

Snohomish County Executive
AARON REARDON



Priorities in Action



Latest News & Upcoming Events

Friday, May 9, 2008

www.snoco.org

 **County honors fallen soldier, employee**

Snohomish County will recognize and honor one of its own employees Tuesday, May 13, following his recent death while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.

County Custody Officer Joseph M. Cerfus, an Army Reserve Soldier with A Company, 5-159 Aviation Regiment, died Monday after sustaining injuries during a joint training exercise at the Canadian Manoeuvre Training Center, CFB Wainwright, Alberta, Canada.

Cerfus, who began work with Snohomish County Corrections in January 2007, will be honored with a joint resolution signed by County Executive Aaron Reardon and County Council Chairman Dave Somers.

County flags will be flown at half-staff Tuesday.

“Joseph was known to employees as a hard worker and a dedicated soldier,” Reardon said. “His death is a tragedy, and we offer our condolences to his family during their time of grief.”

Cerfus offered the Department of Corrections a strong sense of teamwork where no job was too small or too big, said Steve Thompson, the county’s corrections director.

“Joseph was an asset to the work that we have to do here,” Thompson said. “He worked alongside many of our corrections officers and was frontline most of the time.”

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How are we doing?

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The SnoStat system tracks how well the County is delivering services, the costs of those services, and the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery.

Simply visit our [SnoStat website](#).

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Snohomish County has made efforts to offer employment to members of the Armed Forces and their family. Reardon said veterans and their families prove to be high-caliber employees who are well-regarded in the work they do.

“These employees take great pride in protecting our country’s freedom and working for Snohomish County,” Reardon said. “We owe a debt of gratitude to Officer Cerfus and others who selflessly put service to their country and to their community above all else.”

 **Conference will focus on poverty’s impacts**

Nationally renowned public speaker and educator Donna Beegle will explore issues surrounding poverty at the 11th annual InterChange Conference on May 20 at the Edmonds Conference Center.

InterChange’s theme, “Poverty: There is Hope,” aims to increase awareness of how poverty impacts children and families in Snohomish County.

Beegle will speak on the differences between immigrant poverty and generational poverty and focus on barriers people face when dealing with educators and social service providers.

Participants also will learn to frame goals from the perspective of people in living in poverty, implement changes in communication styles to reduce conflict and employ techniques to better motivate individuals from impoverished backgrounds.

Beegle authored “See Poverty, Be the Difference,” a resource book for professionals who work with people in poverty. Her work will be featured in a forthcoming documentary titled “Invisible Nation.”

Beegle grew up in a poor migrant household, left school for marriage at 15 and had two children. At 25, she found herself without a husband, with little education and minimal job skills. What followed during the next 10 years were: gaining self-confidence, a G.E.D., an associate’s degree in journalism, a bachelors with honors in communications, a master’s in communication with a minor in gender studies

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Or, [send me an email](#).

And please be sure to [visit me on the web!](#)

Sincerely,



Aaron Reardon

(also with honors) and the completion of a doctorate degree.

The InterChange Conference also will examine successful and innovative programs in Snohomish County, while featuring panelists from Hawthorne Elementary School, United Way, Workforce Development Council, Volunteers of America and the Housing Consortium of Everett and Snohomish County.

InterChange began in 1997 as a way to bring educators, service providers and the community together to better serve youth and others in need.

The day-long conference, which includes a continental breakfast and lunch, costs \$25. Advanced registration is required to attend. For more information or a registration form, contact Kristin Roessler at 425-388-7407 or at kristin.roessler@snoco.org.

County fire marshal urges a stop to arson

As part of National Arson Awareness Week (May 4-10), the Snohomish County Fire Marshal's office is asking residents to become more vigilant in watching for intentionally set fires.

Nationwide, arson causes more than \$2 billion in annual property losses. Between January and March 2008, Snohomish County experienced more than \$7 million in arson-related property damage.

"Snohomish County has seen an increase in arson related cases in 2008, accounting for almost 30 percent of our total investigations," said Snohomish County Fire Marshal Tom Maloney.

Residential and vehicle arsons are two of the top five fire causes in Snohomish County. More than 700 arsons in the United States are started each month by people under 18 years of age, accounting for roughly 54 percent of all arsons nationwide.

To save lives, prevent needless injuries and stop property loss, the office is asking residents to immediately report any suspicious fire activity. Working together, the effects of arson can be reduced, benefiting all of the county's

residents.

In addition, the National Fire Protection Association reports that 300 children will die and 3,000 more will be injured this year by juvenile fire setting. The Snohomish County Fire Marshal's office is asking adults to share with children the danger of playing with matches or other forms of fire.

For more information about fire safety, call the Office of the Snohomish County Fire Marshal at 425-388-3557 or visit www.snoco.org and search for key word "fire marshal."



"Save the Date" for these upcoming Parks events and activities

Snohomish County Parks and Recreation is gearing up for a summer full of new features and fun activities for all. Here is a sampling of upcoming events and activities:

Willis Tucker Community Park Spray Feature ribbon cutting

Friday, May 23rd

2 p.m.

Willis Tucker Community Park
6705 Puget Park Drive, Snohomish

McCollum Park Frogs Swim Team

Snohomish County Parks and Recreation announces the FROGS 2008 season program, a CRAZE Summer Swim League member.

The season begins Monday, May 23, and concludes with a championship meet on Saturday, August 16.

A parent's information meeting will be held Tuesday, May 29, from 6-7 p.m. at the Willis Tucker Park Administration Building, 6705 Puget Park Drive, Snohomish. For more information, visit www.snocoparks.org.

Summer Camps

The 2008 Spring-Summer Program Guide is now online at www.snocoparks.org, or available for pick up to your local library, the County Courthouse, Evergreen Fairgrounds or the Parks Administration office. Sign up early to ensure your spot!

Photos of recent events:



April 29, 2008. Executive Reardon is joined by Councilmen Dave Gossett and Dave Somers, Public Works Director Steve Thomsen, Parks Director Tom Teigen, Russ East of WSDOT and Oxy Gene, Community Transit's superhero, at the 124th Street Interurban trail overpass ribbon cutting.



April 17, 2008. New Park Rangers Erika Mirandis and Regis Swanson (with Parks director Tom Teigen) recently graduated from the Skagit Valley Law Enforcement Academy.

Thank you very much for taking the time to read my electronic newsletter.

If you would like to send me your comments and feedback, or if you would like to unsubscribe, simply reply to this message.

You may also contact me directly by phone at 425.388.3460.

