

the Courthouse Journal

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

May 7, 2009

Issue No. 16

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Courthouse Journal*

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



and Washington State Association of County Engineers Meeting

Sponsored by Washington Counties Insurance Fund

Save \$50 on your registration fee by signing up for the Early Bird discount...you have until Monday, May 18! To register, and for a copy of the Joint District Meeting preliminary agenda, log on to <http://wacounties.org/wsac/conference.asp>.

All meetings will take place at our host hotel, the Red Lion Hotel Columbia Center in Kennewick, unless otherwise noted.

Special hotel rates will be offered through Monday, May 18; contact the Red Lion Hotel for room reservations at (509) 783-0611 and be sure to mention the WSAC Joint District Meeting for your discounted rate.

**Job announcements & links to County
Employment pages at:**

<http://wacounties.org/>

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Published weekly (during Legislative Session)
and Bi-weekly (other than Session) by the

Washington Association of County Officials

(WACO) wacounties.org/waco

and the **Washington State Association of
Counties**

(WSAC) wacounties.org/wsac

We welcome your suggestions and contributions.
The weekly / bi-weekly deadline is noon
Wednesdays. Direct inquiries and
correspondence to - *The Courthouse Journal*,
206 Tenth Av SE, Olympia, WA 98501

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Budget, Finance and Taxes

WSU Budget News Correction

County Commissioners, County Councils, County Executives and staff:

Over the weekend, you may have read inaccurate media coverage of the budget reduction plan for Washington State University that included language about consolidation of county offices. Please be assured nothing could be further from the truth. In fact, during the process of developing the budget reduction plan for WSU Extension, the Administrative Team worked diligently to leave our county infrastructure intact and as unaffected by the cuts as possible. The error occurred in the news release written at the central university level; we already are working with University Relations Vice President Tim Pavish to correct this unfortunate situation.

In the coming weeks, your role as a local communicator about the budget reduction plan is critical to supporting the relationships and partnerships we have in every county. I urge you to correct any misinformation you may hear. You can refer to the videostream presentation we did last Friday at <http://eces.wsu.edu/video/stream.html> as the accurate story. You also will find additional details at <http://cahnrs.wsu.edu/fs/budget/index.html>.

Thank you for your patience and support.

Dan Bernardo

Linda Kirk Fox

Media Advisory/Correction

PULLMAN, Wash. – Proposed budget reductions will not change the number of Washington State University Extension’s county offices located throughout the state.

A WSU news release about the university’s budget reduction proposal inaccurately suggested many county Extension offices face consolidation under the plan.

“We value the strong partnerships WSU Extension has built with county governments throughout Washington,” said Dan Bernardo, dean of the WSU College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences which houses WSU Extension. “The WSU Extension administrative team worked diligently to preserve that county-based infrastructure, knowing full well its importance in delivering WSU programs to respond to local community needs.”

Legislative Committee Schedules and Agendas:

<http://www.leg.wa.gov/wsladm/calendar.cfm>

Bill Information: www.leg.wa.gov

Transportation & Public Works

Update from Public Works Board

The final 2009-2011 State biennial budget passed April 26, 2009. The Legislature used the money anticipated to fund Public Works Trust Fund projects to balance the budget. Therefore, there will be no Construction, Pre-Construction, or Planning loan funding available during the 2009-2011 biennium.

There will be \$2 Million available for Emergency Loan projects during the biennium. There is sufficient funding to meet existing loan contracts and current loan offers through the 2009-2011 biennium.

The Legislature created two new temporary competitive grant programs in the budget. The first competitive grant program targets local governments serving communities in rural counties. \$9,531,000 has been appropriated for this program. The second competitive grant program targets local governments serving high density urban communities. \$9,531,000 has been appropriated for this program. Additionally, \$23,535,000 is being used for specific legislatively approved projects.

The Board will develop a process for clients to apply for the competitive grant programs. Information on how to access these programs will be sent to all clients and stakeholders as well as be posted on our website. You can find the full text of the budget bill at: <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/documents/billdocs/2009-10/Pdf/Bills/House%20Passed%20Legislature/1216-S.PL.pdf>

If you have any questions, please contact your Client Service Representative. Thank you for your continued support.

Training & Upcoming Events

Washington Counties – [wacounties.org/Calendar of Events](http://wacounties.org/Calendar%20of%20Events)

County Training Institute – www.countytraininginstitute.org

Water Conservation Workshop

The Partnership for Water Conservation is offering the workshop: *Setting Water Rates to Promote Conservation* on Wednesday, June 3, 2009 at the Carco Theatre in Renton. Our keynote speaker will be Angie Sanchez Virnoche from the FCS Group. CEUs will be offered.

Cost is \$65 for PWC members and \$80 for nonmembers. For registration and further information go to: www.partners4water.org/newsandevents or call (206) 957-2199.

Courthouse Ramblings

Ed Fleming, Grays Harbor County Coroner, Retires

After 40 years of public service, Coroner Ed Fleming has announced his retirement effective May 31, 2009. Ed's public service includes twenty-five years with the Washington State Patrol and over fifteen years with the Grays Harbor County Coroner's Office. Ed has been the Grays Harbor County Coroner since January 1, 1999.

Ed and his wife, Sherri, were both born and raised in Grays Harbor County. They have lived in Grays Harbor for more than 50 years, moving only for about 7 years to Monroe for WSP duties. They have three grown children and four grandchildren. Ed is well known for his friendly manner. He stops to greet everyone he passes and most of Grays Harbor County residents feel they know him personally! His imposing stature inspired confidence in his years as a Trooper who either pulled you over to discuss an "error" on your part, or as a tower of strength in the face of a traffic accident. That same feeling of strength is what he has provided to the community in matters he handled as County Coroner. His gentleness and quiet manner have been a welcome presence upon his arrival at death scenes. Residents recall the "day Ed came to our house" with positive memories.

Ed's staff in the Coroner's Office will sorely miss him. He has been a professional leader in the workplace and has led by example. The Staff agrees that the amount of knowledge gained from his easy way of teaching has been a huge benefit both to them and to the entire County.

Fortunately, Grays Harbor residents will continue to see him around town. Ed plans to spend a great deal of his new found "free" time with his beloved kids and grandkids. He has a few other projects in mind, as well.

Everyone is invited to a Retirement Celebration in the "Fresh Express" cafe, at the East Campus of the Grays Harbor Community Hospital, 1006 North H Street, Aberdeen, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., on Friday, May 29, 2009.

If there are any questions, please call the Office at (360) 537-6140, and ask for Nancy, Dan, George or Lane.

Directory Change

Please note a change to the Directory of County Officials. Page 46, Wahkiakum County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Bigelow's e-mail has changed. It is now dbigelow@waprosecutors.org.

Good Things

Our Newest Member

Iris Sinclair Enslow, daughter of WSAC Policy Director Brian Enslow and his wife Maggie, was born on April 22 at 7:23 am. She weighed six pounds, 12 ounces.



1330-1630

Case Field Study Insect Evidence Processing by Student Teams

Hands on collection of insect evidence from actual carrion (pig or other animal carcasses of different postmortem intervals.

The case workup will include: Observation, collection, labeling, climatological data entry and sample processing of insect evidence with an instructors critique of each team's methods, techniques and specimens collected from the death scene.

Each learning section will be enhanced with examples of case studies in forensic entomology and will include:

Checkout Time at the Bates Motel

The Hefty Garbage Bag Case

The Fall Creek Periscope Case

Maggots in the Mist

The Little Chill – With the Bid Maggots

Space is limited to only one student per County and class size is limited to a total of 40. Priority will be given to Coroner, Medical Examiner, and Prosecutor/Coroner personnel. All others wishing to register will be allowed as space provides and may attend at a cost of \$100 per person (includes text book and all class supplies). *Attendees must attend the entire session to receive training credit.*

Cost: Training Course is being provided by WACME and no fee is required for Coroners and Medical Examiners.

Registration: Contact Kathie with WACO, send to 206 Tenth Avenue SE, Olympia, WA 98501.
Email: khouts@wacounties.org, Phone: 360-753-7319, Fax: 360-664-2812

Lodging: A block of non-smoking rooms is being held at the hotel at a special rate of \$83.00 plus tax (single occupancy) and \$93.00 plus tax (double occupancy). Registrants are required to make their own reservations. Reservations Phone: (360) 698-1000 or 1(800) 544-9799.

Directions to the Hotel from Seattle:

Merge onto I-5 South. Merge onto WA-16 West via Exit 132 toward Gig Harbor/Bremerton/Sprague Avenue. WA-16 West becomes WA-3 North. Take the Newberry Hill Road exit. Turn right onto NW Newberry Hill Road. NW Newberry Road becomes Silverdale Way NW. Turn Right onto NW Bucklin Hill Road. End at 3073 NW Bucklin Hill Road, Silverdale.

Directions to the Hotel from Portland:

Take I-5 North toward Seattle, (crossing into Washington). Merge onto WA-16 West via Exit 132 toward Gig Harbor/Bremerton. WA-16 West becomes WA-3 North. Take the Newberry Hill Road exit. Turn right onto NW Newberry Hill Road. NW Newberry Hill Road becomes Silverdale Way NW. Turn right onto NW Bucklin Hill Road. End at 3073 NW Bucklin Hill Road.

ENTOMOLOGICAL EVIDENCE FROM THE DEATH SCENE A FORENSIC ENTOMOLOGY WORKSHOP

July 20-21, 2009

PREREGISTRATION:

Preregistration is required.

Please complete this application and send to:

WACO, Attn: Kathie Houts, 206 10th Ave SE, Olympia WA 98501
khouts@wacounties.org
 Phone: (360) 753-7319
 Fax: (360) 664-2812

GENERAL COURSE APPLICATION

Applicants Name (Last) (First) (Middle)			
Title/Rank:	Last four of Social Security Number:	Agency:	
Agency Mailing Address: (Street or PO Box) (City) (State) (Zip)			
Agency Phone:	Agency Fax:	Email Address:	

Additional Applicants

Applicants Name and rank:	e-mail address	Last four numbers of Social Security Number:

NOTE FOR PROSECUTORS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT: PLEASE INDICATE ON THIS FORM IF YOU ARE A DEPUTY CORONER.
 Reimbursement will be paid to Coroners, Medical Examiners, Prosecutor/Coroners and staff for lodging, per diem and mileage.

I am not a Coroner, Medical Examiner, Prosecutor/Coroner or Deputy Coroner, however I would like to attend the class and pay the \$100 fee. I am submitting a check made out to WACME with this application.

Registration Deadline is June 15.

Welcome to the U.S. Communities Purchasing & Finance Agency

(U.S. Communities) website <http://www.uscommunities.org/>

The Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO), the National Association of Counties (NACo), the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing (NIGP), the National League of Cities (NLC), and the United States Conference of Mayors (USCM), jointly sponsor the

U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Alliance (U.S. Communities)

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You can obtain information on how to contact all U.S. Communities suppliers by telephoning (866) 472-7467 or by sending an email to info@uscommunities.org

U.S. Communities | 2175 North California Blvd., Suite 550, Walnut Creek, CA 94596

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"Results from our internal customer satisfaction survey show that our customers want two things from Purchasing. First, save us time in the procurement process and second save us money. When Kansas City, Missouri uses a U.S. Communities contract we save both time and money for our customers."

**Ray Burnett,
Commissioner of Purchases and Supplies
Kansas Citv. MO.**