn valuable CEUs; courses to be covered are Fire Hydrant Maintenance, Valve Exercising, Line Location and Leak Detection, Manhole Safety, Sewer Cameras and Sewer Line Cleaning.

At ERWoW one of our main goals is to make training affordable. With that in mind we have kept your cost for this event to \$10.00 for ERWoW Members and \$15.00 for Non Members, a BBQ lunch is provided.

Please call Evergreen Rural Water of Washington at 1-800-272-5981 to register for the Equipment Expo or visit the ERWoW website at [www.erwow.org](http://www.erwow.org).

### **Rural Communities Forum**

Many issues and challenges are faced by rural communities – unemployment, limited resources, young people leaving the area, limited access and availability of critical services such as healthcare and childcare -- and problems with unequal funding of services are just a few. Yet in many areas of the state, rural communities continue to grow.

A forum co-sponsored by the Human Services Policy Center, the Family Policy Council of Washington State and the Children's Alliance of Washington will take place in Olympia on June 2, 2004. Titled "*Rural Policy Challenges: Redefining Rural America*" it will look at the changing face of rural America and the challenges these communities face. What are the policy implications of conflicting definitions of "rural"? Who are the residents of rural America today? Is it possible that central city and rural residents have more uniting them than dividing them? If rural communities are touted as a desirable place to live, what makes them so and for whom? And, as the rest of the economy is said to be recovering, are we seeing the same in rural America?

The keynote speaker will be Charles W. Fluharty, Director of the Rural Policy Research Institute, Columbus, Missouri. The Rural Policy Research Institute (RUPRI) is a well-respected multi-disciplinary institute that conducts policy-relevant research and facilitates public dialogue to assist policymakers in understanding the rural impacts of public policies and programs. In his talk, entitled "*Crafting a Community-Based Rural Policy: Implication for Human Services Policy*," Mr. Fluharty will provide an overview of the history of rural America, the new political reality, the effects of public policy and implications for children and families.

Other presentations will reflect on rural issues in the Northwest region and those of our state: "*Changing Demographics in the Pacific Northwest and Policy Implications*" by Dr Annabel Kirschner, WSU, Professor and Chair of the Department of Rural Sociology; David Harrison, Senior Lecturer, Evans School of Public Affairs, University of Washington, speaking on "*The Declining Disadvantage of Distance: New Opportunities for Washington's Rural Communities*"

The Forum takes place on Wednesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the *Governor's House Ramada Inn, Olympia*. To register, contact Sharon Doyle, Director of Outreach, Human Services Policy Center at (206) 685-7612. The \$45 fee includes lunch and all materials.

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## Good Things

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### **Kitsap County Law Enforcement Agencies Receive Enhancement to Combat Motor Vehicle Theft**

In an effort to deal with the increasing rate of motor vehicle thefts, Kitsap County law enforcement agencies have entered into a public-private cooperative relationship with the LoJack Corporation. This agreement will allow local agencies to better combat vehicle theft and provides a significant technological tool to assist in recovering vehicles that are reported stolen.

The LoJack Stolen Vehicle Recovery System consists of a small, silent transmitter hidden within a

privately owned vehicle. After a law enforcement agency enters a stolen vehicle report into its respective crime information center computer, the LoJack transmitter is activated. The transmitter sends a signal that law enforcement agencies can track utilizing LoJack Police Tracking Computers (PTC) to recover the stolen vehicle.

Local law enforcement agencies receiving PTCs installed within patrol vehicles are:

- Washington State Patrol
- Kitsap County Sheriff's Office
- Bremerton Police Department
- Bainbridge Island Police Department
- Port Orchard Police Department

- Poulsbo Police Department
- Suquamish (Tribal) Police Department

Training in the use of the PTCs by patrol officers is provided by the LoJack Corporation. Installation of the PTCs and initial training will be completed by early June. Once the PTCs are installed in patrol vehicles, and the patrol officer has been certified in its use, the system is considered operational.

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## Courthouse Ramblings

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We were sorry to learn of the death last week of **Margaret Donaldson**, a former Lewis County Clerk. Margaret took office in 1964 and

retired at the end of 1983. She was active member of both the County Clerks' Association, moving through all of their offices, and of WACO, for

whom she served on the Board of Trustees.

## Calendar of Events

<i><b>Meeting</b></i>	<i><b>Location</b></i>	<i><b>Date</b></i>	<i><b>Information</b></i>
<b>2004</b>			
WA Association of Prosecuting Attorneys District Court Training Program	Icicle Inn, Leavenworth	June 3-4	(360) 753-2175
WA State Association of County Assessors Annual Conference	Hallmark Inn, Moses Lake	June 14-16	(425) 388-3446
WA State Association of County Auditors' Annual Conference	Lakeway Inn, Bellingham	June 16 - 18	(360) 753-7319
WA State Association of Counties Board of Directors Meeting (in conjunction with Annual Summer Convention)	Sheraton Hotel, Tacoma	June 22	(360) 753-1886
WA Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners' Training	Campbell's Lodge, Lake Chelan	June 22	(360) 427-9670 x 752
WA Association of Prosecuting Attorneys Summer Training Program	Campbell's Lodge, Lake Chelan	June 23-25	(360) 753-2175
National Sheriffs' Association	Seattle	June 26 - 30	www.sheriffs.org
County Clerk's Association 2004 Summer Conference	North Bonneville Hot Springs Resort, Skamania	June 22 - 25	(360) 753-7319
County Treasurer's Association 2004 Summer Conference	Heathman Lodge, Vancouver	June 22 - 25	(360) 753-7319
WA State Association of Counties 98 <sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Convention	Sheraton Hotel, Tacoma	June 22 - 25	(360) 753-1886
IACREOT 33 <sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference	San Antonio, TX	July 15-24	(360) 397-2003
NACo Annual Conference	Maricopa County, Phoenix, AZ	July 16 - 20	www.naco.org
Association of County Human Services	Kittitas County	July 21 - 23	(360) 753-1886
WA Counties Risk Pool Annual Board	Shilo Inn, Ocean Shores	July 22	(360) 586-7447
WA Counties Risk Pool Summer Conference	Shilo Inn, Ocean Shores	July 20 - 22	(360) 586-7447
WA State Association of Counties Board of Directors Meeting	Oxford Suites, Yakima	August 13	(360) 753-1886
WA Counties Insurance Pool Rate Setting	Wyndham Gardens, SeaTac	August 19	(360) 586-0466
Association of County Human Services	Grays Harbor County	September 15 - 17	(360) 753-1886
WA Counties Insurance Pool Board	Radisson Hotel, SeaTac	September 16	(360) 586-0466
WA Counties Insurance Fund	Radisson Hotel, SeaTac	September 16	(360) 586-0466
Insurance Advisory Committee	Radisson Hotel, SeaTac	September 16	(360) 586-0466
Washington State Association of County Assessors (WSACA) Fall Conference	Everett, Snohomish County	September 13 - 16	
County & Regional Planning Directors/City Planning Directors Joint Conference	Campbell's Resort, Chelan	September 14 - 17	www.geocities.com/wsacrp

## **Calendar of Events (continued)**

WA State Association of Counties Board of Directors Meeting (in conjunction with Joint Fall Conference)	Red Lion Hotel at the Park, Spokane	October 5	(360) 753-1886
ACE Committee (Payroll & HR)	Radisson Hotel, SeaTac	October 13	(360) 586-0466
WA Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs Fall Conference	Shilo Inn, Ocean Shores	November 15 – 18	(360) 486-2380
Association of County Human Services	Spokane County	November 17 - 19	(360) 753-1886
WA Counties Insurance Fund - 2005 Budget	Red Lion at Columbia Center, Kennewick	November 18	(360) 586-0466
WA State Association of Counties Board of Directors Meeting	Wyndham Hotel, SeaTac Airport	November 19	(360) 753-1886
WA Association of Prosecuting Attorneys Winter Meeting & Banquet	Crowne Plaza Hotel, Seattle	December 9-10	(360) 753-2175
<b>2005</b>			
NACo Legislative Conference	Marriot Wardman Park Hotel, Washington, DC	March 3 – 4	www.naco.org
WSAC Spring Eastern District Meeting	Sun Mountain Lodge, Winthrop	April 7 – 8	www.wacounties.org/wsac
WSAC Spring Western District Meeting	Red Lion Hotel, Kelso	May 5 – 6	www.wacounties.org/wsac
WA Association of Prosecuting Attorneys Support Staff Training Program	WestCoast Ridpath Hotel, Spokane	May 11-13	(360) 753-2175
WA State Association of Police Chiefs Spring Conference	WestCoast Wenatchee Center Hotel, Wenatchee	May 23 – 26	(360) 486-2380
NACo – Western Interstate Region Conference	Ogden, UT	May 26 – 29	<a href="http://www.naco.org/Content/Naviga tionMenu/About_NACo/Com mittees_and_Caucuses/Western_ Interstate_Region/Western_ Inter state_Region_Intro.htm">http://www.naco.org/Content/Naviga tionMenu/About_NACo/Com mittees_and_Caucuses/Western_ Interstate_Region/Western_ Inter state_Region_Intro.htm</a>
WSAC 99 <sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Convention	WestCoast Hotel at Columbia Center, Kennewick	June 13 – 16	(360) 753-1886
WA Association of Prosecuting Attorneys Summer Conference & Training Program	Campbell's Lodge, Lake Chelan	June 22 – 24	(360) 753-2175
IACREOT 34th Annual Conference	New York, NY	June 28 – July 8	(360) 397-2003
NACo Annual Conference	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/wsacrpdc
WACO/WSAC Joint Fall Conference	Ocean Shores	October 3 – 7	(360) 753-7319
<b>2006</b>			
WA State Association of Counties 100 <sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Convention	Whatcom County, Bellingham	June 12 - 15	(360) 753-1886
IACREOT 35th Annual Conference	San Francisco, CA	July 2 - 7	(360) 397-2003
NACo Annual Conference	Denver, CO	July 21 – 26	www.naco.org

## Calendar of Events (continued)

<b>2007</b>			
NACo Annual Conference	Richmond, VA	July 13 – 17	www.naco.org
IACREOT 36th Annual Conference	Charlotte, NC	July 14 – 22	(360) 397-2003
<b>2008</b>			
NACo Annual Conference	Kansas City, MO	July 11 – 15	www.naco.org
<b>2009</b>			
NACo Annual Conference	Nashville, TN	July 10 – 14	www.naco.org
<b>2010</b>			
NACo Annual Conference	Reno, NV	July 9 – 13	www.naco.org

### IMPORTANT Dates in WASHINGTON State

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>RCW</i>	<i>Comments</i>
09/14/2004	State Primary	29A.04.310	
09/17/2004	Resolutions	29A.04.330	Last day of filing resolution of special election to be held in conjunction with the general election.
09/20-21/2004	Committee Weekend		The House and Senate have confirmed both dates.
10/05/2004	Election Results	29A.60.240	Last day for Secretary of State to certify primary returns.
11/02/2004	Election Day	29A.04.320 29A.04.330	State General Election
12/02/2004	Election Results	29A.60.250	Last day for Secretary of State to certify state general election returns.
12/23/2004	Resolutions	29A.04.330	Last day to file resolution for Feb. 8, 2005 special election.
12/31/2004	Initiatives	29A.72.030	Last day to file signatures for Initiatives to the Legislature.
01/10/2005	Session Begins		WA State begins the 59 <sup>th</sup> Legislative Session
04/25/2005	Sine Die		WA State ends the 59 <sup>th</sup> Legislative Session

**Please note: On July 1, 2004 all RCW citations will change due to legislative action.**

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## Attachments

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For Immediate Release

### **Anne N. Solwick Appointed as Executive Director, Board of Tax Appeals**

Olympia, WA - May 12, 2004 - Charles F. Brydon, Chair, announced that Anne N. Solwick has been appointed as Executive Director of the Board of Tax Appeals effective May 1, 2004. Mr. Brydon also expressed the Board's appreciation to former Executive Director, Richard A. Virant, who will retire on May 31, 2004, after eighteen years of service to the Board.

Ms. Solwick has practiced law in King, Pierce, and Thurston counties since 1992. Prior to her position with

the Board of Tax Appeals, she served as project council for the Legislation and Policy Division of the Washington State Department of Revenue. Her previous career experience includes eight years with the Internal Revenue Service. Additionally, Ms. Solwick has served on various community boards such as The Boys and Girls Club of Thurston County and The Tacoma Little Theater as well as a four-year term on the City of Olympia's Utility Advisory Committee.

The Washington State Legislature created the Board of Tax Appeals to establish an impartial and low-cost (to the taxpayer) forum for tax

appeals. The Board is the state's primary administrative tax court responsible for adjudicating a variety of tax-related disputes including excise taxes, public utility valuations, exemption decisions at the state level, and property assessment appeals involving property taxes administered by county assessors. The Board's mission is to resolve appeals of taxpayers and taxing authorities to maintain public confidence in the state tax system.