

Courthouse Journal

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Washington State Association of Counties
Washington Association of County Officials

October 12, 2001
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Trustee Position Open on WACO Board

With the election last week of Spokane County Clerk Tom Fallquist to the secretary-treasurer position on the WACO Board of Trustees, a new opening has been created on the Board to fill the position Fallquist left vacant. Position 2 represents counties with populations of 125,000-500,000. Eligible counties are determined by the 2001 population estimate by the state Office of Financial Management. Those seven counties are, Spokane,

Clark, Kitsap, Yakima, Thurston, Whatcom and Benton. Anyone interested in filling that position until the next WACO election in 2002 needs to send a letter of intent and a resume to the WACO office. We will forward it on to the officers and members of the WACO Board of Trustees. The deadline is November 5. The Board will be appointing a new trustee at the November 14 Board meeting, in Silverdale.

WACO Seeks Deputy Director

The Washington Association of County Officials (WACO) is recruiting to fill the position of Deputy Director. The focus of the search is to find a person with extensive experience and knowledge of the Washington State property tax system and tax revenues and distribution. The Deputy Director is responsible for assisting in coordinating and

implementing the policies set by the WACO Board of Directors; extensive legislative duties; and, planning and implementing training activities for county officials and their personnel. All applications must be in the WACO office by 5:00 p.m. on October 31. Please refer to the employment opportunity announcement in this newsletter for complete details.

WACO Conference Fun and Educational for All

Gorgeous weather, a beautiful site and a fantastic educational and social program made the 43rd Annual Conference of the Washington Association of County Officials a big hit for attendees the first week of October. The Port Ludlow Resort and the Heron Beach Inn were very accommodating for our members and the Jefferson County host officials were most ready to lend a hand when needed.

A full day of training was held on Tuesday, October 2, entitled "Headaches and Heartburn:

A Prescription for Issues That Cause Counties Pain." The day began with a presentation on the family and medical leave act and workplace harassment by attorney Gil Sparks, of Wenatchee. Portland attorney Akin Blitz, Kitsap County Civil Deputy Prosecutor Jacquelyn Aufderheide, and Jefferson County Civil Deputy Prosecutor David Alvarez, conducted the afternoon sessions on Labor Law, Contracts, and Public Disclosure/Public Records, respectively. The Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys (WAPA)

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WACO Conference

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sponsored and planned the afternoon sessions and special thanks goes to the efforts of WAPA Civil Committee chair Steve Lowe, Franklin County Prosecutor.

Wednesday, October 3, the opening general session was brought to order by WACO President Richard Lathim, Franklin County Sheriff. The Jefferson County officials led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance and vice president Greg Zempel, Kittitas County Prosecutor, presented a very moving memorial with photos and music, paying tribute to the victims and families of the tragic

events of September 11, honoring the ongoing efforts of the disaster workers, and recognizing the unity and resolve of the American people.

The keynote address by Dr. Stephen Douglas was an incredible journey of stories and humor leading the membership to a single point: people suffer very little stress from reality, yet they do great harm to themselves with their imagery; if stress is to be reduced, we much change our imagery from catastrophe to reality and learn to avoid "cactus rolling." Dr. Douglas, a practicing psychologist from Columbus, Ohio, was an excellent speaker, providing useful information about coping with stress and

doing it in a way that literally brought the house down.

The morning was rounded out with a very spirited panel discussion on the initiative process in this state. Snohomish County Auditor Bob Terwilliger moderated and members of the panel were Professor Todd Donovan, Western Washington University; Dick Davis, Washington Research Council; Joni Balter, the Seattle Times; and Dave Elliott, Secretary of State's office. Opinions were varied and the only problem with the discussion is that it didn't last long enough!

Luncheon entertainment was Der-

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The Courthouse Journal

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

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

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Another New Member on the WACO Board of Trustees

Skamania County Prosecutor Brad Andersen has been appointed by the Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys (WAPA) as the new Prosecutors' Representative to the WACO

Board of Trustees. He will take the place of Jim Hagarty, Klickitat County Prosecutor, who has resigned his office to become a U.S. Attorney.

New County Clerks Named in Three Counties

County Commissioners have named David Peterson as their unanimous choice as Kitsap County Clerk, replacing former clerk Dean Logan, who is the new Elections Director in the Secretary of State's office. Before taking over as clerk the first of October, Peterson worked in the Kitsap County Auditor's office, in elections. Peterson is the founder and past president of the Central Kitsap Community Council, on which he still serves and has worked on dozens of Democratic campaigns over the years. He is retired from the Central Kitsap School District, where he was a teacher, librarian, and program administrator for technology and libraries.

* * * * *

The new clerk in Island County is Jane Koetje. Island County

Commissioners made the appointment, after the retirement of Marilee Black, September 30, who was in office for nearly 26 years. Koetje was sworn in on October 8. She has been with the Public Defender Administrator's office in Island County for 22 years, one as assistant administrator and 21 as the administrator.

* * * * *

Bob San Soucie has been named interim Pierce County Clerk by Executive John Ladenburg. Former clerk Ted Rutt retired the end of September, after 30 years with Pierce County, 15 as Clerk. San Soucie has been in the Clerk's office since 1987 and was Rutt's chief deputy for 14 years. Prior to that, he worked in the Auditor's office for 15 years.

WACO CONFERENCE

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rick Cameron, a comedian who has appeared on The Tonight Show with Jay Leno, A&E Evening at the Improv, MTV, and scores of other shows. His tremendous talent was apparent by the reaction of the crowd to his very funny antics and humor.

Affiliate groups met both Wednesday afternoon and all day Thursday for individual training, meetings, and to finish developing legislative recommendations to present to the Board of Trustees and members for the 2002 legislative package.

The Thursday night banquet was dedicated to Fred Saeger, former WACO Executive Director, who retired August 31. What occurred was a wonderful tribute, emceed by Larry Erickson, Ex-

ecutive Director of the Washington Association of Sheriffs & Police Chiefs (WASPC), to Fred's work throughout the years with the WACO membership, WSAC membership and others. The evening was light and filled with tomfoolery, especially as the auditors, clerks and treasurers took to the stage with skits and music.

The next morning, the general business meeting was held and the 2002 WACO Legislative Package was approved, the membership voted to meet in Spokane for the 2004 WACO/WSAC joint conference, and President Lathim turned over the gavel to the newly elected President Barbara Cory, Whatcom County Treasurer, who introduced the Board of Trustees and WACO staff, by giving their history and experience with WACO.

Other officers elected to serve with Cory were President-elect Greg Zempel, Kittitas County Prosecutor; Vice President Mary Dodge, Douglas County Treasurer; and Secretary-Treasurer Tom Fallquist, Spokane County Clerk. Fallquist served as president of WACO in 1989 and is the first member in association history to move through the chairs for a second time. Trustees-at-large elected this year by county population were Bob Terwilliger, Snohomish County Auditor, Position 1 (above 500,000); Dean Takko, Cowlitz County Assessor re-elected to Position 3 (40,000-125,000); and Joyce Denison, Lincoln County Clerk re-elected to Position 5 (Less than 12,000).

Whatcom County Sheriff's Deputy Killed

Our sympathies go out to Whatcom County Sheriff Dale Brandland and his entire depart-

ment over the death of Matt Herzog, 27, a five-year veteran with the sheriff's office. He was tragically killed on Sep-

tember 13 while riding in a patrol car that crashed during a high-speed pursuit.

Committee Hosts Initiative Process Discussion

Snohomish County Auditor Bob Terwilliger and Lewis County Treasurer Rose Bowman represented WACO and WSAC respectively on Wednesday when the House State Government Committee held a discussion on possible improvements to the initiative process in the state. Approximately 20 public and private entities took part but were prohibited by statutory authority from expressing support or opposition to any specific initiative.

Representative Sandra Romero posed three questions to the group:

1) Should more information be provided to voters prior to the public vote? For example, fiscal impact statements, statements evaluating the constitutionality of a measure, public hearings, changes to the ballot title, etc.?

2) Should there be additional form and content qualifications for the initiative process? For example, mandatory drafting assistance, subject matter restrictions, subject matter expansions,

requirements to specify a revenue source if the initiative has a fiscal impact, etc.?

3) Should there be additional qualifications for ballot certification or voter approval? For example, geographic distributions of signatures, changes to signature gathering procedures, super majority voter approval, etc.?

Additional workshops may be held in December or January.

County Auditors Contribute to Counties Scholarship Fund

During the WACO Annual Conference banquet on October 4, the Washington State Association of County Auditors contributed \$1,000 to the Washington

Counties Scholarship Fund in honor of Fred Saeger, former WACO Executive Director. The donation recognizes the contributions and dedicated service of the honorees to the Auditors' Associa-

tion. Way to go County Auditors and

THANK YOU!!...

The Transportation Permit Efficiency and Accountability Committee (TPEAC) is Underway

The implementation of the Transportation Permit Streamlining Legislation (SB 6188) is underway. The Transportation Efficiency and Accountability Committee, TPEAC, is established and held its first meeting last month. The TPEAC has broad membership with nine voting members and fourteen non-voting members. WSAC is among the voting membership with Greg Kipp, King County Director of Development and Environmental Services as our representative. The Committee created five technical sub-committees:

Programmatic Process Subcommittee is created to identify and deploy interagency resources to develop programmatics, to assist with programmatic

permits between agencies and report to the committee.

One-Stop Permitting Subcommittee is created to determine a one-stop permitting process between multiple agencies.

Watershed-Based Approach to Environmental Mitigation Subcommittee is created to develop a watershed-based approach to environmental mitigation for transportation projects; to develop methodologies for mitigation on a watershed basis that meets multiple agency criteria for project permitting.

Pilot Projects Subcommittee is created to identify and oversee transportation pilot projects for application of environmental permit streamlining processes.

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Training, Compliance, and Reporting Subcommittee is created to develop necessary training programs for new processes and procedures as identified by other subcommittees and to develop compliance and reporting guidelines that will support the implementation and management of permitting activities.

A March 31, 2003, expiration date has been established for the Committee. The next meeting of the full Committee is scheduled for October 10, 2001. A website will be provided in the near future.

OFM GMA County Population Forecasting Process Underway

The State Office of Financial Management has begun its legally required update of population growth forecasts for county planning under GMA. The starting point for the forecasts is the 2000 Census. OFM provides each county with a high and low projection based on its historic growth patterns. OFM reports that the state as a whole has grown at about 20 percent per decade for the last forty years. Within that steady state wide average individual counties and years have seen significant ups and downs. OFM will try to compensate for this forecasting issue by increasing the spread between upper and

lower forecasts early in the forecast period.

As part of its process OFM has reviewed the accuracy of the prior round of forecasts in 1995. A total of nineteen counties received forecasts that predicted their actual experience. In six counties the forecast was too low. In fourteen counties the projection range was too high.

In October, counties will receive a package of information from OFM. It will include charts comparing the 1995 growth projection to new high and low projections based on historic decades of high and low migration.

OFM will also be meeting with county officials in several venues. On October 17 they will attend a planners forum in Eastern Washington. On November 14 they will attend a meeting with the Puget Sound Regional Council. Throughout November they will attend the Growth Management Workshops sponsored by the Office of Community Development.

All counties will receive a preliminary estimate in December. OFM will finalize the projections in January. The OFM contact for this process is Theresa Lowe at 360-902-0588.

NACo News

NACo launches campaign to "Expand Democracy in America"

By Tom Goodman, Public Affairs Director

NACo is launching a national campaign to help improve the nation's election system by getting more Americans to work at the polls and by broadening voter education.

The campaign, *Expand Democracy in America*, has two parts: "Work at the Polls" and "Voting is Easy." Initially the *Expand Democracy* campaign will establish a coalition of governments, or-

ganizations, corporations, schools and colleges committed to promoting voter education and encouraging Americans to volunteer to work at the polls.

"America's election system is a critical part of our democratic process," said NACo President Javier Gonzales. "Because counties have the primary role for conducting elections, NACo is committed to improving the system and expanding democracy in America by in-

volving more people in the process and having better informed voters."

Last November's election revealed weaknesses in the election system. Two of those weaknesses were an insufficient number of poll workers and too few voter education programs.

"This campaign seeks to strengthen the election system by helping counties deal with these weaknesses," said Gon-

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NACo News...

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zales. "We want Americans to view working at the polls as a civic responsibility — a way that they can actively participate in the democratic process."

Work at the Polls: NACo will first focus on the "Work at the Polls" portion of the campaign. Approximately 1.4 million people served as poll workers in the last election. The goals of the campaign are to recruit an additional 100,000 poll workers by Election Day 2002 and 400,000 more poll workers by Election Day 2004.

NACo will seek support and commitment from organizations, such as the League of Women Voters, the NAACP, La Raza, as well as other levels of government, corporations, and youth groups.

NACo produced a 30-second televi-

sion public service announcement (PSA) encouraging citizens to volunteer to work at the polls. The PSA is available free to counties for use on their local cable and network channels. Already 200 counties received copies. NACo also will ask cable companies and television networks to show the PSA.

Counties have an important role and will be asked to make a commitment to the campaign. Counties can agree to allow their employees administrative leave to work at the polls, show the PSA on their government and local network channels, and work with businesses, community groups, schools and colleges to get more poll workers.

Voting is Easy: The "Voting is Easy" portion of the campaign is a non-partisan effort to assist counties with voter education projects — information

not only about candidates and issues, but also how to vote.

The National Association of County Information Officers (NACIO) is producing a guide showing successful voter education programs. NACo will work with NACIO to promote and distribute the guide to every county in the country. The guide will be completed at the end of November.

In the second part of this project, NACo will seek foundation funding to provide grants to counties for voter education programs.

(For additional information about the campaign or to receive a copy of the PSA, contact Tom Goodman, public affairs director, at tgoodman@naco.org or by calling (202) 942-4222.)

Good Things...

Payments from Feds for Public Lands Increase Funds

The federal government has just paid Washington counties in lieu of property taxes for lands managed by the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Bureau of Land

Management and other lands that are dedicated to federal water resources projects. The money is paid annually in lieu of property taxes that counties do not receive for tax-exempt public lands

within their borders. Chelan County received \$1,036,813, the highest payment they have ever gotten from the federal government. Okanogan County received \$998,239; Grant County, \$166,255; and Douglas County, \$56,130. The payments are calculated by a formula that takes into consideration factors that include not only the amount of federal land within the county, but also population figures.

Forest Service Schedules Workshops on Federal Forest Funding Implementation (HR 2389)

The U.S. Forest Service has scheduled workshops on Federal Forest Funding Implementation (**HR 2389**). The meetings are for County Commissioners and the Designated Federal Official of the Resource Advisory Committees. For westsiders a meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 24 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Olympic National Forest Headquarters, 1835 Black Lake Blvd, Olympia. Eastsiders should attend on Thursday, October 25 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Wenatchee

National Forest Headquarters, 215 Melody Lane, Wenatchee.

The objective for the meetings is to provide orientation and seek input on issues associated with Title II and RACs. Agenda items will include:

- FACA Training (Federal Advisory Committee Act)
- Decision making process for Title II projects
- Roles and Responsibilities of the RAC
- Charter, and Operating Guidelines for RACs

- NEPA, NHPA, ESA Requirements
- Project submittal process, form and timeline for 2002 field season
- Agenda for the first official RAC meeting
- Logistics for RAC meetings

During the lunch hour, County Commissioners should plan on a lunch meeting with their RAC/Designated Federal Official. **PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THIS IMPORTANT DATE.**

Old Friends...

Mike Redman Memorial

Friends and family will gather together to celebrate the life of Mike Redman on Friday, November 9, at 1:00 p.m. at the Women's Uni-

versity Club in Seattle. The club is located at 1105 6th Avenue (corner of Sixth & Spring). Mike passed away on August 6 while visiting friends in Port-

land. He served us all well as the Executive Secretary of the Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys, from 1977 to 1993 and as a financial services representative for Nationwide Retirement Solutions (formerly known as PEBSCO), helping county officials and employees with the deferred compensation program. Mike is sorely missed.

Update on Local Government Finance Reporting System

The Local Government Finance Reporting System (LGFRS) site has been updated to include 2000 data for cities and counties. The LGFRS for those who are unfamiliar with it, contains revenue and expenditure data for virtually all of Washington State's counties and cities, back to 1991. The

site will be updated biweekly to include those counties and cities that continue to file their data. Other corrections will be made to the data as needed in those updates. Port and transit data will be added to the site by November 1. Their data is currently available for 1997, 1998, and 1999. The port and transit data can be

obtained at a detail level as well as combined with all counties and cities (data since 1997). A few entities have not yet filed. Those interested can check the website at www.wa.gov/sao/localgov.htm.

Workplace safety rules that are easy to understand and use

Submitted by Department of Labor & Industries

Ever try to read a book of government rules? Then try to understand them and put them into practice? Many Washington employers found the state's safety and health rules hard to read and understand, let alone provide them with guidance on what to do to keep their workers safe.

The Department of Labor and Industries has rewritten into plain language the basic safety and health rules that apply to most employers in the state. These Safety and Health Core Rules are designed and written to help employers easily understand what they need to do to provide a safe working environment for their employees.

The redesign of the Safety and

Health Core Rules completes the first leg of an ambitious regulatory improvement project. The new rules include rewritten requirements for an Accident Prevention Program, Personal Protective Equipment, First Aid and Hazard Communication Program. The Core Rules took effect Sept. 1, 2001.

The Core Rules contain no new requirements. Features of the new core rules include:

- A comprehensive table of contents and an index that make finding topics easy and fast.
- Content that is clearly written and understandable.
- Page design that is attractive and easy to follow.

- Icons that clearly mark definitions, notes and rule exemptions.

WISHA Services, a division of Labor and Industries, and a task force of business and labor representatives developed the "core rules" concept, rewrote the rules and tested their usability. L&I hosted five public hearings in January.

Employers have several options regarding how to obtain the new rules. L&I is encouraging employers to use the Internet version. It is available at <http://www.lni.wa.gov/wisha>. A computer disk (CD) version and printed copies also are available. You can obtain the CD or printed copy by calling (360) 902-5541.

Coming Events

October 11-12

WSAC Western District Meeting, Super 8 Motel, Long Beach

October 16-17

Cost Allocation Training, Sponsored by **Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys Support Enforcement Project**, West Coast Tri-cities Hotel, Kennewick

October 18-19

CRABoard Meeting, CRAB Office, Olympia

October 25-26

Washington State Assn of Local Public Health Officials, Local Boards of Health Leadership Workshop ("Emerging Public Health Issues"), SeaTac, Radisson Hotel

November 12-15

Washington Association of Sheriffs

and Police Chief's Annual Fall Conference, Doubletree Hotel, Pasco

November 13-14

Cost Allocation Training, Sponsored by **Washington Assn of Prosecuting Attorneys Support Enforcement Project**, Doubletree Hotel, Spokane City Center

November 14-16

ACHS Meeting, Port Orchards Givens Center

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Coming Events

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November 14-16

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

November 14

WCIF Board Meeting, in conjunction with WSAC Fall Legislative Conference, 10 am - 12 pm

December 13-14

Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys' Annual Winter Meeting, Crowne Plaza, Seattle

2002 Meetings

January 16-18, 2002

ACHS Meeting, Olympia

January 29-31, 2002

Legislative Rally & Tri-Association Legislative Reception, Olympia

February 7, 2002

WSALPHO Meeting, Olympia

March 20-22, 2002

ACHS Meeting, Tacoma, Pierce County

April 11-12, 2002

WSAC Western Dist Meeting, TBD

April 25-26, 2002

WSAC Eastern District Meeting, Sun Mountain Lodge, Winthrop

May 15-17, 2002

ACHS Meeting, Spokane

June 17, 2002

WSALPHO Meeting, Bellevue

(Connected to WSAC Summer Convention)

June 18-21, 2002

WSAC Summer Convention, Bellevue

July 17-19, 2002

ACHS Meeting, San Juan County (or location in Northwest WA)

September 12, 2002

WSALPHO Meeting, Spokane

September 18-20, 2002

ACHS Meeting, Leavenworth

November 20-22, 2002

ACHS Meeting, Seattle

December 5, 2002

WSALPHO Meeting, SeaTac

News Articles

Elections director learned

early (by Christopher Dunagan, The Bremerton Sun 10/01/01)

Olalla's Dean Logan began working in a political campaign when he was 10. Washington State Elections Director Dean Logan, 34, took his first steps into politics at the age of 10 while campaigning with local Democrats. "His whole family was part of the campaign," said Sherril Huff-Menees, who was elected Kitsap County auditor in 1978. "It sparked an interest in him. He's a very natural leader."

Logan's career has moved exceedingly fast — from the lowest levels of county government to his election as county clerk to his recent appointment as one of the top executives in the state. "People ask me, 'Did you have your career mapped out?'" the Olalla native said. "I certainly haven't. I have been open to possibilities when they have occurred." Logan wasn't even looking for a job when Secretary of State Sam Reed was searching nationwide for someone to head up the state's elections office. "I really wanted strong leadership, enthusiasm and excitement in that section," Reed said. Reed said he was advised to "find someone like Dean Logan," so he decided to ask for the real thing. At the time, Logan was happily entrenched in his job as Kitsap County Clerk. He had

worked in the state elections office but had not considered going back. But with the state's primary election system in limbo and questions being raised about presidential balloting, Logan could not refuse the challenge.

His first week on the job included the terrorist attacks. "Everyone was gathered around the television. You'd go back to your office, but it was hard to concentrate." Since then, Logan is working through a list of policy issues that went unresolved while the post was vacant. Logan heads up a staff of about 30 employees, more during election season. The team is responsible for publishing the State Voters Pamphlet, overseeing voter registration, managing initiative petitions, training and certifying county elections workers, testing vote-tabulation equipment and encouraging the public to vote. "This is a policy-level job," he said. "I have administrative duties in terms of staff and program, but the larger role is to influence and produce policy directives."

Among the biggest issues on his desk is the question of the state's primary election. Because court rulings that essentially outlawed the blanket primary, Logan is preparing to help write a new law and testify before the Legislature.

He also is getting ready to respond to federal legislation that may result from the close presidential race in Florida, where many procedures have been questioned. "I guess I like to be in positions where I feel challenged and feel like I'm making a difference," Logan

said. Those who know him say he started making a difference when he was 10 years old and gained momentum from there.

"He came up with ideas of his own," Huff-Menees said. "He made up campaign slogans and produced a variety of campaign buttons. He did everything." Logan is a perfectionist and a hard worker, Huff-Menees said, and that's why she hired him to work part time in the county licensing office after he graduated from Bremerton High School in 1986. That soon turned into a full-time job in the elections division.

In 1991, Logan went to work as a lobbyist and political-action coordinator for the Washington State Labor Council. In 1993, Auditor Karen Flynn brought him back to Kitsap County to become elections supervisor. A year later, he went to the state elections office, where he helped develop new statewide procedures following irregularities in Jefferson County, where some ballots turned up late.

Flynn brought Logan back to Kitsap County in 1995 to serve as her chief clerk. He was appointed county clerk in 1998, when Bob Freudenstein retired. Later that year, he ran for the seat and won.

Logan plans to continue commuting to Olympia from his home in Olalla, where he lives with his wife, Winnie, 14-year-old daughter and 9-year-old son.

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News Articles

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Sex, Drugs and Alcohol - Why warnings to teens don't seem to stick

(by Tom Vogt, Columbian staff writer, 09/24/01)

"This is your brain. This is your brain on drugs." It's a familiar message, but it doesn't tell the whole story. Twenty or so young people, clustered around an empty autopsy table, are invited to imagine another possibility: This is your brain in a bucket. They are in the basement of the Clark County Office of the Medical Examiner. Tony Lopez, an M.E.'s investigator, shows his audience a scalpel that is used to slit the back of the scalp so the hair can be peeled away to unmask the skull. Then - - vrrrrEEEEEE -- Lopez switches on the bone-cutting saw used to slice the top off the skull so the brain can be removed and weighed. Lopez also displays a set of long-handled shears, looking for all the world like a two-handed pruning tool found in any garden store. That's what it is. The coroner uses it to snip-snip-snip through ribs so the heart and other internal organs can be removed and examined.

Audience members range in age from 14 to their mid-20s. They are at the session, run by Southwest Washington Advocates for Youth (SWAY), because of drug and alcohol violations. The program is sponsored by Southwest Washington Medical Center, Washington State Patrol, the Office of the Medical Examiner and Washington Division of the American Trauma Society. It is not a drug-treatment program or a counseling session. It is an educational program, a way to drive home a message that apparently wasn't delivered through years of "This is your brain" commercials, D.A.R.E. classes and "Just say no" slogans. There seems to be no shortage of information on the hazards of drugs and alcohol. Any 14-year-old can recite them, and, for extra-credit points, throw in the risks of smoking, the perils of teen sex, and the dangers of playing with guns.

It leads to a scene played out time and time again in different American families. Whether going home from the principal's office or juvenile hall or the emergency room, any parent is an odds-on bet to turn to a kid and say in exas-

peration: "You KNOW better than that!" Well, yeah. Darrell, a 21-year-old participant, said he heard it all from his father while growing up. "I was at the age where I thought I was the smart one," Darrell said. "I've heard it before," 19-year-old Matthew echoed. "But I don't think about consequences." The program helps them come face to face with consequences. Lopez narrates a slide show, featuring an hour-long display of drug- and alcohol-fueled carnage, before ushering the group through the county morgue. The trip includes a walk through the cooler, where they might find a body or two, wrapped in black plastic and stretched out on a shelf. Participants also must spend several hours in a hospital emergency room, where they can see the bloody results of people making what are now called "unwise choices." A few have seen high-school classmates carried in on blood-splattered stretchers.

So how do some teens miss the message ... or to be more accurate, all those messages? (When Barry McCaffrey was drug-policy czar in the Clinton administration, he told reporters: "We're already reaching 95 percent of our youth at least eight times a week.")

So many reasons: There are competing messages. One session a week in school, supported by a few 30-second TV spots, is going against tough odds. "That can't match the 365 days a year you're being influenced toward alcohol," 23-year-old Robert said recently during his final session. "I spent a lot more time in high school with friends who reinforce bad behavior." "Any intervention program must be a part of the school culture, or it begins to fade," said Washington State University professor Merrill Oaks. "You can't expect anything to be a one-shot deal. What if we did math only in the sixth grade?" And sometimes the problem is the messenger. "Give me a break. If you tell kids to back off from sexuality and that drugs are bad, that's preaching from an old fogy," said Oaks, who specializes in education of high-risk students. "The heart is in the right place, but it doesn't work."

The most persuasive voice belongs to someone students can identify with, Oaks said: "A kid who shot his finger off, he can talk to other sixth-graders about gun safety." Some messages are more effective than others. But which

ones work? "There's not very much money for doing rigorous scientific studies on these things," said Washington State University's Mike Erp, who has been a police chief as well as a college instructor. When people are setting up prevention education or intervention programs, "The word 'evaluation' typically doesn't come to mind. Later, when trying to figure if this is a good use of tax dollars, we don't know," said Erp, director of Washington State Institute for Community Oriented Policing.

Southwest Washington Advocates for Youth has a great record of success, said director Alison Herdener. The relapse rate is 6 percent, compared to a national relapse rate of 25 to 40 percent in other programs, she said. Despite its track record, the program hasn't been able to get close to a grant. It is financed by donations and a \$150 fee paid by each young offender. Sometimes the "healthy-choice" message follows the same route traveled by an algebra lesson or a room-cleaning ultimatum: in one ear and out the other.

Hearing isn't knowing: "Education doesn't work if you aren't interested in the message," participant Robert said. "Hearing the message doesn't mean you own the message." Sometimes the message is overpowered by other considerations. Eighteen-year-old William was sent to the program after he was arrested on a charge of being a minor in possession of alcohol. He and several friends were pulled over recently while making a late-night burger run ... at 110 mph. That's a bad idea any way you look at, he acknowledged, but when you're in a car with three or four other guys, "You don't want to be the wuss." There's also something else to consider, Oaks said. We're talking about kids here. "Kids are willing to explore things that are not wholesome or socially acceptable. New generations are finding through discovery -- to their own detriment -- about guns and drugs and sex. "It's transcending the boundaries," Oaks said from the Pullman campus. "My friend and I did it when we climbed up into a cabinet and grabbed two of my grandfather's cigars. We smoked them and turned as green as those cigars."

As Clark County Juvenile Court administrator, Ernie Veach-White sees a lot of youngsters who are works in progress. Society is trying to help teens be-

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come mature, thinking adults, and "Just by nature, those skills are not fully developed," he said. "They're impulsive. As adults, we learn to be more thoughtful and can resist excitement and peer pressure better," Veach-White added. "Even kids who are in the system, the majority don't go on as adults to become

criminals." Kids can learn from their mistakes ... if they survive them. Darrell learned his lesson by accident, he said during a break in class. He had been drinking when he tried to take a corner at 90 mph; he rolled his truck four times. Now he's telling friends about the dangers of drinking and driving. "Two have learned and two haven't," Darrell, 21, said. "I've tried telling them, but it does-

n't happen. They are the same way I was, they think it can't happen to them. "You think you're Superman, but you can get cut down to size pretty quick. Hopefully, somebody will learn from my lesson. The sad part is, most won't."

Employment Opportunities

LEWIS COUNTY RISK MANAGER, Salary Range: \$3,456.58 - \$4,125.67 per month. Closing: October 19, 2001 at 5 pm. This position reports to the General Administration Department Director and is responsible for planning, organizing, and coordinating the operation and administration of Lewis County's risk management, safety, and loss control programs. Key responsibilities include self-insurance, insurance procurement proposals, workers compensation program, loss prevention and control, lease and contract review, and processing of claims. BA plus two years related experience in the area of risk management or equivalent combination of education and/or experience that provide the necessary knowledge and skills to accomplish the essential functions is required. Certification or program completion in the risk management profession is preferred. A complete job description and application packet available at www.co.lewis.wa.us or from Lewis County General Administration Department, 360 NW North Street, Chehalis, WA 98532, telephone (360) 740-1408. Lewis County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS - Clallam County on the beautiful Olympic Peninsula of Washington invites candidates who are experienced in public works and who possess strong administrative, communication and leadership skills to serve as Director. Accountable for the proper operation, maintenance, repair and construction of the County's roads and bridges; storm drainage; other services such as road vacations, land acquisitions, right-of-way determinations, maintenance and preservation of the

County's records related to Road facilities; GIS, ER&R, solid waste, Clallam Bay/Sekiu Sewer, flood control, emergency management, trails programs. Requires BS degree in civil or related engineering field preferred, with previous related Public Works experience sufficient to demonstrate thorough administrative competency and extensive knowledge of modern engineering principles and practices as applied to municipal public works design, construction, maintenance and operations, or any combination of education and experience to demonstrate competency. Professional Engineer's License from the State of Washington preferred but not required. Salary: \$5466.79 to 6644.93 per month plus excellent benefit package. Resumes in lieu of applications *not* accepted. Application packages available on-line at www.clallam.net/local, by emailing us at personnel@co.clallam.wa.us or by calling our Jobs Line at (360) 417-2528. Clallam County Department of Personnel & Risk Management, 223 E. 4th St., Port Angeles, WA 98362. Closes 11/09/2001. EOE.

WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY OFFICIALS DEPUTY DIRECTOR: The Washington Association of County Officials (WACO) is seeking a Deputy Director. WACO is a private non-profit association of county officials of thirty-nine counties. This full time position is in Olympia, WA. The Executive Director assists in planning, directing, coordinating and administering association and staff activities under the policies established by the WACO Board of Trustees; represents WACO before the Legislature; and meets with state agencies, other associations and county officials to coordinate activities relating to county operations; as well as plans and develops programs, budgets, etc.

Requirements: A comprehensive knowledge and experience in county government; knowledge of laws, court decisions, and opinions governing county government operations; and possess excellent oral, written, and organizational skills.

Desired Qualifications: Extensive experience working with and knowledge of WA State laws and regulations relating to property tax appraisal and assessment; tax levies, exemptions and taxing districts; appeals; tax collection and distribution as it applies to counties; and, development and presentation of related training programs. Completed applications with a resume and a cover letter are due in the WACO office by 10/31/01 at 5:00 p.m. Applications are available by calling WACO at (360) 753-7319, at 206 Tenth Avenue SE, Olympia, WA 98501-1311, or khouts@wacounties.org.