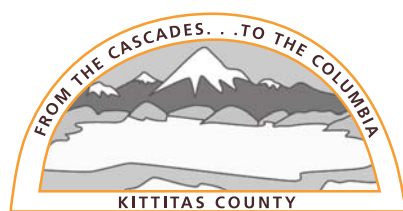


? Did you know ?

- 95.7% of Kittitas County residents report that they always or nearly always wear a seat belt. (BRFSS 2006)
- 16.8% of Kittitas County residents age 45 or older had one or more falls that caused an injury in the previous three months. (BRFSS 2006)
- 56.3% of Kittitas County residents have had at least one alcoholic beverage in the previous 30 days. (BRFSS 2006)
- 76.0% of Kittitas County women age 40 or older have had a mammogram in the previous two years. (BRFSS 2006)
- 35.5% of Kittitas County eighth grade students report sleeping seven hours or less on an average school night. (HYS 2006)
- 13.9% of Kittitas County eighth grade and 38.6% of twelfth grade students report having smoked at least one whole cigarette. (HYS 2006)



## BOH Adopts New Fee Schedule and Welcomes New Member

A 2009 fee schedule for the Public Health Department was adopted by the Board of Health (BOH) at the November meeting. One change in the newly adopted fee schedule is an increase in the amount of family income allowed for eligibility to sliding fees for critical services such as routine immunizations. "The increase in allowed income will be very

helpful to families that might be struggling with finances during this economic crisis," said Administrative Assistant Candi Blackford.

The Public Health Department operates on a cost recovery basis, and seeks to minimize profit or loss.

On another note, the December BOH meeting welcomed Paul

Jewell, County Commissioner District #1. Jewell defeated the sitting commissioner, Linda Huber, in the November elections and took office on November 26. All three county commissioners serve on the BOH, and are joined by two additional members who are appointed for three year terms.

## Board of Health Advisory Committee

The Board of Health Advisory Committee (BOHAC) discussed a draft version of an updated Camps and Parks program policy and inspection form at the October meeting. BOHAC had a few suggestions for the Health Department, but

were pleased with the revisions overall.

BOHAC often gives the Health Department guidance on policy decisions. This allows the community to have input into the public health work that is done in Kittitas County.

Other work that was discussed with BOHAC included a review of the school inspections conducted during the 2007 – 2008 school year and an upcoming proposed immunization change for daycare entry.

## Environmental Health Moves to Nanum Street Office

Environmental Health (EH) staff began moving from the Permit Center, shared with Public Works and Community Development Services, to the main Public Health office on December 12. The main Public Health office is located

at 507 N Nanum St., Suite 102.

Business that was conducted at the Permit Center should now be brought to the Nanum Street location, including applications for permits, inspection or evaluation requests, EH fees, water samples, and records

requests.

Phone and fax numbers for the EH front desk and all EH staff will remain the same.

For more information contact Kristy Walker at (509) 933-8261.

## A Note from the Administrator, Continued

(Continued from page 1) the department's Quality Improvement Leadership Team, program managers, and staff who work in the programs that participated in the surveys during 2008.

I would like to encourage those accessing any of the services offered by Kittitas County Public Health Department or those receiving an inspection by a Public Health staff member to complete



Cathy Bambrick,  
Administrator

our online customer satisfaction survey on our website at [www.co.kittitas.wa.us/health/survey.asp](http://www.co.kittitas.wa.us/health/survey.asp) at any time to help us improve the way we work or call us directly at (509) 962-7515. Kittitas County Public Health Department staff are committed to providing the highest quality services and to continuously improving programs and services.

Cathy Bambrick

# PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTION

## Drive Through Flu Clinics Successful in Kittitas County

Kittitas County Public Health Department held two drive through clinics for influenza vaccination during the month of October. The first event was held at the Centennial Center in Cle Elum, where about 100 people received a yearly flu vaccine. A second event was held at the Grand Meridian Cinema in Ellensburg, with a turnout of nearly 250 people.

Public Health Nurses supervised students from Central Washington University's paramedic program as they vaccinated people in their cars. Having patients remain in their vehicles reduces exposure between people who may be ill. This is the method that would be used in the case

of a large scale outbreak of vaccine-preventable disease.

"It was a cooperative effort to plan and carry out these events as a disaster-response exercise. Many groups were involved and we appreciate their efforts," said Linda Navarre, Incident Commander for the events.

These events mark the third year that the Health Department has offered a drive-through clinic for flu shots, and the first year that vaccination was available to children. The Health Department hopes to repeat the events in 2009.

For more information contact Linda Navarre at (509) 962-7068.



## A Note from the Administrator: Customer Service Survey Results

As one part of the continuous quality improvement efforts at Kittitas County Public Health Department, we have implemented customer satisfaction surveys for many of the programs and services offered using a rotating schedule. Programs and services included in the survey schedule include front desk services, food establishment inspections, First Steps and Early Intervention Program visits, dental clinic visits, presentations to veterinarians and medical providers, and immunization, tuberculin skin testing, and WIC appointments. All clients who participate in the Breast

and Cervical Health program or access HIV testing and counseling services also have the opportunity to provide feedback using the customer satisfaction survey format.

The highlights of the survey results for those accessing our front desk services show that the staff are doing great work! Over 90% of the surveys returned reported that the overall service received was excellent, and 100% said they would recommend the service to a friend!

The most frequently accessed services at the front desk include completion of

the food handler's exam using a computer based module (50%), and obtaining copies of birth and death certificates (27.2%).

When asked to rate different aspects of their visit on a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being the most favorable response, the average response was above 4 for every question asked. This shows that the staff answer questions clearly, provide useful information, and act professionally.

Survey results were compiled by the assessment coordinator and shared with  
(Continued on page 8)

## Free Hepatitis C Testing for High Risk Individuals

Individuals who have been at high risk of contracting Hepatitis C anytime during their life may be able to get tested for free thanks to a grant from Washington State Department of Health.

People may be considered high-risk if they have ever been an injection drug user, received kidney dialysis, or received tattoos from an unclean facility, among other things. "This is a great opportunity for people to find out their status; I hope people take advantage of it," said Julia Karns, Community Outreach Worker.

Twenty tests have been given so far, with three returned as positive. For information contact Julia Karns at (509) 962-7028.

## Public Health to Join Health Information Exchange

Kittitas County Public Health Department will be joining many local medical providers and the Kittitas Valley Community Hospital (KVCH) emergency room as users of a health information exchange network, thanks to financial support from KVCH and a recently funded grant from the National Association of City and County Health Officials.

The goal of public health inclusion in this network is to allow rapid communication of urgent events to local medical providers, and to allow primary care physicians access to information about services received from the Health Department. For more info call (509) 962-7515.

Communicable Diseases	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	2008	2007
CD Cases Confirmed	17	23	27	16	83	25
Other Investigations	0	0	0	8	8	10
Food Illness Complaints	1	0	3	3	7	12
Lead Poisoning Cases	0	0	0	0	0	13
Chlamydia Reported	34	39	17	30	120	34
Herpes Reported	3	3	2	4	12	5
Gonorrhea Reported	6	1	1	1	9	5

Child Vaccine Administered	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	2008	2007
DTaP	8	3	5	1	17	31
DT	0	0	0	0	0	0
Td	1	0	2	0	3	2
HIB	4	2	3	0	9	18
IPV	6	4	9	2	21	46
MMR	1	12	17	2	32	27
Hep B	3	5	2	3	13	27
Varicella	13	9	46	6	74	61
Hep A	20	16	33	5	74	92
Influenza	15	2	0	83	100	65
PCV7 (pneumococcal)	6	6	6	1	19	4
PPV23 (pneumococcal)	0	0	0	1	1	13
MMRV	4	3	0	0	7	22
MCV4 (meningococcal)	8	5	30	2	45	46
HPV	33	5	21	6	65	22
DTaP/Hep B/IPV	4	4	8	0	16	12
Tdap	15	14	53	9	91	83
Immune globulin	1	0	0	0	1	0
Rotavirus	5	2	0	1	8	2
Oral typhoid	1	2	1	1	5	14
Injectable typhoid	4	2	2	1	9	4
Yellow Fever	0	2	8	0	10	12

Tuberculosis Program	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	2008	2007
TOTAL TB Tests	55	28	98	98	279	290
TOTAL Positive TB Tests	0	0	0	2	2	22
Cases Active TB	0	0	0	0	0	0
Suspect TB Investigations	0	0	0	2	2	5
INH Preventive TX New	0	0	0	0	0	0
INH Preventive TX Finished	1	0	0	0	1	3

HIV/AIDS and Hep. C	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	2008	2007
Presentations	6	6	9	5	26	53
People in attendance	37	68	68	50	223	562
Blood Borne Pathogen Classes	1	2	1	2	6	14
# People in BBP Classes	6	14	6	25	51	155
Case Management Clients	2	3	4	3	12	14

Breast and Cervical Health	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	2008	2007
New Clients Enrolled	16	19	14	32	81	87
BCHP Interpretation	6	3	4	9	22	22
Year to Date Enrollment*	72	91	14	46	81	87

\*July 07-June 08

Administrative Services	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	2008	2007
Births	82	76	93	86	337	357
Birth Certificates Issued	303	302	251	220	1076	1021
Deaths Registered	57	52	65	67	241	218
Certified Copies of Deaths	312	262	359	304	1237	1120
Home Births Registered	0	1	0	0	1	1
Fetal Deaths	2	2	1	0	5	3
Child Deaths	1	2	1	1	5	2

Child Care Health	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	2008	2007
Nurse Consultant visits	11	11	11	13	46	39
Other Consultations	7	4	6	10	27	26

Tobacco Program	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	2008	2007
Compliance Check	0	36	0	0	36	14
Compliance Rate	-	83%	-	-	83%	92%

## 2009 Budget Passed, Significant Cuts Implemented

The process of transferring several programs to Community Health of Central Washington was initiated in early 2008 based on an economic forecast which predicted a decrease in new building. New building is a major source of revenue for Public Health due to fees associated with on-site sewage system approvals and inspections (see story on page 4, "Programs Move...").

The economic forecast has since shown to be correct and, despite the transfer of

these programs, predicted expenses were much greater than projected revenue for 2009. This led to the difficult decision to lay off four employees of the Health Department while maintaining as many of the important daily functions as possible. Payroll costs account for about 70% of the departmental budget.

The Kittitas County Board of Commissioners directed the Health Department to eliminate two management level positions, one

administrative support staff position, and one program level staff position. One nurse is also planning her retirement for February and will not be replaced. The number of full time employees will be reduced to 18.27 in 2009, compared to 28.23 in 2008; this is a 35% reduction (graphic at right). These sweeping changes should bring the department to a balanced budget for 2009.

The program most affected by the loss of staff will be the Oral Health program. The one

program level staff position that was eliminated was the only staff member working in this program. Activities such as the school sealant program will continue, organized by the remaining administrative support staff.

However, some services such as dental clinics at the KCPHD office can no longer be provided by paid staff.

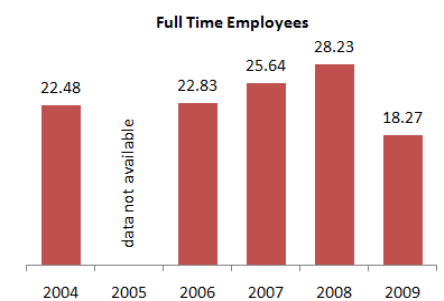
The organizational structure of the department will transition to a working management structure, which has proven successful in other local health jurisdictions. Linda Navarre will be the lead nurse in the Community Health Services division and James Rivard will be the lead Environmental Health Specialist. Changes in the

structure of the department also led to the relocation of the Environmental Health division to the Nanum Street office (see story on back cover).

The overall budget for the 2009 fiscal year is just over \$1.65 million, with revenue offsetting expenses so no profit is made. The top three revenue sources are state and federal grants (45%), environmental health fees (22%), and Kittitas County contributions (15%).

Major expenses are payroll (71%), Kittitas County services such as maintenance and information technology (6%), and professional services (5%).

For more info contact Cathy Bambrick, (509) 962-7515.



## West Nile Virus Confirmed in Kittitas County Horse

West Nile Virus (WNV) was confirmed on November 26 in an unvaccinated seven month old paint stallion from the Cle Elum area. Due to the animal's symptoms, it was euthanized.

Most horses do not become ill and will show no symptoms. If symptoms do occur they can include loss of appetite, loss of coordination, confusion, fever, stiffness, muscle tremors, and muscle weakness (especially in the hindquarters).

WNV can occur in horses, some birds, mosquitoes, and humans. This is the first ever reported case of WNV in Kittitas County, in any species.



During 2008 there were two humans, 41 horses, and 22 birds that tested positive for WNV statewide. Most infections happen during times of high mosquito activity; mosquitoes are the vector that transmit the disease to other animals or people.

"The best way to protect your horses is to have them vaccinated against WNV early each mosquito season," said Kodi Still, Environmental Health Specialist.

To protect yourself and your family you can install or repair window and door screens, eliminate standing water where mosquitoes can lay eggs, and use mosquito repellent, especially during early morning and evening hours.

For more information contact Kodi Still at (509) 933-8225.

<b>Food Safety</b>	<b>1Q</b>	<b>2Q</b>	<b>3Q</b>	<b>4Q</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
<b>Permits</b>						
Food Establishments	9	13	143	98	263	n/a
Temporary Food Service	4	21	48	3	76	99
Food Handler Permits	432	335	528	549	1844	1857
<b>Inspections</b>						
Routine Inspections	50	78	41	34	203	311
Re-inspections	4	6	4	2	16	17
Pre-Opening Inspections	2	8	6	2	18	28
Temporary Food	8	0	53	0	61	51
<b>Contractual Inspections</b>						
CWU Quarterly	1	1	1	1	4	4
Jail Quarterly	1	1	1	1	4	4
School Kitchens	0	11	0	11	22	18
<b>Enforcement Activities</b>						
Red Item Violation >30 pts	4	9	4	2	19	17
Red Item Violation >70 pts	1	2	0	0	3	1
Operating without a Permit	0	0	0	0	0	9
Complaints	7	12	18	20	57	43
Temporary Closures	1	2	0	0	3	9
Complaints Resolved	7	12	18	20	57	43
Design Plans Reviewed	3	1	6	1	11	28

n/a = data not available

<b>Drinking Water</b>	<b>1Q</b>	<b>2Q</b>	<b>3Q</b>	<b>4Q</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
<b>Water &amp; Sewage Evaluations</b>						
Sewage	0	0	0	0	0	0
Water	0	0	1	0	1	0
Both	0	0	0	0	0	1
Sanitary Surveys	0	1	4	3	8	15
Group B Water Systems	0	24	4	4	32	11
<b>Plat Approval</b>						
Well Site Inspections	8	9	3	6	26	30
Well Delegation	12	25	23	14	74	74
Prvt. Bacteriological Sampling	0	0	1	0	1	1
Private Nitrate Sampling	0	0	0	0	0	0
Group B Paperwork Received	1	0	5	1	7	10
Group B Systems Approved	1	3	3	2	9	3
Farm Exemptions Received	0	0	0	0	0	0
Farm Exemptions Approved	0	0	0	0	0	0
Complaints	0	0	0	0	0	0
Group A/B Sources GPS'd	0	0	21	0	21	4
Group A Nitrate Samples	0	0	0	0	0	n/a

n/a = data not available

<b>Adult Vaccine Administered</b>	<b>1Q</b>	<b>2Q</b>	<b>3Q</b>	<b>4Q</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
Travel Consultations	43	125	46	30	244	198
Hep A	28	38	22	15	103	115
Hep B	12	9	21	12	54	46
TwinRix (Hepatitis A and B)	35	44	39	55	173	210
Immune Globulin	2	0	0	0	2	4
Influenza	3	2	0	408	413	17*
IPV	18	25	15	10	68	34
Meningococcal	1	6	8	1	16	13
MMR	4	2	5	1	12	3
Pneumococcal	0	1	1	20	22	9
Tetanus/Diphtheria	0	18	6	6	30	18
Oral Typhoid	23	26	14	17	80	115
Injectable Typhoid	6	10	10	2	28	19
Varicella	5	4	2	2	13	14
Yellow Fever	5	17	12	7	41	95
Rabies	0	0	0	0	0	1
Japanese Encephalitis	0	6	4	3	13	1
ProQuad	0	0	0	0	0	1
Tdap	21	96	22	17	156	137

\* 2007 does not include influenza vaccinations given at drive-through clinic

<b>Mobile/Volunteer Clinics</b>	<b>1Q</b>	<b>2Q</b>	<b>3Q</b>	<b>4Q</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
Dental Patients	38	16	0	21	59	n/a
Senior Dental Patients	20	14	0	2	36	n/a

n/a = data not available

<b>First Steps Program</b>	<b>1Q</b>	<b>2Q</b>	<b>3Q</b>	<b>4Q</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
Nursing Home Visits	170	168	172	152	662	517

<b>Oral Health Education</b>	<b>1Q</b>	<b>2Q</b>	<b>3Q</b>	<b>4Q</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
Kittitas Elementary	125	0	4	0	129	0
Valley View Elementary	235	0	0	0	235	0
Mt. Stuart Elementary	225	0	0	0	225	0
Thorp Elementary	43	0	0	0	43	65
Damman School	40	0	0	0	40	0
Cle Elum/Roslyn	325	0	11	12	348	0
Morgan Middle School	0	164	4	0	4	0
Adult Service Agencies	0	2	0	0	2	0
Kittitas Middle School	58	0	0	0	58	0
Other (churches, missions)	0	144	10	0	10	1485
Child Care Centers	66	0	0	6	72	70

## New Process Implemented for Well Siting

A new process and fee were approved by the Board of Health and the Board of County Commissioners after two public hearings. The new process and fee will allow for Health Department staff to review well site plans prior to the drilling of wells. By law, wells must meet setback requirements in relation to property lines, on-site sewage systems, and buildings. In this new process, to begin January 1, 2009, property owners planning to build a home must submit a well site plan before receiving a building permit. The fee for plan submission and review by the Health Department will be \$50. For more info call (509) 962-7698.

## Chlamydia Cases Up in 2008, Better Reporting?

More than three times the number of cases of chlamydia were reported in 2008 than in 2007. Chlamydia is a sexually transmitted infection (STI) that is treated with antibiotics. The increase in the number of reports could be due to better reporting rather than an increase in cases; Kittitas County began participating in the Expedited Partner Therapy program in early 2008. This program allows sexual partners of those diagnosed with certain STIs to receive free preventive medication. Communicable Disease Nurses from the Health Department also gave a short training to local medical providers about the new program and how to report STIs.

## Trainings Held for Teens Against Tobacco Use (TATU)

TATU is a peer education program where Health Department staff train middle school and high school students about the dangers of tobacco use and the students give presentations relaying the information to their peers.

Kasey Knutson, who joined the Health Promotion team in October.

A total of 69 students were trained between October and December.

For more information contact Kasey Knutson at (509) 962-7090.

Trainings have been led by a new staff member, Health Educator



## Programs Move to Community Health of Central Washington

Community Health of Central Washington (CHCW) will take over the programs for WIC, First Steps, and Children with Special Health Care Needs on January 1, 2009.

All staff of these programs will be leaving Kittitas County employ to join the CHCW team to offer these services.

"I'm a little sad to be leaving the county but I think the move will be better for my clients, and they are my priority," said Deb Sandvig, WIC Nutritionist.

Office visits for these programs after January 1 will be at the CHCW building, at 521 E. Mountain View.

Call (509) 962-7068 for more info.

School-based Sealants	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	2008	2007
Kittitas Elementary	0	13	0	65	78	0
Lincoln Elementary	0	27	0	0	27	63
Mt. Stuart Elementary	0	0	0	92	92	0
Thorp Elementary	0	5	0	0	5	26
Damman School	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cle Elum/Roslyn	0	17	0	0	17	27
Easton	0	0	0	3	3	6
Parke Creek Group Home	10	23	0	11	34	48
Morgan Middle School	0	0	0	26	26	201
Busy Buddies	0	0	0	6	6	21
Provisional Clinic	0	0	0	0	0	8
Valley View Elementary	26	0	0	65	91	32
Senior Clinic	0	0	0	0	0	10

WIC Enrollment	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	2008*	2007
TOTAL Clients	986	1013	1013	999	4011	8241
Pregnant	144	147	157	149	597	1083
Breastfeeding	83	88	71	75	317	742
Post-Partum	50	46	43	35	174	295
Infants	250	256	269	240	1015	1817
Children >1 yr	459	476	473	500	1908	4001
Participating clients	935	940	958	948	3781	7418
% non-participating clients	5.17%	7.21%	5.42%	5.11%	5.73%	13.69%

\*Values for 2008 were calculated using a different method than in 2007; values cannot be directly compared. 2008 yearly total may include one client multiple times if they were enrolled during more than one quarter.

Medical Nutritional Therapy	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	2008	2007
New Referrals	0	0	0	0	0	10
Returning Patients	1	0	0	0	1	0

### Children with Special Health Care Needs

	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	2008	2007
Established Clients	76	89	87	60	312	286
Lost or Closed Files	9	12	35	15	71	25
New Clients	22	10	8	13	53	40
Home Visits	17	20	11	15	63	82
Office Visits	3	2	2	2	9	5
No Shows	1	0	0	1	2	2

Early Intervention Program	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	2008	2007
Referrals	6	8	8	7	29	17
Home Visits	8	12	17	14	51	24

Zoonotics and Vector	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	2008	2007
Animal Bites/Complaints	18	17	14	6	55	48
Rabies – Animals Tested	0	1	0	1	2	1
Quarantine Required	3	2	3	0	8	6
Dead Birds Collected/Mailed	0	0	2	0	2	4/2
Mosquito Clusters Collected	0	0	7	0	7	4
Dead Bird Phone Calls	0	3	5	0	8	15

Solid Waste	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	2008	2007
Solid Waste Permit Renewal	0	6	0	1	7	7
New Permits Issued	0	0	0	0	0	0
Inspections Performed	11	9	17	7	44	26
Trash Complaints	23	38	46	32	139	46
Incidents	1	0	1	0	2	2

On Site Sewage Permits	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	2008	2007
New	49	69	93	78	220	468
Repair	4	n/a	12	12	28	35
Renewal	6	12	7	10	35	18
Site Evaluation Applications	22	83	69	45	219	290
Site Evaluations Performed	34	79	84	47	224	461
Designs Approved	59	60	112	68	299	527
Final Inspections	16	71	73	76	236	311
Final Re-inspections	12	11	22	22	67	54

Plat Approval	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	2008	2007
Soil Logs: Long and Short	4	34	16	21	75	114
Realtor Requests	19	n/a	25	10	54	188
Complaints	3	4	5	2	14	9

n/a = data not available

Living Environment	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	2008	2007
Schools						
Plans Reviewed	0	0	0	0	0	0
Inspections	16	8	1	0	25	20
Playgrounds	11	6	0	0	17	12
Complaints	1	0	0	0	1	0

Public Pools & Spas	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	2008	2007
Permits	5	2	18	10	35	21
Inspections	4	7	16	3	30	10
Complaints	0	0	0	0	0	0

Camps & Parks	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	2008	2007
Permit Applications	0	5	6	0	11	24
Inspections	0	0	14	0	14	14

## Dramatic Increase in Trash Complaints Since 2007

More complaints about trash are being reported to Public Health and Code Enforcement than ever before. Only 46 complaints were received in all of 2007; the total for 2008 was 139.

James Rivard, Environmental Health Specialist, attributes the increase in the number of trash complaints to the recent economic downturn. "People are trying to save money by taking their own garbage to the transfer station. This means they are holding it at their

homes for longer periods of time," said Rivard. Accumulation of garbage can attract animals that are vectors of human illnesses so it is important that trash is cleaned up.

Other situations that have led to complaints are renters leaving town and leaving their landlords holding the bag, literally. This is what happened at the house shown in the before and after pictures below.

To register a trash complaint or for more information call (509) 962-7698.

