

the Courthouse Journal

WWW.WACOUNTIES.ORG

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

**August 19, 2005
Issue No. 25**

*Inside the
Courthouse Journal*

**Courts, Public Safety, Law
& Justice**
Page 4

Association News
Page 4

**Elections, Licensing
& Recording**
Page 5

Courthouse Ramblings
Page 5

Calendar of Events
Pages 6-7

**Support
The
Washington
Counties
Scholarship
Fund**

Donate now!

WACO Conference to be Held October 3-7

The 47th Annual WACO Conference will be held at the new Hilton Vancouver Washington, October 3-7, with President Tom Fallquist, Spokane County Clerk, presiding. Registrations and a draft copy of the agenda have been sent out and all conference information is available on the WACO website at www.wacounties.org/waco

In addition to scheduled time for our seven affiliate groups to hold business meetings during conference week, Wednesday, October 5, has been reserved for the entire membership to meet together on topics that are of vital consequence to all of our state's counties. Attorney General Rob McKenna will be outlining his statewide anti-methamphetamine strategy and we will have other experts to speak to the challenges of the methamphetamine epidemic from the national level down to its chilling effect on our children, the criminal justice system, and thus the diminishment of other county services. There will also be a panel of eight legislators who are in House and Senate leadership and other positions of importance, who will address issues of relevance to counties which are being studied over the interim. These matters will all impact county government when they come out in the form of legislation in 2006. It is important that WACO members be there to participate in a dialogue with these lawmakers.

The WACO Business meeting on Wednesday will feature the presentation of our WACO legislative proposals for next year, changes in the Bylaws and information about the Washington Counties Scholarship Fund. Most importantly, we will be choosing our

new leaders for the ensuing year. The WACO Nominating Committee will announce the slate of candidates for the WACO Board of Trustees, there will be a call for floor nominations and the candidates will speak to the members.

We also have several activities and speakers that will educate, inspire and entertain our members. Our keynote speaker will contribute to the spirit of the Lewis & Clark Expedition Bicentennial Celebration. Historic interpreter Patrick Lee assumes the persona of Captain William Clark and will explore those magnificent 28 months when he and Captain Meriwether Lewis led the Corps of Discovery to the Pacific Ocean and back.

The President's reception for Tom Fallquist will be a Hawaiian theme with entertainment and food from the islands. Tropical wear is encouraged.

To get the week off to a good start, the sheriffs and coroners are planning a benefit golf tournament on Monday, October 3, to help raise money for expenses not covered by health insurance for two of our WACO members, Mason County Coroner Martha Reed and Douglas County Sheriff Dan LaRoche who are suffering from extended illnesses. The sheriffs and coroners are also holding an ice cream social on Tuesday after the WACO welcoming reception to benefit Martha and Dan.

The Thursday evening banquet will feature the Melody Lane Singers, a group of young people from Yakima, who travel extensively and are the consummate entertainers.

So, please, send in your registration today

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.

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

WACO STAFF

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

Debbie Wilke, Executive Director
Michelle Hagen, Deputy Director
Christina Bridston, Programs Coordinator
Dave Clinton, Financial Manager
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,
Urban Counties Deputy Director
Sophia Byrd, Policy Director-
Courts, Public Safety, Law & Justice
Jean Wessman, Policy Director-
Human Services, Juvenile Justice & Housing
Michael Shaw, Interim Policy Director-
Transportation & Land Use
Vicki Kirkpatrick, Policy Director-
Public Health & WSALPHO Administrator
Tom Robinson, Coordinator-Timber
Trina Bannister,
Finance & Administration Director
Ginni Peppert,
Events Planner & Administrative Assistant
Barbara Warden,
Business & Administrative Assistant
Tom Jensen, Technology Project Manager

CPO PROGRAM

Julie Kaufman,
Certified Public Official Coordinator

and plan on joining us for a great conference in Vancouver!

Get Involved – Run for WACO Office

Nominations are now being accepted from county officials who wish to be included in the slate of candidates for the WACO Board of Trustees. The election of officers and board members will be held during the Annual WACO Conference at the Hilton Hotel, in Vancouver, October 4-7.

Any county official is eligible to run for WACO Secretary-Treasurer or as a Trustee-at-large to represent counties by population. Tradition is that officers move up through the chairs so usually only the Secretary-Treasurer is contested among the officers. Travel expenses for WACO officers and Trustees are paid by WACO. This ensures that any county official can serve without placing undue burdens on county budgets.

The following positions are open for election this year:

1. **President**
2. **President-elect**
3. **Vice President**
4. **Secretary-Treasurer**
5. Trustee-at-large **Position 1** (county population over 500,000)
6. Trustee-at-large **Position 3** (county population from 40,000 – 125,000)
7. Trustee-at-large **Position 5** (county population less than 12,000)

Trustee-at large positions are for two-year terms. Terms for trustee-at-large Positions 2 and 4 will expire in 2006.

Please consider running for a position on the Board of Trustees! We welcome and need your participation to

keep WACO strong!

The nomination process is the following:

- Any WACO member interested in being nominated must send a letter of intent and a resume to each member of the Nominating Committee, as well as to the WACO office, by **September 9 (current officers included)**. The Nominating Committee members and their addresses are listed at the end of this notice.
- The Nominating Committee will meet by conference call in mid-September to finalize the slate of candidates.
- All WACO members will receive information about each candidate and a copy of the Nominating Committee's report prior to the conference.
- On Wednesday morning, October 5, during the WACO business meeting, Nominating Committee Chair Scott Furman, Okanogan County Assessor, will present the slate of candidates to the membership and call for floor nominations. Following the Nominating Committee report, all candidates will then have the opportunity to address the membership.
- WACO members can cast their ballots from the end of the business meeting on Wednesday until 11:45 a.m. on Thursday, October 6. Proxy voting is prohibited by the WACO Bylaws.
- The Nominating Committee will tabulate the election results immediately following the closing of the polls and the new officers and Board members will be announced Thursday afternoon. They will be

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

sworn into office on Thursday evening, October 6, at the annual banquet.

If you are interested in running for a position on the WACO Board of Trustees, please submit a brief resume along with a cover letter stating the position you are seeking to each member of the Nominating Committee below, by September 12. Please send a copy to the WACO office, as well.

Nominating Committee:

Scott Furman, Chair
Okanogan County Assessor
P.O. Box 152
Port Townsend, WA 98368

Craig Thayer, Vice Chair
Stevens County Sheriff
P.O. Box 186
Colville, WA 99114

Greg Sandstrom
Kitsap County Coroner
614 Division St., MS:17
Port Orchard, WA 98366

Donna Eldridge
Jefferson County Auditor
P.O. Box 563
Port Townsend, WA 98368

Judi Morris
Jefferson County Treasurer
PO Box 571
Port Townsend, WA 98368

Pam Daniels
Snohomish County Clerk
3000 Rockefeller Ave, MS: 605
Everett, WA 98201

Russ Hauge
Kitsap County Prosecutor
614 Division St., MS: 35
Port Orchard, WA 98366

Debbie Wilke, Executive Director
WACO
206 10th Avenue SE
Olympia, WA 98501

The Washington Counties Scholarship Fund

Each year, the Washington Counties Scholarship Fund awards scholarships to deserving children of county employees. In order to ensure that this worthwhile endeavor continues, we need contributions each year to help the fund grow. That's where you come in!! This year, we would like to encourage all of our WACO and WSAC members to make a donation, however big or small, to keep the scholarship tradition going strong. We have had great testimonials from our scholarship winners, all with a common denominator: how they intend to impact the lives of others after they complete their education.

Please, if you have not yet donated to the scholarship fund this year, will you consider sending in a contribution now? Thank you for all of the past support and for your investment in this excellent program!

WACO Conference Bids – 2007 and 2008

Would you like to host a WACO conference in your county? We are currently accepting meeting proposals from facilities in western Washington for 2007 and in eastern Washington for 2008. If you are interested, please contact Chris Bridston at WACO for facility and meeting requirements.

Kitsap County Commissioner Lent Heads WSAC Centennial Committee

WSAC President Betty Sue Morris has appointed Patty Lent, Kitsap County Commissioner and Western District President, as the chair for the WSAC Centennial Committee. In 2006 WSAC, along with the Washington Association of County Engineers will celebrate their 100th anniversary. Both organizations met in Bellingham in 1906 to establish their respective associations.

Commissioner Lent has organized a diverse committee that will be planning and organizing events and celebrations for 2006, culminating in the Annual Meeting in Spokane September 19-22. Members include the following; Merrill Ott, Stevens, Betty Sue Morris, WSAC President from Clark, Leo Bowman, Benton, Lynda Ring-Erickson, Mason, Bill Byrd, Island, Ken Dahlstedt, Skagit, Dave Carey, Walla Walla, Mary Hunt, Douglas, Jayni Kamin, Mason, John Koster, Snohomish, Greg Partch, Whitman, and Mary Lou Peterson, Okanogan. She has also asked two former members to help also, Mike Murphy, former Grays Harbor Commissioner and past-WSAC president 1980-1981, and Bill Mahan, former Kitsap County Commissioner from 1968-1988. Also on the Committee is Randy Casteel, Kitsap County Engineer and WSAC staff, Ginni Peppert and Bill Vogler.

Commissioner Lent is interested in any historical information that you could share with the committee as they prepare for next year's events. She will be promoting the Centennial at the Annual Meeting in Vancouver next month and during the District meetings next spring. If you are interested in working on the celebration please contact Commissioner Lent or other members of the committee.

75 Years Ago in Adams County.....

The Adams County Assessor reported that in 1930 there was a drop of \$94,000 in the aggregate assessed valuation of taxable personal property in the county during the past year but a noticeable increase in the assessed value of farming equipment, with a slight tendency toward lower values on farm animals as mules and horses were being replaced with tractors and other equipment. The announcement came the same week as the mule relay race and the Adams County Fair.

Association News

County Assessors Meet in Spokane

The 108th Annual Conference of the Washington State Association of County Assessors (WSACA) was held in Spokane, August 8-11, with WSACA president Lewis County Assessor Dianne Dorey presiding. Their host, Spokane County Assessor Ralph Baker, and his staff deserve a "bravo" for their efforts in planning such a memorable event.

The Spokane County Sheriffs' Color Guard presented the flag during opening ceremonies on Tuesday, August 8. The Assessors enjoyed many great presentations including digital archives presented by the Secretary of State's staff from the state's digital archive in Cheney; a thought provoking discussion of the next generation digital office by Jon Wyss, Chief Deputy of the Spokane Assessor's Office; a presentation of the 2005 Public Disclosure Act Bill (HB

1758) by the Washington State Attorney General's Office; automation of designated forest and open space timber using GIS; and a panel discussion on whether counties should go to an annual revaluation cycle. Also during the conference, the Property Tax Division of the Department of Revenue (DOR) held their annual meeting with assessors. Chief appraisers and appraisal managers met with DOR to discuss appraisal issues common within the state, including valuing low income housing and new annexations and de-annexations.

The assessors' business meeting on Thursday included election of officers, a bylaws change vote and selection of future conference sites. The vote resulted in a new President, Okanogan County Assessor Scott Furman; Vice-President King County Assessor Scott Noble; and Secretary/Treasurer Klickitat County Assessor, H.J. "Van"

Vandenberg. District Chairs are: East, Columbia County Assessor Chris Miller; Central, Ferry County Assessor Rachel D. Siracuse; Puget Sound, Thurston County Assessor Patricia Costello; West, Pacific County Assessor Bruce Walker. A bylaws change adjusting the number and timing of future conferences was voted down and future conference locations include: June 2006, Kitsap County hosted by Jim Avery; June 2007, Yakima County hosted by Dave Cook; and September, 2007, Walla Walla County hosted by William C. "Bill" Vollendorff. There will not be a September Conference in 2006 because it is an election year for most Assessors.

Courts, Public Safety, Law & Justice

Jail Industries Board Grant Writing Workshop

Where can I find grant money? How do I connect with those who have had successful grant applications? How do I write a grant? What are the fundamentals of grant writing?

These are a few questions that corrections personnel have expressed on their workshop registration forms. If you have questions like these, this

workshop is for you! The Jail Industries Board is sponsoring a grant workshop customized for corrections staff. The workshop will cover grant seeking as well as proven techniques for successful grant writing. The workshop will be lead by Sylvie McGee of All for a Good Cause Consulting. Ms. McGee is a professional grant writer and trainer with an excellent record of producing winning grant proposals.

The workshop will be held at the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs Training Facility in Olympia on Friday, September 30th from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Please check the Jail Industries Board website for details and registration information.
<http://www.jib.wa.gov/WhatsNew.htm>

Elections, Licensing and Recording

Washington State PREP Group to Meet

The next meeting of the Washington State Property Records Education Partners (PREP) group will be Thursday, September 22, 2005 in Snohomish County.

The PREP meeting will begin at 1:00 pm on the first floor of the County's new administration building at 3000 Rockefeller Avenue, Everett and is expected to end at approximately 3:00

pm.

For interested county representatives, the day will begin earlier with a tour of Snohomish County's excise and recording operations; followed by a product demonstration and lunch sponsored by ATPac.

For more details or to RSVP, please contact Lisa Goldsworthy at 425-388-3713 or

lisa.goldsworthy@co.snohomish.wa.us

There is no cost to register for the

tour, demo or PREP meeting.

DETAILS:

DATE	9/22/2005
TOUR	9:00 am
ATPAC DEMO	10:30 am
LUNCH	12:00 noon
PREP	1:00 pm

Hourly parking is available in the county's covered garage.

Courthouse Ramblings

We are sorry to hear that Pierce County Councilmember **Barbara Gelman's** daughter Megan passed away suddenly on August 13. Our thoughts and prayers are with Barbara and her husband Herbert. Remembrances can be sent to the Temple Beth El Education Fund, 5975 South 12th Street, Tacoma, WA 98465.

Former Franklin County Assessor **Wilma Van Buren**, 81, passed away August 13, at home in Olympia, after a courageous fight with lung cancer. Van Buren served as assessor in Franklin County from 1963 to 1980 and later moved to Olympia.

Longtime Senate Democratic Caucus Chair **Robert Bailey**, 87, who represented southwest Washington in Olympia for 26 years, passed away August 14, in Olympia. Bailey was elected Pacific County Clerk in 1947. He was then elected to the State House in 1951 and the Senate in 1957. He was also a newspaperman in South Bend, a top aide to former U.S. Representative Julia Butler Hansen, manager of the Port of Willapa and chairman of the

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission.

Adams County Sheriff **Doug Barger** reported that 9-1-1 and calls to his department went from an average of 10 to 15 for that time frame to 260 last Friday evening when a wall of dust hit Ritzville resulting in several multi-car pileups and the accompanying storm started a 2000 acre fire in the county. The high winds and blowing dust eliminated visibility and created a lot of havoc for emergency services in the county.

Both Douglas County Sheriff **Dan LaRoche** and Mason County Coroner **Martha Reed** have undergone stem cell transplants and are recuperating in Seattle. Dan is back in his apartment at the Baroness Hotel, Room 403, 1005 Spring Street, Seattle, 98104; Martha will be spending the next three weeks at the University of Washington Medical Center, 1959 N.E. Pacific, Room 8224, Seattle, WA 98195, then she will return to her apartment at the Pete Gross Apartments. Martha completed her transplant this week and is being more

closely monitored because her brother was the donor. Dan's condition allowed him to be his own donor. From all reports, the two of them have been a tremendous source of support and entertainment for each other. If great attitudes were a cure, they would both be back with us by now!

Calendar of Events

<u>AUGUST 2005</u>			
Ethics – CPO Program	Spokane	August 24	http://www.cpoprogram.org/
<u>SEPTEMBER 2005</u>			
LABOR DAY	WA Counties Bldg CLOSED	September 5	(360) 753-1886
WSAC Legislative Steering Committee	Ellensburg Inn, Ellensburg	Sept. 7	(360) 753-1886
Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys (WAPA) Juvenile Training Program	Icicle Inn, Leavenworth	Sept. 11-13	(360) 753-2175
WA Finance Officers' Association (WFOA) Annual Conference	SeaTac	Sept. 13 -16	(360) 753-7319
County & Regional Planning Directors/City Planning Directors Joint Conference	Campbell's Resort, Chelan	Sept. 13 - 16	www.geocities.com/wsacrp
Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys (WAPA) Special Assault Training Program	Icicle Inn, Leavenworth	Sept. 14 -16	(360) 753-2175
Washington Counties Insurance Fund (WCIF)/Washington Counties Insurance Pool (WCIP) Boards & Insurance Advisory Committee	Radisson Hotel, SeaTac	Sept. 15	(360) 586-0466
International Association of Assessing Officers' (IAAO) Annual Conference	Anchorage, Alaska	Sept. 16-21	(360) 753-7319
13 th NW Onsite Wastewater Treatment Short Course & Equipment Exhibition	Seattle, WA - hosted by University of Washington	Sept. 19 - 20	Christy Roop Pack (206) 543-5539
WA State Assn of Local Public Health Officials	Hilton Hotel & Conference Center, Vancouver	Sept. 19 - 20	(360) 753-1886
Communicating with Generations – CPO Program	Hilton Hotel & Conference Center, Vancouver, WA	Sept. 20	http://www.cpoprogram.org/
WSAC 99 th Annual Conference & Fall Western District	Hilton Hotel & Conference Center, Vancouver	Sept. 20 – 23	www.wacounties.org/wsac
Assn of County Human Services	Hilton Hotel & Conference Center, Vancouver, WA	Sept. 21 - 23	(360) 753-1886
<u>OCTOBER 2005</u>			
Washington Association of County Officials' Annual Conference	Hilton Hotel & Conference Center, Vancouver	October 4–7	(360) 753-7319
Washington Counties Insurance Fund (WCIF)/Washington Counties Insurance Pool (WCIP) ACE Committee (HR & Payroll Only)	Radisson Hotel, SeaTac	October 12	(360) 586-0466
<u>NOVEMBER 2005</u>			
VETERANS DAY	WA Counties Bldg CLOSED	November 11	(360) 753-1886
Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs' (WASPC) Annual Fall Conference	Red Lion Hotel, Olympia	November 14-17	(360) 753-7319
Assn of County Human Services	Port Townsend	November 16 - 18	(360) 753-1886

Calendar of Events (continued)

Washington Counties Insurance Fund (WCIF)/Washington Counties Insurance Pool (WCIP) Boards Combined Meeting	Red Lion at Columbia Center, Kennewick	November 17	(360) 586-0466
THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY	WA Counties Bldg CLOSED	Nov. 24 and 25	(360) 753-1886
WA State Assn of Local Public Health Officials	SeaTac	November 29 - 30	(360) 753-1886

Attachments

Skunk Shooting Raises Prosser Stink

from the Tri-City Herald, Friday, August 12, 2005

By Evan Caldwell, Herald staff writer
Benton County Commissioner Max Benitz Jr. dispatched a skunk that was plaguing the county courthouse on Thursday. And by shooting it, he may have created a stink that will outlast the persistent polecat's odor.

The pungent smell greeted courthouse employees as they arrived for work Thursday. The critter had taken up residence in a rarely used building adjacent to the courthouse's south side and was fumigating it. That prompted Benitz and some county employees to try to badger the stubborn skunk from hiding in the old brick building's window wells and crawl spaces. They attempted to coax it out with boards, but the "smell was getting worse and worse," Benitz said. He said they called animal control and other authorities, but no one responded. "We tried every way to get rid of the thing," he said. So he decided to shoot it with a .22-caliber rifle and cart it off in plastic.

"If you live out in the rural area, you expect to get these problems," Benitz said.

"You learn to take care of these situations."

By mid-afternoon Thursday, the

smell still lingered, along with the question of whether Benitz should have potted the critter. Prosser Detective Sgt. Ed Blackburn said it's illegal to discharge a firearm in city limits. It's unclear if Benitz broke the law because the courthouse belongs to the county. Prosser officer Jerrad Jech said police plan to investigate further. Benton County Sheriff's Office Lt. Clay Vannoy said the matter belongs to Prosser.

Prosser Municipal Code states, "Any person who, within the corporate limits of the city of Prosser, loads or discharges or fires any air or gas or other compression gun, rifle or pistol is guilty of a misdemeanor."

