The room was packed for the unveiling of the Northeast Washington Trends website Thursday, May 6, in the county’s health building. Program administrators and deans from Eastern Washington University as well as county department heads -- like community development director Mike Lithgow and counseling services director Annabelle Payne -- sat in on the presentation of www.northeastwashingtontrends.org.

County statistics site up, running

BY YOUSSEF SLEIMAN
OF THE MINER

NEWPORT — A website compiling statistics in Pend Oreille, Ferry and Stevens counties, paid for by Congressional funds, was unveiled Thursday, May 6, in Newport. The median household income for Pend Oreille County has declined from its high point in 2006 at $36,761. Revenues from fairgrounds in the tri-county area dropped slightly in 2009 from 2008, with both years about $10,000 short from 2006’s high revenue of $426,382. The number of people living in unincorporated areas has steadily risen in all three counties over 30 years, putting about 28.4 percent (or 50,725 people) of the tri-county population outside of incorporated cities and towns.

These and a few other statistics are available at www.northeastwashingtontrends.ewu.edu. The site was built by Eastern Washington University’s Institute for Public Policy and Economic Analysis, paid for with a $200,000 federal grant and $250,000 from appropriations by Sens. Patty Murray, D-Wash., and Maria Cantwell, D-Wash.

The statistics website will stay hosted on EWU’s servers for the foreseeable future, project leader Patrick Jones said. However, the three counties would need to put up funds for data updates or other improvements.

The site presently offers eight different branches of data: people, economic vitality, education, environment, health, housing, public safety, and recreation and tourism. The website’s sources are listed in individual pages for each statistic.