

## ‘Stepping Up’ stakeholders step back to review progress

By Mary Ann Barton  
senior staff writer

County officials and other stakeholders gathered May 31 in Washington to look back at the successes and continued challenges of the two-year-old Stepping Up program, a collaborative effort to keep the mentally ill out of county jails.

The initiative is a partnership between NACo, the Council of State Governments Justice Center and the American Psychiatric Association Foundation. Some 365 urban, suburban and rural counties have signed onto the program since it began, passing resolutions in

See **STEPPING UP** page 9



**The Class of 2017 poses for their portrait at NACo headquarters during the 14th Annual County Leadership Institute (CLI) held in Washington, D.C., June 4–8. CLI is a rigorous four-day program which aims to enhance the ability of county officials to identify and implement innovative solutions to complex challenges facing county government. See the web edition of *County News* to learn more about the attendees.** Photo by David Hathcox

### ANALYSIS

## Infrastructure plan's principles tucked in Trump budget proposal

By Kevan Stone  
associate legislative director

Late May saw the unveiling of President Donald Trump's much anticipated FY18 budget, which detailed his vision for discretionary funding throughout the various agencies that comprise the federal government. It wasn't all just numbers, however, as policy recommendations were included for specific areas, in addition to the typical funding amounts. One such policy document contained in this budget was the introduction of a fact sheet detailing his cornerstone ideas for a new infrastructure plan.

The White Paper, titled *Infrastructure Initiative*, focused on four core principles which will be expanded by the administration, and eventually Congress, to craft legislation designed to improve the nation's infrastructure.

The first principle seeks to identify specific projects, impressive in nature, that would benefit large population areas and presumably their economies as well. This would seem to align with the president's calling out some transportation hubs by name during his campaign, like New York's LaGuardia Airport, as an example of current

infrastructure in dire need of attention and rehabilitation.

Another principle seeks to realign certain public entities for privatization. An early example of this idea is the current push in the administration and by some in Congress to privatize the nation's air-traffic control system. Another idea includes the sale of some government properties to the private sector as a source of revenue generation.

President Trump does not need to look far down Pennsylvania Avenue to point to the merits of this idea. The new Trump International Ho-

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## FCC takes swing at local control

By Mary Ann Barton  
senior staff writer

In the race toward small cell and fifth-generation wireless or "5G," which allows greater connectivity at higher speeds on communication devices, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is considering whether to pre-empt local government regulations when it comes to siting antennas and other infrastructure in public rights of way such as power poles, street lamps and traffic signals.

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# FCC proposes stripping local governments of siting authority

## From FCC page 1

The FCC on April 20 opened a proceeding to identify and address “unnecessary regulatory barriers to wireless infrastructure deployment.” The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) begins “an examination of how state and local processes affect the speed and cost of infrastructure deployment.” In the FCC’s Notice of Inquiry (NOI), also adopted April 20, the agency asks for comment on two provisions of the Communications Act, Sections 253 and 332, that acknowledge the importance of state and location regulation but “also protect against regulations that impose barriers to entry or are otherwise unreasonable.”

The FCC is seeking input on where the agency should “use its preemption authority to prevent the enforcement of state and local laws that inhibit broadband deployment.”

FCC Chairman Ajit Pai, who moved into the top spot at the federal agency under President Donald Trump, said at a recent open meeting, “I have heard time and time again how current rules and procedures impede the timely, cost-effective deployment of wireless infrastructure. This will only become a bigger problem as our wireless networks evolve. A key feature of the transition from 4G to 5G is a change in network architecture. The future of wireless will evolve from large, macro-cell towers to include thousands of dense-

The FCC is seeking input on where the agency should “use its preemption authority to prevent the enforcement of state and local laws that inhibit broadband deployment.”

ly-deployed small cells, operating at lower power. As networks evolve, our rules should too.”

The federal agency is considering allowing siting applications to be “deemed granted” if local governments don’t act quickly enough on them. Some of the specifics include shortening the “shot clock” timeframe on applications. A “shot clock” refers to a period of time during which a permitting authority must rule on an application. If the authority does not approve or deny the request before the end of the set time period, the request is deemed granted.

Currently, shot clocks are set at 90 days to act on wireless “collocation” applications and 150 days to act on all other wireless siting applications.

The FCC also wants to stop local governments from enacting temporary “moratoria” on applications. Some jurisdictions do that when they’re swamped with applications. The agency is also looking for examples of excessive fees charged by local governments.

“The Commission cannot continuously hear accounts of deployment hurdles and sit idly by,” said FCC Commissioner Michael O’Rielly. “If this generates the need for preemption, I have no hesitation

to use authority provided by Congress to get new wireless services deployed.”

## FCC commissioner: Local government ‘on the front lines’

But FCC Commissioner Mignon Clyburn, appointed by President Obama, noted that local governments “are on the front lines addressing the challenges of cost, complexity and time faced by siting applicants, while answering and addressing the never-ending questions, concerns and needs of their communities.”

If the FCC were to mandate preemptive zoning (“deemed granted”), this “will drive up costs to process applications and there is no evidence that carriers face systemic delays,” Montgomery County, Md. officials said in a letter to the FCC.

Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett, Council Vice President Tommy Heyboer and H.N. Sonny Segal, chief information officer for the county, visited the FCC in May to discuss their concerns, as did Lamar County, Ga. Commissioner Nancy Thrash, and the Georgia County association’s (ACCG) Legislative Associate Kathleen Bowen, who also met with FCC Wireless Bureau staff and Wireline Bureau staff to

discuss concerns with two proposed FCC rules.

“We discussed that we all have the same goals,” Bowen said, “but that the decisions need to be made at a local level — this is a home-rule issue — particularly regarding the public right of way.”

Bowen noted that “counties are already compromising with the wireless industry now. Our elected officials understand the public demand. If the FCC rules are implemented as is, we predict some counties will have to hire additional staff to meet the new timelines. During the meeting, we kept going back to how we believe this is a local issue.”

They also discussed their opposition to preempting or limiting local government ability to negotiate wireline providers in the community for certain services or guarantees as part of access to public rights of way. “Many local governments use these negotiations as a vital tool to ensure that educational institutions or low-income communities receive connectivity and are not ‘redlined’ as technological advances reach some neighborhoods, but not others,” they told the agency.

## FCC also looking at historic, environmental impediments

The federal agency is also looking at how complying with the National Historic Preservation Act and National Environmental Policy Act impacts the siting process, examining the current process to see if any changes could be made to

See FCC page 8



## SNAP/STATS

### TOP 5 BEST BEACHES

Rank	County	Beach
1.	Sarasota County, Fla.....	Siesta Beach
2.	Maui County, Hawaii.....	Kapalua Bay Beach
3.	Hyde County, N.C.....	Ocracoke Lifeguarded Beach Outer Banks
4.	Santa Rosa County, Fla.....	Grayton Beach State Park
5.	Suffolk County, N.Y.....	Coopers Beach

Source: CNN, May 29, “Dr. Beach’s Top 10 U.S. Beaches for 2017”

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Published biweekly except August by:  
National Association of Counties  
Research Foundation, Inc.  
660 N. Capitol Street, N.W. STE. 400,  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
202.393.6226 | FAX 866.752.1573  
**E-mail** cnews@naco.org  
**Online address** www.countynews.org

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Mail subscriptions are \$100 per year for non-members. \$60 per year for non-members purchasing multiple copies. Educational institution rate, \$50 per year. Member county supplemental subscriptions are \$20 each. Send payment with order and address changes to NACo, 660 N. Capitol Street, N.W. STE. 400, Washington, D.C. 20001.

**POSTMASTER:** send address changes to County News, 660 N. Capitol Street, N.W. STE. 400, Washington, D.C. 20001

(USPS 704-620) n (ISSN: 0744-9798)  
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# Medicaid plays vital role in rural counties

Medicaid plays a larger role in providing health coverage to people living in small towns and rural communities than it does in metropolitan areas, a trend that is particularly striking among children, according to an extensive analysis by the Georgetown University Center for Children and Families and the University of North Carolina NC Rural Health Research Program.

About 45 percent of children in small towns and rural areas rely on Medicaid for their coverage, compared to 38 percent in metro areas, according to the report "Medicaid in Small Towns and Rural America: A Lifeline for Children, Families and Communities." In 14 states, more than half of the children outside of metro areas receive health benefits from Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program.

Among adults, 16 percent of those in small towns and rural America get their coverage through Medicaid, compared to 15 percent in metro areas. In 13 states, at least a fifth of the adults outside metro areas rely on Medicaid.

"Medicaid is of critical importance to people living in small towns and rural America," said Joan Alker, a Georgetown University research professor who is executive director of the Center for Children and Families. "The trillion dollars in Medicaid cuts that Congress and the White House are considering would have an outsized impact on these communities, many of which are still struggling economically."

The report also found that the Affordable Care Act's Medicaid expansion is having a disproportionately positive impact on small towns and rural areas. Researchers from the two universities looked at two sets of data: health coverage in 2008-2009 and in 2014-2015.

In that time frame, the rate of uninsured adults in states that accepted the Medicaid expansion decreased 11 percentage points in non-metro areas of

## SPEEDREAD


State-by-state report from Georgetown University Health Policy Institute examines impact of Medicaid expansion, drop in rate of uninsured children and families.

these states. This is larger than the decrease in metropolitan areas of expansion states (9 percentage points) and larger than the decrease in small towns and rural areas in states that did not accept the expansion (6 percentage points).

For children, the data show a clear correlation between increases in Medicaid coverage and decreases in the rate of uninsured kids in small towns and rural areas.

The uninsured rate for children in these areas declined by 3 percentage points nationally during the time period examined. Nevada had the largest decline in the rate of uninsured children — a 14 percent-point drop — in small towns and rural areas. Texas had the largest decline in the number of uninsured children, with 52,000 kids in small towns and rural areas gaining health coverage.

"The declining number of uninsured shown in our research, especially in small towns and rural areas, is striking," said co-author Jack Hoadley, a research professor at the Georgetown University Health Policy Institute, part of the McCourt School of Public Policy. "It means that more people are protected when they need health care services."

The report provides a state-by-state breakdown of Medicaid coverage. In addition, interactive maps with county-level information are available on the Center for Children and Families website. This report primarily relies on data from the Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS). For more information, visit the Rural Health Policy Project at <http://bit.ly/2r9vSZq>. 

# Congress begins work to reauthorize National Flood Insurance Program

As the National Flood Insurance Program's (NFIP) current authorization will expire on Sept. 30, 2017, both the House and Senate have begun to circulate draft legislation that would reauthorize the program beyond September.

The NFIP which is managed by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is designed to reduce the impact of flooding on private and public structures by providing affordable insurance to property owners, and by encouraging communities to adopt and enforce floodplain management regulations.

In the Senate, Sens. Bill Cassidy (R-La.) and Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.) have released draft bipartisan legislation that would extend the program's authorization. The new legislation titled the Flood Insurance Affordability and Sustainability Act of 2017 would reauthorize the NFIP for a 10-year term from 2017-2027. The current draft would also promote overall financial solvency of the program by giving FEMA the authority to cede a portion of the flood insurance program's risk to private insurance markets at rates and on terms that would be determined by FEMA to be reasonable and appropriate. Ensuring long-term financial

solvency has been a key priority in talks to reauthorize the NFIP which is currently over \$24 billion in debt.

Important to note for counties, the draft legislation would provide greater investment in flood mitigation and resiliency as the legislation stipulates that FEMA will be required to reallocate funds to better finance pre-disaster mitigation and flood mitigation assistance programs which could yield an approximate \$400 million annually for flood mitigation activities. Also, the draft legislation would reauthorize the National Flood Mapping Program which is the official public source for flood hazard information produced in support of the NFIP.


Important for home owners and county residents, the draft legislation would provide certain low-income residents with vouchers to offset the cost of flood insurance if their premiums and fees result in their housing costs exceeding 40 percent of their household income. Additionally, the draft legislation would modernize coverage limits to align with actual replacement costs of residential and non-residential structures damaged by floods by increasing coverage limits from \$250,000 to \$500,000 for residential structures and \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 for multi-

family and businesses structures.

In the House, the Financial Services Committee's released draft text for six pieces of legislation to reauthorize the NFIP that may be combined into one piece of legislation down the road.

- The first bill would address affordability and consumer costs
- The second bill would address private market development and consumer choice
- The third bill would address reforming the flood mapping process
- The fourth bill would address enhancing the NFIP's mitigation process
- The fifth bill would address strengthening taxpaying protections
- The sixth and final bill would address NFIP claims processing reforms

In the coming weeks NACo will take a deep dive and do an analysis of each of the bills to help provide insight on the potential impact to counties, and potential changes local governments would like to see prior to the legislation being formally introduced.

As Congress continues to work on legislation to reauthorize the NFIP, NACo will reach out to lawmakers to ensure that the needs of counties and their residents are taken into consideration. 

# White House launches busy Infrastructure Week

By Kevan Stone  
associate legislative director

President Donald Trump launched what the White House is calling its "Infrastructure Week," beginning June 4 with an East Room speech, outlining the administration's principles for reforming the nation's air-traffic control system (ATC). The White House scheduled events in and out of Washington that allowed Trump to highlight his vision for an infrastructure plan that will cover aviation, rail, road and maritime infrastructures.

Last month, in conjunction with its FY18 federal budget request, the White House released

a fact sheet titled Infrastructure Initiative, with ATC reform prominent on that agenda. While a presidential administration spearheading this push is relatively new, the call for ATC privatization is one that has been around since the Clinton Administration. House Transportation and Infrastructure chairman Bill Shuster (R-Pa.), a longtime advocate of ATC reform, has used the presidential momentum at his back for a renewed push to accomplish this effort.

The president and longtime advocates detailed the same rationale for reform that many have echoed for decades. No-

body disputes that the nation's ATC system relies on technology more than a century old. Ground-based radar has been in use for flight tracking and air-traffic management since before World War II. Other countries in the past 20 years have successfully migrated to a global positioning satellite (GPS) form of air-traffic control. This safer technology, however, requires a major financial investment to implement. The United States has been working towards this technology, called The Next Generation Air Transportation System, or NextGen, at

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# EPA delays air emission rules for municipal landfills

By Julie Ufner  
associate legislative director

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) plans to halt the implementation of two rules relating to emissions at municipal solid waste (MSW) landfills. The “Standards of Performance for Municipal Solid Waste Landfills” and “Emission Guidance and Compliance Times for Municipal Solid Waste Landfills” were finalized in August 2016 and set specific emission standards for new and existing landfills. The EPA estimates that the rules affect close to 1,000 MSW facilities nationwide, many of which are operated by counties.

According to a statement from the EPA, the 2016 regulations would cost MSW facilities more than \$100 million per year to install and monitor air emission systems. Posted in the *Federal Register* on May 31, the EPA officially announced it will implement a 90-day stay at the request of three industry groups.

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt claimed the temporary hold will allow stakeholders “to review these requirements, assess economic impacts and provide feedback to the agency.” The EPA will continue reevaluating the two rules until Aug. 29.

Specifically, the EPA plans to “reconsider” six topics within the rule:

- Tier 4 emissions reporting
- Annual liquids reporting
- Corrective action timeline procedures
- Overlapping applicability with other rules
- The definition of cover penetration, and
- Design approval.

The United States contains more than 2,000 active landfills and counties play an integral role in collecting and storing municipal waste. Local governments are major owners of MSW facilities and are subject to the cost of complying with environmental regulations.

NACo supports uniform landfill standards that are performance-based. **CN**

# Drone legislation touts local control

By Kevan Stone  
associate legislative director

The past few weeks have seen the courts and Congress focus their attention on unmanned aerial systems (UAS), AKA “drones.” Counties, which have embraced UAS technology for such uses as emergency response and infrastructure inspection, have been watching these developments since they will affect the ways they use and enforce laws that keep citizens safe.

## Drone registration gets the boot

In December of 2015, the FAA issued a rule requiring that all model (non-commercial) UAS pilots register their systems with the federal government.

The rule, which had not been formally finalized, required model aircraft owners to provide their names, email and physical addresses; pay a \$5 registration fee; and display a unique drone ID number at all times. Those who failed to comply could face civil and criminal penalties.

This requirement did not sit well with some drone enthusiasts and industry leaders, and they went to court to fight the rule. They won. The court immediately ceased the requirement to register recreational drones. This will make identifying drone operators that much harder since there will now be no formal method to log who is operating recreational drones.

## Congress could get involved

In Congress, however, there is renewed activity to assist local governments to have a say as to who, how and when drone operators may operate their aircraft. A bipartisan quartet of lawmakers, Democratic Sens. Diane Feinstein of California and Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut joined Republican Sens. Tom Cotton of Arkansas and Mike Lee of Utah in sponsoring the *Drone*

## DRONE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

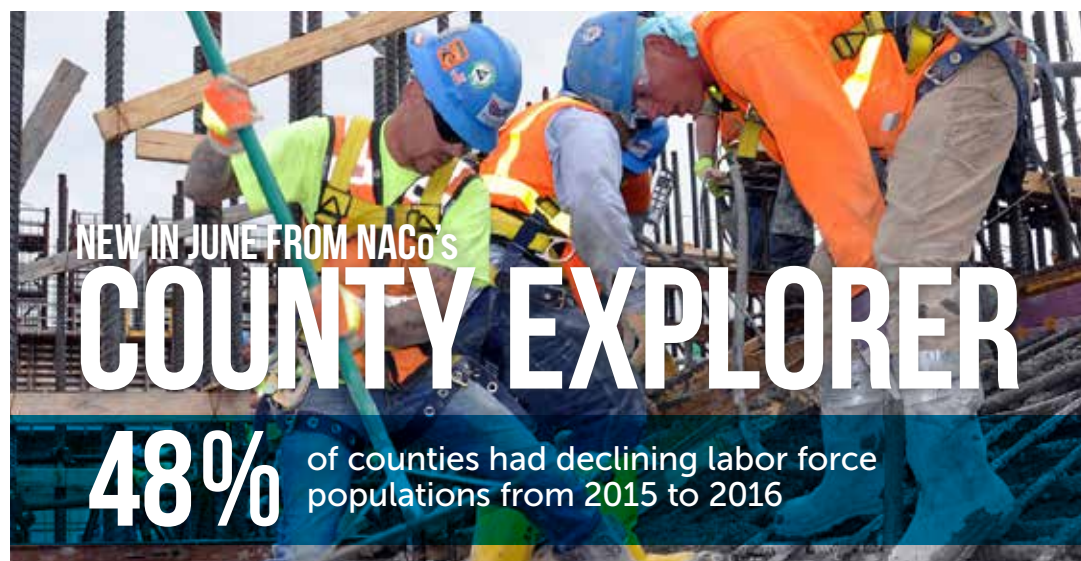
In addition to supporting this legislation, NACo continues to make progress within the FAA Drone Advisory Committee. NACo is the only local government organization with membership on the full committee and subcommittee and task group levels. DAC will pay an official visit, currently in the planning stages, to NACo’s Annual Conference in Franklin County, Ohio.

## Federalism Act of 2017.

This legislation would let local governments decide how hobbyists and businesses can operate their drones below an altitude of 200 feet. The bill also mandates the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to select up to 10 state, local and tribal governments for a two-year long pilot program on developing local drone rules. During these pilot programs, the FAA would provide technical assistance to the local governments; determine with the governments how to enforce the rules; and act as an intermediary between the local governments and federal agencies that are trying to create a national drone air traffic management system.

In introducing the bill, Feinstein said, “State, local, and tribal governments have a legitimate interest in protecting public safety and privacy from the misuse of drones. This bill allows communities to create low-altitude speed limits, local no-drone zones or rules that are appropriate to their own circumstances.”

Cotton commented, “This bill will return power to regulate everyday drone use to the proper level, states and local communities. By passing this legislation, we will protect private property rights and allow local communities to tailor drone rules to their specific needs.” **CN**

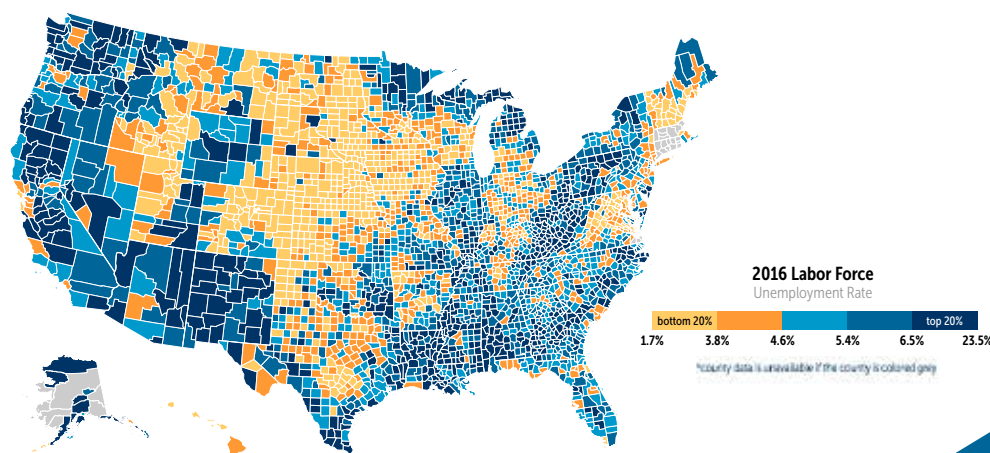


**41%**

of county employees work in health, hospitals, justice and public safety

**45%**

of counties have no broadband access for more than half of their rural population



Source: NACo Analysis of Bureau of Labor Statistics - Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS), 2016

[www.NACo.org/CountyExplorer](http://www.NACo.org/CountyExplorer)

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# New administration means new opportunities for WIR



The Western Interstate Region Board of Directors meets at the Sunriver Resort in Deschutes County, Ore. May 24. Photo by Charlie Ban

**By Charlie Ban**  
senior staff writer

The change in the White House is giving counties in Western states a chance to assert their interests and priorities as the Washington establishment resets itself for the first time in eight years, which was both reassurance and a challenge at the Western Interstate Region's (WIR) conference, held May 23–26 in Deschutes County (Sunriver), Ore.

Even though President Trump's budget proposal, released a day before the WIR business meeting, called for the elimination of the Secure Rural Schools Act and

cuts to Medicaid and Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) funding — all of which would hurt public lands counties if enacted — his administration's repeal of the "Waters of the U.S.," the Bureau of Land Management's Planning 2.0 rule and use of the Congressional Review Act are inspiring optimism. So, too, is Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's review of the Antiquities Act of 1906, which has been accompanied by indications that local input will be stressed in future federal decisions on public lands.

"As I have talked about Planning 2.0, and your effort to have it repealed, the administration has stressed the



Rodney Whitlock, ML Strategies, analyzes federal health care policy during the General Session May 26. Photo by Hugh Clarke

importance of county government and local government and I think you are seeing that from Secretary Zinke's philosophy," said Cynthia Mo-

ses-Nedd, the Department of Interior's liaison to NACo.

But even with those early victories, county officials were implored throughout

the conference to actively communicate their needs to the federal government, while there was a chance to get in close to the ground floor.

"It's up to us," said Robert Cope, past WIR president and a former Lemhi County, Idaho commissioner. "What we cannot do, what we can't afford to do, is sit in the courthouse and wait for the agencies to come to us and say 'come coordinate.' That's going to get you a dead end 100 percent of the time."

WIR First Vice President Tommie Cline Martin agreed.

"Me thinks there's great chaos going on in D.C. and

*See WIR page 6*



# Transparency, accountability will win back public trust

## From WIR page 5

opportunity is greatest in an area of great chaos," she said in a meeting of the Public Lands Steering Committee. "And we can turn that to our advantage."

## No changes in leadership

The WIR executive committee remained largely the same, with Joel Bousman, a Sublette County, Wyo. commissioner, starting his full term as president; Martin, a supervisor in Gila County, Ariz., serving as first vice president; and Mariposa County, Calif. Supervisor Kevin Cann's serving as second vice president. Gordon Cruikshank, commissioner, Valley County, Idaho, is the immediate past president.

## Other highlights

Host Deschutes County showed off how it had transformed its economy from a resource-dependent logging center to a tourism and home-building powerhouse, with special attention paid to the local rise in craft beer brewing.

Conference workshops focused on wildfire prevention partnerships, essential service sharing, how counties do business with residents who rely on cash, which will increase as the cannabis industry develops.

Others sessions addressed how counties could best plan around the large amount of public land in their borders and how renewable energy generation could be the key to a growing job market, and how the changes in the National Flood Insurance Program could affect counties.

Attendees heard from a variety of Western leaders during general sessions, including Oregon Secretary of State Dennis Richardson, former Wyoming Gov. Jim Geringer, former Rep. Mary Bono (R-Calif.) and for-

mer Harney County, Ore. Judge Steve Grasty.

Oregon Secretary of State Richardson said the best way to regain public trust after the divisive 2016 election, was with

transparency and accountability, and that was best done with expanded voting access.

He touted Oregon's vote-by-mail system and laws that extended the lifetime of a

voter's registration, which he said 60,000 voters took advantage of in the last election.

"These are individuals who otherwise would not have voted," he said.

"It's an opportunity to try and show people that government is working for them."

Geringer, who is now director of policy and public strategies for the Environmental Systems Research Institute at Esri, talked about the difference that GIS made for him in state government in a way that paper documents could not, remarking that information on paper is often obsolete before it reaches you.

"Visualization provides context for how you explain something," he said. "It's a platform for decision makers and for information integration."

Bono, who served five terms in the House, recounted when the opioid epidemic became personal for her.

Her son called her while he was at college and told her he was addicted to painkillers.

"He said, 'my friends and I all thought pills were the safe drug,'" she said.

"They came in bottles with a doctor's name on them. We weren't doing methamphetamine or cocaine."

She praised local efforts, singling out Lake County, Ill.'s program that refers addicts to counseling rather than prosecution. **CN**



**Former Rep. Mary Bono (R-Calif.) recounts her growing interest in battling the opioid epidemic, which started when her son became addicted to painkillers.** Photo by Hugh Clarke



**Rachel Richards, Pitkin County, Colo. commissioner, speaks up during the General Session.** Photo by Hugh Clarke



**Former Gov. Jim Geringer (R-Wyo.) talks about GIS mapping.** Photo by Charlie Ban

*Next year's WIR conference will be held May 22-25 in Blaine County (Sun Valley), Idaho.*

# Retired Harney County, Ore. judge shares experience from Malheur occupation

By Charlie Ban  
senior staff writer

When outside influences pressured his rural community, former Harney County, Ore. Judge Steve Grasty saw the long-standing bonds between residents outlast the anti-government intruders and start bringing life back to normal.

Though he is now retired from county government, Grasty was no less inspired by the local support that carried him and his colleagues when he recounted the occupation at the Western Interstate Region's General Session audience.

Over the course of 41 days, starting Jan. 2, 2016, anti-government extremists occupied the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge and intimidated residents in the county seat of Burns with a cast of militia members. Ringleader Ammon Bundy called for local control of federal land and fought the incarcerations of two local men who had pled guilty to arson on Bureau of Land Management territory. Though Bundy was acquitted of charges relating to the occupation, Grasty believes the reactions of the people in Harney County spoke louder.

"Maybe the court system failed us," he said. "They might have not kicked their butts but our community did... Our community pulled together and said we don't need you, you're not our solution."

"That was the bedrock behind everything."

Grasty was honored by WIR as the recipient of the Dale Sowards Award, given annually to the person who has demonstrated outstanding service to public lands counties.

Harney is the 10th largest county in the continental United States by area, and the federal government owns three-quarters of the land. With many federal employees among the residents, the con-



Former Harney County, Ore. Judge Steve Grasty speaks at WIR General Session. Photo by Hugh Clarke

ditions were ripe for Bundy, son of rancher Cliven Bundy who carried on a standoff with Bureau of Land Management officials less than two years prior in Nevada, to stoke anti-government tensions, particularly regarding Western lands.

But, Grasty said, Ammon Bundy lacked his father's ranching background, and most Harney County locals picked up on his lack of authenticity.

"Ammon Bundy is not a rancher, he's not a cowboy, he's a used-parts salesman," Grasty said. "I don't know about his dad, but I know Ammon, and he doesn't ranch."

Grasty said that an FBI analyst who went to work for the BLM after the Cliven Bundy standoff in Nevada had deduced, from tracking social media, that another conflict was brewing.

"She predicted this, not

where not when, but the closer it got to Jan. 2, she was saying it could happen here," he said. "Her foresight...we should have paid attention to it."

Grasty met Bundy shortly after he moved to Harney County from Idaho and formed a "Committee of Safety," a pre-Revolutionary War body that sought to act like a shadow government and replace the County Court, despite representing only 22 of the county's 4,400 registered voters. He offered Grasty his selective interpretation of the Constitution regarding the arson case, but did not want to hear a counterpoint. He remarked that he initially dismissed the committee's efforts which he later regretted.

"If someone forms a Committee of Safety in your county, you want to figure out what's going on," Grasty said, including who signed it and what

groups are represented. Many, including an Oregon legislator, showed up to lend support to the movement.

Soon after that meeting with Grasty, a public rally boiled over as Bundy, his brother Ryan and armed associates occupied the refuge headquarters, outside of town. Grasty and Sheriff David Ward served as the public faces of the county, taking the brunt of animosity from the Bundys and their allies.

With militia members staked out through town and the county courthouse surrounded by a cyclone fence, public meetings got heated, as FBI and allies of the occupiers stared each other down in a high school gymnasium filled with more than 300 people, most of whom were opposed to the occupation, even as Bundy and his supporters tried to pick at the seams between the citizens of the com-

munity and the federal government's presence.

Grasty had seen enough, "We're going to have a shootout? In my town?" he said. "Over this ridiculous crazy guy who isn't a rancher, who undermined many of your values. He undermined our community and to me that was the most intimidating part of the whole thing. To think of having an armed standoff there."

He warned law enforcement that he was about to "go after" Bundy.

"I turned and walked across the gymnasium floor and I said 'Mr. Bundy it's time for you to go home,'" he said. "This community has told you over and over they've had enough, you made your point. Go home."

He offered to drive him out of the state personally, which

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# Failed recall attempt vindicated Harney County, Ore. judge

From GRASTY page 7

Bundy declined.

The tension continued, with federal agents unwilling to remove the occupation, and in late January, two parents came to Grastly and said they would remove Bundy if nobody else would.

"That's not the thing you want to happen," he said. "I called Gov. Kate Brown and she told me to sit tight. She didn't say so but I think she knew they were going to take him down that day

(in a traffic stop)."

Months after Bundy was arrested, a recall effort against Grasty failed, giving him a larger margin of victory than any prior race he had run. He had decided not to run again long before the occupation, so the recall served mainly to waste more county money, he said.

Grasty credited Association of Oregon Counties Communications Director Laura Cleland with helping him keep his head while national media focused on his corner of Oregon.

"I'm not a professional PR guy, though we play that game pretty often," he said. "I think the difference between me and President Trump is that I listen to my managers."

But on a serious note, he praised the help he had from the state association, the state government and the federal congressional delegation.

"It was calming and helpful, and I'll always be grateful," he said. "If there's someone you can turn to out there, don't forget about them."

Furthermore, he regretted not being more firm that county staff make use of employee assistance programs.

"These people are not used to going through a metal detector to go to work," he said. "The more often you deal with events the longer it lasts and the harder it is to recover from this, and we still have courthouse employees who were affected by this stress."

And in the end, that was what bothered him the most about the occupation and its spillover

into Harney County.

"Bundy and his friends undermined some basic values in this community and nation that will take a long time to come back together," he said. "The principles of WIR figure in there — protecting public lands, find sustainable uses in our communities, and also trying to get ahead of the curve of what became absolutely crazy."

"Our community said 'We like an open courthouse. We like access to our elected officials. We trust in them.'" **CN**

## NACo election credentials, voting info forms mailed

Credentials and voting information for NACo's 2017 election were mailed on June 2 to the chief elected official (CEO) and clerk of each member county. Registered attendees for the annual conference also received a link to credentials information via e-mail. In order to vote, a county must have paid its 2017 dues and have at least one paid registration to the annual conference. The CEO must indicate on the credentials form, the names of the voting delegate and alternate authorized to pick up a county's voting materials. There can only be one alternate designated on the form.

State association of counties presidents will pick up unclaimed ballots on the evening before the election unless a county's CEO indicates on the credentials form that the state association president cannot pick up the ballot. A county may also choose not to cast its ballot.

Each member county must return a form, signed by the chief elected official, in order to vote. In addition to being mailed, the credentials form is also available via a link on the NACo website at [www.naco.org/governance](http://www.naco.org/governance). The deadline to return the form is Friday, July 7.

This year's election will be held on Monday, July 24 at

10 a.m. during the Business Meeting at the NACo Annual Conference in Franklin County, Ohio. Counties will vote on resolutions that set NACo legislation and association policy for the coming year and changes to the NACo bylaws. Delegates will also elect NACo officers for the coming year. The position of second vice president is typically contested.

The county must be a NACo member "in good standing" in order to vote, meaning that a county's dues for 2017 must be paid before the voting occurs. Also, the county must have at least one paid registration for the annual conference and have proper credentials.

The credentials form attests to a county's eligibility to vote. The form contains information on the number of votes a county is eligible to cast, as well as the identity of the delegate who is authorized to cast the county's vote.

The number of votes per county is determined by the amount of dues it pays. Dues are based on population. The maximum number of votes a county can receive is 121.

- Counties with dues of \$450 to \$499 receive one vote
- Counties with dues of \$500 to \$999 receive two votes
- Counties with dues of

\$1,000 to \$1,499 receive three votes, and so on.

The Credentials Committee ensures that all member counties participating in the election process, either for NACo officers or policy, are able to do so in the most efficient and fair manner. The committee confirms requests for credentials pick up, helps guarantee that the process runs smoothly, resolves credentials disputes, and assists during the election itself.

The 2017 Credentials Committee members include: Alisha Bell, commissioner, Wayne County, Mich. — chair; J.D. Clark, judge, Wise County, Texas — member; and Don Saylor, supervisor, Yolo County, Calif. — member.

The NACo bylaws also provide for a parliamentarian, reading clerk and tally clerk to aid in the election process. They include Grover Robinson, commissioner, Escambia County, Fla. — reading clerk; Debbie Wise, county circuit clerk, Randolph County, Ark. — tally clerk; and Ginger Delegal, commissioner, Escambia County, Fla. — parliamentarian **CN**

*If you have any questions, please contact Alex Koroknay-Palicz, membership coordinator at [akpalicz@naco.org](mailto:akpalicz@naco.org) or 888.407.6226, ext. 291.*

## FCC wants to streamline telecom siting process

From FCC page 2

"minimize costs and delays." Representatives from State Historic Preservation Offices in 35 states expressed their concerns to the FCC in a conference call May 22.

Currently state and local regulation is a provision in the Communications Act. The agency sought comment on the measure, which they said acknowledges the importance of state and local regulation but, they said the provision should also protect against regulations that impose barriers to entry or are otherwise unreasonable.

In all, the FCC asked for comments on 130 points in the 66-page NPRM and NOI.

The FCC clarified that all comments are due by June 15 and reply comments by July 17. The NOI was published in the Federal Register May 11; the NPRM was published May 16. To avoid confusion, the FCC noted that comments are due 30 days from May 16 and reply comments 60 days from May 16. To comment, visit: <https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/filings/express>; in the top line, labeled "Proceedings," type "17-84."

There is no specific timeline for when the FCC commissioners might put the measures to a vote. "Given the chairman's emphasis on infra-

structure," an FCC spokesman said, "he is likely to make this a higher priority."

Meanwhile state governments are already getting into the act. Virginia, Florida, Colorado and Arizona have all passed legislation further streamlining local regulations. The Florida bill is "a one-way street," Eric Poole, Florida Association of Counties deputy director of public policy, told a state Senate committee.

"It says the telecommunications industry can come into any county and city, and require us to give them a permit to co-locate one of their small cell packages on any of our utility poles, signs or traffic arm signals," he said. "We can't tell them no."

Virginia State Sen. Chap Petersen (D), a former city council member, said: "We're telling a for-profit industry we're going to allow you to supersede all the local zoning regulations. What do we get in return? A comparison has been made to water, power and sewer, but we're not requiring anything from them [wireless telecommunications companies]." **CN**

*CTIA, which represents the wireless communications industry, notes that state lawmakers in 19 states have introduced similar legislation.*



# Law enforcement support for ‘Stepping Up’ is ‘absolutely huge’

From STEPPING UP page 1

areas that represent about 40 percent of the U.S. population.

“An estimated 2 million people with serious mental illnesses, almost three-quarters of whom have substance-abuse disorders, are booked into local jails each year,” NACo Executive Director Matt Chase told an audience gathered to hear a panel discussion.

Federal and state funding barriers, limited opportunities for local law enforcement training and no alternatives for arrests have created the epidemic across the country, Chase said. The result: County jails end up as de facto mental health hospitals. A bottom-up approach was launched two years ago to come up with solutions to the problem.

Stepping Up “is a young initiative that is really in service to a long-standing and old problem, as we know the crisis of people with mental illness in jails,” said Richard Cho, director, Behavioral Health Program, Council of State Governments Justice Center. “We don’t want to be here 20 years from now talking about this issue.”

“Collaboration is critical and shared expertise is what helped us start this initiative and is even more important as we continue and look at the critical work that is being done in this space,” said Dan Gillison, executive director, American Psychiatric Association Foundation.

USA Today reporter Kevin Johnson kicked off a panel discussion on the problem by looking back at a tragic story: Police came in contact with a computer contractor found to be mentally ill a month before he fatally shot nine people Sept. 16, 2013, at the Navy Yard in Washington, D.C. A month earlier, when police in Newport, R.I. were called to a hotel where he was staying, he complained that unidentified people were sending vibrations into his body, Johnson said. Since he had not committed a crime, police did what they could at the scene and later



San Miguel County, Colo. Sheriff Bill Masters; Tom Thomson, division director, Adult Mental Health Services, Heart of Texas Region Mental Health Mental Retardation Center (McLennan County, Texas); and Kate Farinholt, executive director, NAMI, Maryland, take part in a panel discussion on mental illness in jails May 31 at NACo headquarters. Photo by Hugh Clarke

notified Naval authorities since he was in the Navy Reserve, but the warning was never forwarded to higher authorities, missing a possible opportunity to provide help for his mental illness, Johnson noted.

“What happened in Newport should be a wakeup call for all of us, because cases like this wash into the systems that you manage and confront you every day,” he said.

Several participants in Stepping Up from counties across the country talked about their experiences in a panel discussion.

## Sheriff adds space for the mentally ill

Starting July 1, it will be illegal to lock up the mentally ill in jails in Colorado. San Miguel County, Colo. Sheriff Bill Masters, a Stepping Up panelist, said his jail in Telluride is adding a new wing for those suffering from substance abuse problems, which can often go hand in hand with mental illness.

The area is too remote, about 70 miles over “bad roads” to get to the nearest hospital, so in San Miguel County, anyone who is suffering from some sort of mental illness episode might be taken to the jail’s administrative areas, he said.

“We house our mentally ill

even if they don’t commit a crime,” Masters said. “In winter time, it’s difficult to get people to the hospital and once you get there, there are no mental health beds. I’m the only 24-hour service in town with a warm bed for these people to stay in.”

## Funding for a 24-hour triage center

A behavioral health leadership team in McLennan County, Texas, which includes the county seat of Waco, is looking at how to repurpose funding in order to get the best bang for their buck, said Tom Thomas, division director, Adult Mental Health Services, Heart of Texas Region Mental Health Mental Retardation Center.

The county created the Behavioral Health Leadership Team with community stakeholders including the mayor, county judge, county administrator, as well as the heads of local hospitals and a psychiatric facility and local foundations, he said. They were tasked with looking at short-term and long-term solutions for the community and trying to identify funding.

They started counting the number of people who had behavioral health histories that were being booked into the jail or taken to the ER each month;

they found it averaged over 400 a month. The county sought out state funding and opened a 16-bed, 24-hour triage center for the mentally ill, instead of taking them to jail or the ER, where they faced an average wait time of 3.5 hours.

The number now being taken to jail or to the hospital is down to just over 100 per month. “We’re now not just talking about a return on investment, we’re talking about people here,” Thomas said.

## Creating consistent plans in Maryland

“The Stepping Up initiative is extremely exciting to us,” said Kate Farinholt, executive director, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), Maryland, who helped bring mental health courts and CIT (Crisis Intervention Team) to Baltimore City.

“In Maryland we are suburban, urban and rural,” she said. “Treating the mentally ill in Maryland is a patchwork...it’s not consistent. So, the Stepping Up initiative was extremely exciting to us. It will help create a consistent plan both for local and state level.”

“The value of Stepping Up is it brings all of the key roles together,” she said. “While telling our stories is trans-

formational, having a judge or police chief come and explain why this is important is absolutely huge. It’s transformational. It changes the culture because it’s coming from within the culture.”

Also appearing on the panel May 31 were Councilman Michael Brown of Spartanburg County, S.C. and Altha Stewart, M.D., associate professor of psychiatry and director, Center for Health in Justice Involved Youth at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis.

She is also president-elect of the American Psychiatric Association. Stewart was featured in *County News*’ May 1 special issue of Hot Topics, “Breaking the Cycle,” about the move to divert the mentally ill from jail.

## What’s next?

**June 29, July 6 webinars:** “Stepping Up: Conducting a Comprehensive Process Analysis and Inventory of Services for People with Mental Illnesses in Jails.”

Join the initiative here: <https://stepuptogether.org/take-action>

Watch the May 31 panel discussion at the Stepping Up Facebook page.

# Greene County, Mo. plays ... and wins 'The Great Game of Government'

By Mary Ann Barton  
senior staff writer

After experiencing layoffs and cuts to services, Greene County, Mo. became the first county government to embark on an experiment five years ago called *The Great Game of Government*. Its goal: to improve their cash balance and accurately forecast revenues and expenditures each month. One payoff: selection as a finalist in the prestigious Innovations in American Government Award program sponsored by Harvard University's Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation.

*The Great Game of Government* gets its name from *The Great Game of Business*, a book by local businessman Jack Stack, whose theories teach employees to act like owners, using open-book management techniques. Open-book means opening all financial books and records to employees and citizens to show how their actions impact the bottom line.

Stack met with the county in 2011 about adapting the game to government. Afterward, "we all looked at each other and said 'It'll just never work in government,'" said County Auditor Cindy Stein.

Flash forward to 2012: "We weren't really seeing a recovery after the recession, we still weren't getting off center," said Stein. "So, we said, 'What can it hurt? We're not digging ourselves out.'" At that point, the county had a little under \$4 million in cash reserves, but should have been closer to \$9 million, she said, noting "we have payroll every two weeks and it's \$1 million."

Stein and then-County Administrator Tim Smith spearheaded the launch of the game with the blessing of the county commissioners.



Greene County (Mo.) employees go over budget projections during weekly "Great Game of Government" meeting.

Photo courtesy of Greene County

## Sharing the numbers

Before launching *The Great Game of Government*, Greene County operated like a lot of other counties. Its financial offices met periodically with the County Commission to deliver financial reports and offer advice on spending.

Open-book management obligates each county office to assess its spending, make projections and evaluate its impact on the overall budget with county employees included in discussions.

Sharing budget information from all the county departments with everyone was an eye-opener, Stein said. "It's not an easy cultural change. Most folks didn't know the numbers for their own department. Everyone should know the numbers."

Financial information is shared on the county's "financial dashboard" on its website, featuring detailed monthly budget projection numbers for the county.

"We brought all the de-

partments together and really started solving budget problems collectively," Stein said, noting that the county encourages all employees to share cost-cutting ideas no matter how big or small.

A custodian who attended an employee meeting went back to his boss and told him that if they started measuring their cleaning liquids, it might save money, and it did, Stein said. "Lo and behold, we didn't have to order as often. We can all relate to that." Other employees have made suggestions for changing building plans that have saved thousands more dollars.

Previously, when the county would go over budgets, each department would make a presentation separately; now, when budgets are presented, "everyone comes in together," Stein said, noting that handouts are made and information is shared on a big screen. This way, employees discover the "stories behind the budget requests."

## Great Game staff 'huddle'

At the center of the Great Game of Government is employee participation, which includes a weekly meeting called The Huddle, where about 50 out of 800 employees from all the county's departments come together each Tuesday morning at 8:12 a.m. in a room at the historic courthouse.

"It's not 8:10, it's not 8:15, you don't forget when it comes up on the calendar," said Angie Crews, an accounting specialist for Greene County who helps plan the meetings. The meetings are made up of an ever-revolving number of employees, so everyone has a chance to attend, and minutes, photos and presentations are posted on the financial dashboard on the Web site. At the first meeting, a coach from the Great Game of Business came to facilitate to kick it off.

Depending on the week, the meetings feature:

- "Commissioner Corner,"

where employees hold a Q&A with a commissioner (or all three). "It's open game," said Crews, "they ask questions about whatever's going on around the county."

- "Character First." With information provided by Strata Leadership LLC, important workplace behaviors are discussed, such as "alertness and being aware of things around you," Crews said.

- Motivational ideas are presented that employees have discovered from attending "Gathering of the Games," an annual conference where businesses and other groups like non-profits that are playing The Great Game of Business share best practices.

- Learning about different departments "so employees get the whole picture," not only about what other employees do, but how what they do impacts the public and budget decisions. "We recently had the sheriff's office

See GREAT GAME page 11



# Checks and Balance: That Sinking Feeling Outside the Beltway

By **Kate Ackley**  
CQ Roll Call

Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe has hit the road to survive the Trump era, traipsing to the U.S. Capitol and around the globe doing damage control.

Donald Trump's presidency and the GOP Congress have upended a lot more than Washington. State and local governments are under assault as they grapple with potential federal budget cuts and other policy changes that could ripple throughout the country.

They're worried about a slash in Medicaid funding, a proposal to end a long-standing deduction for state and local income taxes, as well as plans to recast immigration and environmental laws.

McAuliffe, a Democrat who leads the bipartisan National Governors Association, is making frequent visits to Capitol Hill. He also recently returned from a "diplomatic" jaunt to Mexico and plans to travel to Europe and Canada. Trump has targeted longtime allies of the United States, including

Canada and Mexico, over trade and immigration.

"We've had to double down. I've had to do extensively more travel to repair the damage because of his insults," says McAuliffe, a longtime Clinton family confidant and former K Street operator.

On the Hill, he notes, "I will lean in and visit senators and members of Congress."

The state of state and local lobbying has hit a decidedly perilous and consequential patch. With congressional earmarks gone, lobbyists for states, cities and counties can't rely on lawmakers to fund specific programs. They worry that executive branch grants, which have largely replaced earmarks, may be subject to the political whims of the Trump team.

"I would say this is the most important time in the last three decades for state and local governments in Washington," says Matthew Chase, executive director of the National Association of Counties. "As I tell our members, we went from dealing with nickel-and-dime

issues to trillion-dollar issues."

On top of that list, Chase says, are an estimated \$880 billion in cuts to Medicaid over 10 years in the GOP health care bill, the Trump administration's proposal to terminate some housing and infrastructure programs, and the potential loss of \$1.3 trillion in revenue if the House GOP is successful in scrapping the state and local tax deduction.

So-called sanctuary cities, which want to stay out of the fray on immigration policy, are afraid Trump will target them for funding cuts if they don't cooperate with federal authorities.

Groups such as the National Association of Counties have invited lawmakers and administration officials to visit local governments, and they're scheduling meetings on Capitol Hill.

"I'll tell you, our members represent all political stripes," Chase says. "They are most concerned about the disconnect in Washington from what is happening on the ground in their communities."

It's not all grim. Local governments, like corporations and business groups, are excited about the federal focus on regulatory relief, hoping that a rollback of federal regulations will spur jobs and economic investment on their turfs.

But when it comes to funding cuts, lobbyists for states and cities are making it personal with members of Congress by framing a proposed program elimination as something that will harm their constituents. State and local governments can use Republican rhetoric about the importance of states' rights and local control to their advantage.

Toni Harp, mayor of New Haven, Conn., says her city is chartered by its state and isn't required to be an extension of the federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

"We've also made that clear to the people who live in our town," she says.

Harp worries about current and future administration grants but says she's relying on the African American Mayors Association for help in reach-

ing lawmakers and the Trump White House. "It's really effective to work with groups so they just don't see New Haven, Conn., as wanting something but seeing there are hundreds of other cities that think this is important too."

McAuliffe blasted Trump's fiscal 2018 budget proposals and the House-passed health care bill that the administration backed.

Still, the Virginia governor says he and his fellow state leaders want to work with the Trump administration and the GOP Congress to expand federal investment into the nation's infrastructure and other areas to create jobs.

He told Mexican officials during his recent trip that unlike Trump, he intends "to build bridges, not walls."

But the toughest bridges may be the ones to the White House and Capitol Hill.

*Kate Ackley covers lobbying for CQ Roll Call. This article first appeared in CQ Roll Call, May 15, 2017. Reprinted with permission.*

## Greene County, Mo. plays 'The Great Game of Government'

From **GREAT GAME** page 10

come in and talk about their Civil Department, which had recently moved into the courthouse," Crews said. Other employees are encouraged to ask questions. "We try to teach employees to not question the people, but question the process, the numbers."

• Representatives from the Chamber of Commerce, United Way or Big Brothers, Big Sisters, often come to speak at the meetings.

• On the fourth Tuesday of

the month, employees share spending projections for their departments. Employees who come closest to projections receive awards, Stein said. As the game has progressed, some come as close to half of 1 percentage point when predicting spending or revenue.

• When there is a fifth Tuesday of the month, County Treasurer Justin Hill emcees county-themed game shows based on "Jeopardy!" or "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?" where employees guess the answers to questions based

on information from previous meetings. "He makes it fun," said Crews.

### How are we doing?

Here's a look at how Greene County's general cash balance has changed over recent years; the county began playing "The Great Game of Government" in 2012 and in earnest at the beginning of 2013, Stein said.

- 2008: \$2.17 million
- 2009: \$4.35 million
- 2010: \$3.49 million
- 2011: \$3.86 million

- 2012: \$4.4 million
- 2013: \$6.47 million
- 2014: \$9.9 million
- 2015: \$11.96 million

Historically, departments had taken the attitude that if their budget wasn't spent, they would lose those funds in the next year, Stein said. "We now have a system to reward the savings that departments bring to the county. Departments no longer project their full budgets as they continue to encourage employees to conserve resource and share innovative ideas."

By 2015, the county was able to bring their cash reserves up to nearly \$12 million, which allowed it to give employees their first cost-of-living raise in nearly six years and fund several maintenance projects which had been delayed due to budget constraints. **CN**

*The Missouri Association of Counties recognized Greene County for its financial transparency through open-book management with its 2016 Achievement Award.*

## BRIGHT IDEAS | OAKLAND COUNTY, Mich.

# Realtors Give Boost to Foreclosure Sales in Partnership with Michigan County

### PROBLEM:

Trying to sell foreclosed properties to a wider audience than just investors.

### SOLUTION:

Partner with local real estate agents to create the "Realtor to the Rescue" program, matching up potential local buyers with foreclosed homes and business properties.

By Mary Ann Barton  
senior staff writer

Like many counties across the country, Oakland County, Mich. has its share of residential and commercial foreclosed properties for sale. Several years ago, the county started a program called "Realtor to the Rescue" to help interested local families and businesses navigate what can be a confusing purchase process.

"I came in right as the foreclosure crisis was hitting at maximum force," said Oakland County Treasurer Andy Meisner, a former state lawmaker whose term as county treasurer began in 2009. Meisner started the program in hopes of getting more local families involved.

"Auctions are a mixed bag," he said. "You don't know who's going to show up." He said he preferred to get local residents to purchase the properties and



**Oakland County, Mich. Treasurer Andy Meisner and property specialist Jill Robinson discuss a foreclosed property.** Photo courtesy of Oakland County

not out-of-town investors who might just "sit on the property and see what happens" to property values.

The first year of the program, Meisner borrowed a county truck and took a lawn mower to properties, mowing the grass and cutting the shrubs.

"I tried to improve the appeal of the properties and then soon after, I had an epiphany," he said. "Hey, why are you re-inventing the wheel? There's a whole profession out there." I reached out to the real estate associations." He got in touch with the state association as well as the North Oakland County Board of Realtors. "I asked to speak to their board.

My message was: 'Ask not what your county can do for you. What can you do for your county?' I took a little liberty with President Kennedy's quote."

The public-private partnership, now in its sixth year, pays commissions to real estate agents, the county recovers delinquent property taxes, interest and fees from the sales, and residents and businesses put down roots in the county.

Participating realtors join an annual training session conducted by the treasurer's office about the tax foreclosure process as well as the terms, expectations and details of the program. Realtors then help drive foot traffic through select

properties, attracting a new category of auction participant and helping bottom lines for both the county and the realtor.

Here's how it works: The county emails its list of "Realtor to the Rescue" properties with lockbox codes to participating agents. The county hires cleaning crews to pick up any trash and clean the properties before making them available. Realtors register their potential buyers at the treasurer's office either in person or online before the day of the auction. Potential buyers can't owe delinquent taxes or have lost property to tax foreclosure in the past three years in the county.

The Oakland County Treasurer's Office holds a three-day live auction twice annually. Minimum bids are set at the amount owed on the property, including taxes, fees and interest. If a property fails to sell at the first sale, it's offered up again at the second sale at a lower price.

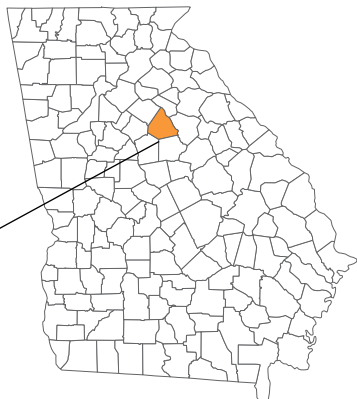
Not all foreclosed real estate makes it into the program. "We try to find more turn-key properties," Meisner said. "But they all have warts."

The properties that involve a real estate agent typically sell for higher amounts, with an average starting bid of \$19,000 and an average selling price of \$46,000; those that don't involve an agent usually start with an average bid of \$10,000 and sell for an average price of \$28,000. Real estate agents who successfully sell a property get commissions ranging from \$750 to \$1,500 per property. Those commissions are paid by the county from the auction revenue. To date, 181 homes have sold through the program, and 69 commercial properties. Nearly 200 real estate agents are involved.

"We shouldn't think we have all the answers," said Meisner, crediting the partnership with the real estate agents. "It really has been a story of success." **CN**

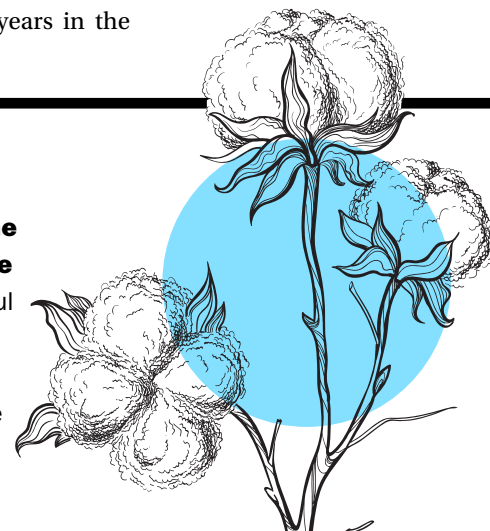
GET TO  
KNOW...

Morgan  
County,  
Ga.



### Welcome, Morgan County, Ga.

Outdoor enthusiasts will enjoy a visit to Morgan County, home to Georgia's largest state park, Hard Labor Creek State Park and to Lake Oconee, a reservoir bordered by beautiful lakefront homes. Those more interested in the history of the county may appreciate the Bostwick Cotton Gin Festival, proceeds of which help to renovate and restore the historic Susie Agnes Hotel.





# County jail hatches plan to scramble eggs and lives

**By Mary Ann Barton**  
senior staff writer

In Franklin County, N.Y., Sheriff Kevin Mulverhill and his staff recently hatched a plan that gives the traditional program of inmates caring for animals a new twist.

Last fall, at a morning staff meeting, they began to kick around the idea of adding a chicken coop and a flock of chicks to the jail compound as a way to provide structure and therapy to an inmate's day, Mulverhill said.

"And it's something for them to look forward to," he said. The program is designed for about four participants, with female and male inmates likely divided between morning and evening shifts gathering and washing the eggs, feeding and watering the chickens, as well as cleaning the coops, delivering the eggs to the kitchen at the jail and making sure the chickens are secured in the nesting area at night.

The program will be a reward for cooperative inmates who volunteer for it at the jail, which typically has a population of about 95 to 115 inmates who are awaiting trial, sentencing or are serving up to a one-year sentence. Volunteers will also undergo medical and mental health screening before they're selected.

The idea for the chicken program came up because one of the Franklin County Sheriff's Office employees raises chickens at home. "We're not the kind to reinvent the wheel," Mulverhill noted. "The undersheriff rais-



**Baby chicks huddle near heat lamps at the Franklin County, N.Y. jail. They are part of a new program at the jail that trains inmates to care for them and collect the eggs, once the chicks are grown.** Photo courtesy of Franklin County.

es chickens, and we found out that a couple of jails around the country are doing this."

After getting the blessing of the state health department, which said the jail could raise chickens as long as it was no more than 2,000 at a time, the next thing the Sheriff's Office needed was a chicken coop.

"We had to get three bids and an Amish family said they could

build it for \$850," said Mulverhill. Other bids came in around \$1,200. The coop measures 8 ft. x 10 ft. with nesting boxes and doors. The coop sits outside the jail recreation yard but inside a fence that surrounds the perimeter of the jail.

Next, the chicken coop needed to be outfitted before the arrival of the chicks. That required pine shavings for bedding, heat

lamps and a small corral in the coop so the chicks would stay together to stay warm when heat lamps aren't used. It gets cold in Franklin County (Canada is its northern neighbor) and on a recent June morning, Mulverhill said temperatures were in the 40s. "The coop will hold in the heat as long as there's no draft, and they produce their own heat," he said. And for

those cold winters? "We always have the heat lamps." Water bowls and feeding trays rounded out the necessary accoutrements for the chicks' chateau.

After the coop was properly outfitted, it came time to order the chicks. The Sheriff's Office ordered 50 of them from Murray McMurray Hatchery out of Iowa: Rhode Island Reds and White Leghorns, which will give the jail population both brown and white eggs. The chicks are delivered through the U.S. mail in large boxes with holes poked in the top, which is legal as long as the chicks are just a day old and can reach their destination within 72 hours of hatching.

Soon enough, "we got a call from the post office to come pick up our chicks," Mulverhill said. The chicks cost the Sheriff's Office \$149.99. The jail will save \$600 a year on eggs they usually purchase for inmates. Mulverhill estimates that the chicks will be ready to start laying eggs by the fall, at about 30 dozen eggs a month. Currently, the county pays \$24.95 for 30 dozen eggs. The jail typically uses 60 dozen eggs a month.

Mulverhill's advice for other counties considering adding a chicken program to their county jail? "Do your homework and make sure you have enough property."

Finally, he noted: "We're not doing this for budget reasons. Anytime you can get a program to get inmates to buy in, something that they can take away from when they leave here, you hope they'll have better things to do when they get back on the street." **CN**

## NACo adds a new member benefit: Ask the IT Professional

June 22 at 3 p.m. marks the beginning in a series of quarterly webinars that will give smaller counties the opportunity to get their information technology (IT) questions answered by three seasoned IT professionals. This is a new NACo member-only benefit. The webinars will be led by Jeff Morningstar, NACo's IT director, along with

Alan Shark, PhD and Dale Bowen from Public Technology Institute, now a NACo division.

The webinars are particularly tailored for counties of fewer than 50,000 in population who may only have limited professional IT staff or in some cases no IT staff at all. Each quarter will bring a new topic and participants are encouraged to

come armed with questions to ask. All questions are welcome: NACo IT staff are ready and prepared to assist you!

The topic for June 22 will be We Don't Have Money for IT — Where Do We Start? Please sign up for the member-only webinars on the NACo website: <http://www.naco.org/it1>.

Also, begin writing your

questions down today to take advantage of another exclusive member benefit!

Please reserve Sept. 29. when the topic will be Cyber Security — Is It Really a Threat in My County? and Dec. 14 with the topic of How Do We Attract and Keep Professional IT Staff or Should We Consider Outsourcing?

The webinar topics provide a framework to ask questions, but other questions about IT's impact on your county are also welcome. Mark these dates on your calendar and sign up for the webinars today. **CN**

*For more information, contact Lindsay Maggard at [lmaggard@naco.org](mailto:lmaggard@naco.org)*



# NACo-Nationwide scholarship winners share the value of saving for retirement

For the 13th year, high school seniors participating in the NACo-Nationwide scholarship essay contest shared their unique perspectives on saving for retirement.

Graduating seniors became eligible by having a parent or grandparent who contributes to the NACo 457 Deferred Compensation Program. They were asked to write a short essay, describing the importance of saving for retirement now. The winning entries were submitted by Kaitlyn Galliher, Perry County, Pa.; Hailee Sparks, St. Croix County, Wis.; Anfernee Alston, Hillsborough County, Fla.; and Morgan Webb, Sonoma County, Calif.

In their essays, each student communicated the importance of preparing financially for retirement in response to these questions:

“Most high school students dream of the day when they will be on their own and no longer depend on their parents, but that kind of freedom requires financial independence. What does financial freedom mean to you? What is your plan to achieve financial freedom for yourself and how are you going to ensure that your financial freedom will continue through your retirement years?”

Each winning senior received a \$2,500 college scholarship from Nationwide and the National Association of Counties.

## Kaitlyn Galliher

To Kaitlyn, financial freedom is more than about taking care of herself — it’s a family. She credits her parents for teaching her



Galliher

the value of saving for her future. “My parents always taught me that financial stability is one of the most important freedoms. I am extremely grateful for their forethought to save money for my education.”

Kaitlyn realizes that financial freedom can be achieved, but it will take hard work and perseverance. She plans to graduate from college with as little debt as possible and to “rough it out,” making paying off debt her primary focus. “I’ll also follow my parents’ footsteps and participate in any 457(b) or 401(k) plans my employer may offer.”

While Kaitlyn says that she has learned much from her parents and what they’ve achieved, she also looks forward to “a future where I can be debt-free and improve the life of my family — showing my parents I have heeded their lessons.”

Kaitlyn plans to attend Susquehanna University and get her EMT license after graduating from Susquehanna High School, Perry County, Pa. Ginger Galliher is a staff member at the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania.



## Hailee Sparks

During high school, Hailee learned how to save for her future from her first employer. “They offered a direct-deposit option. So I signed up to have 25 percent of my paycheck placed into a savings account for college.” She quickly learned the convenience of automatic direct-deposit. “It’s a great way to save money because I don’t

need to take additional steps to move my money into savings every pay day.”

Hailee also credits her mother for giving her a great understanding of the importance of savings accounts, retirement accounts, and loans.

Following graduate school and getting a job, Hailee plans to set up direct withdrawal from her paychecks to her retirement account. “I plan on placing 15 percent in a savings account, 15 percent in a retirement account — and increasing the amount to the retirement account every year.”

After graduating from Hudson Senior High School in St. Croix County, Wis., Hailee plans to attend the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, getting her undergraduate degree — and eventually her master’s degree — in biochemistry/molecular biology. Her sponsor is Heather Wolske of St. Croix County.

## Anfernee Alston

When it comes to defining financial freedom, Anfernee prefers to quote self-help coach and businessman Tony Robbins, “Financial freedom is working hard because you want to — not because you need to.”

Anfernee already has his financial future mapped out. His first step to achieving financial freedom is to attend college and eventually grad school. As a civil engineer, he plans “living comfortably while still being able to save.” Anfernee also expects to fully utilize his future employer’s 401(k) plan, as well as save at least six months’ worth of income for any unplanned expenses.



Alston

With an entrepreneurial spirit, Anfernee would eventually like to start his own business. “It would be an LLC so that my personal savings would be separate from my business,” he says, adding, “I would also like to start my own foundation to help children in need within inner cities.”

After graduating from Robinson High School in Hillsborough County, Fla., Anfernee plans to attend Florida Atlantic University, getting his degree — and eventually his master’s degree — in civil engineering. His sponsor, Terrell Alston, works as the Hillsborough County Clerk of Circuit Court.



Webb

## Morgan Webb

Like most high school students, Morgan admits that she initially had trouble understanding what financial freedom meant. That changed once she started her first part-time job and had to choose between spending or saving “her own money.” Fortunately, her high school economics teacher assigned a project where Morgan had to develop an eight-year budget, starting with college and ending four years after. “I love math and science — so I really geeked out.” By learning the importance of saving, she decided to attend college locally so that she could live at home and reduce her expenses. “I now understand about financial freedom,” says Morgan.

Morgan’s dream job is to stay in the Sonoma area and open a yoga studio for disabled people and children. And, by graduating from college with as little debt as possible, it “proves that accomplishing financial free-

dom is possible if you set your mind to it.”

After graduating from Cardinal Newman High School in Sonoma County, Calif., Morgan plans to attend Sonoma State, double majoring in exercise science and business administration. Her sponsor, Karen Webb, works at the Department of Child Support Services in Mendocino County, Calif.

## Scholarship honors 38 years of partnership

Nationwide and NACo are committed to helping participants plan for retirement as well as their family’s future. Nationwide sponsors the NACo-Nationwide scholarship to recognize its three-decade-long partnership with NACo and its member counties. **CN**

*For additional information about the NACo Deferred Compensation Program, please contact Carlos Greene at [cgreene@naco.org](mailto:cgreene@naco.org) or 404.263.3656, or David Belnick at [david.belnick@nationwide.com](mailto:david.belnick@nationwide.com) or 410.790.5440.*

*Nationwide Retirement Solutions (Nationwide) partners with the National Association of Counties (NACo) to provide counties and their employees with a competitive deferred compensation program. As part of this partnership, Nationwide pays a fee to NACo in exchange for NACo’s exclusive endorsement, marketing support, and program oversight of Nationwide products made available under the program. For more information, including fees paid, Nationwide encourages you to visit [NRSforu.com](http://NRSforu.com).*

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*NRM-10162AO-NX.5 (06/17)*



# CAPITAL LOOP

## Policy resolutions and platform changes due soon

The policy statements serve as a guide for NACo members and staff to advance the association's federal policy agenda before the White House, Congress and federal agencies. An overview of NACo's policy resolution process is available at [www.naco.org](http://www.naco.org).

## Commissioner highlights importance of CDBG and HOME

Orange County, N.C. Commissioner Renee Price, chair of NACo's Community, Economic and Workforce Development Steering Committee, discussed the need for the Communi-

ty Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) programs, slated for elimination in President Trump's proposed FY2018 budget, at a Capitol Hill roundtable.

## National Flood Insurance Program re-authorization underway

Sens. Bill Cassidy (R-La.) and Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.) released draft legislation that would extend the National Flood Insurance Program's authorization for 10 years. The new proposal, replacing the current program set to expire Sept. 30, would increase investment in flood mitigation and resiliency.

## New CBO score, same county concerns in health care reform bill

The American Health Care Act moves to the Senate, but NACo continues to be concerned about reductions in Medicaid funding and the retention of the "Cadillac Tax" on health plans as a funding mechanism.

## NACo testifies on Clean Water Act requirements

Hamilton County, Ohio Commissioner Todd Portune discussed how EPA's Integrated Planning Framework can help counties meet Clean Water Act goals in a flexible and affordable way.

## CN SPOTLIGHT



### INFRASTRUCTURE DISCUSSIONS

NACo President Bryan Desloge, shown here with Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao, was among eight governors and roughly 30 government and private-sector leaders invited June 8 by President Trump and Vice President Pence to discuss the nation's infrastructure challenges. Also attending were Bucks County, Pa. Commissioner Rob Loughery; Waukesha County, Wis. Executive Paul Farrow; Macomb County, Mich. Public Works Commissioner Candice Miller; DeKalb County, Ga. Vice Chairman Nancy Jester; and Jefferson County, Colo. Commissioner Libby Szabo. Photo by Kevan Stone



## BEAVER COUNTY, UTAH

Beaver County, in southwestern Utah, contains part of the Fishlake National Forest.

The Tushar Mountains are the tallest mountains in Beaver County and the third highest range in Utah. These mountains were formed by the longest volcanic action in the state and now have the most concentrated and varied igneous rocks in Utah.

Commissioner Mark Whitney assisted.

Would you like to see your county's seal featured?

Contact Charlie Ban at [cbn@naco.org](mailto:cbn@naco.org).



A subtle element of the seal is the color choice for the county's outline — green reflects a compromise from wanting to favor neither Beaver High School's blue or Milford High School's red, so green was chosen as a neutral color.

The coast-to-coast American Discovery Trail runs through both communities.

## ON THE MOVE

### NACo AND COUNTY OFFICIALS

- NACo President **Bryan Desloge** was among several state and local leaders who attended a White House meeting with President Donald Trump, June 8, for an idea session on infrastructure. A few days earlier, Desloge spoke at the Colorado Counties, Inc. Summer Conference in Summit County.
- Second Vice President **Greg Cox** represented NACo at the National Association of County Veteran Service Officers Annual Training Conference in San Diego County, June 10–17.



Windsor



Daniel



Scott

Previously, he served as business development manager with Motorola Solutions and technical consultant with Parametric Technology Corporation. He holds a bachelor's degree in science and mechanical engineering from the University of Central Florida.

• **Daria Daniel**, associate legislative director, spoke at a session on workforce and economic development issues at the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) Annual Conference and Exhibition held in Monterey, Calif., June 4–7.

• **Arthur Scott**, associate legislative director, addressed members of the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE), June 5, at their 2017 Government Relations Symposium on how NACo uses data to drive decisions and inspire action through stakeholder mapping.

### NACo STAFF

• **Dane Windsor** has signed on as FSC regional development manager. As a liaison with state association and local government executives, Dane will manage Western regional sales.

# REGISTER TODAY

[www.naco.org/annual](http://www.naco.org/annual)



## NACo's ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXPOSITION

Greater Columbus Convention Center • Franklin County, Columbus, Ohio • July 21–24, 2017

### CONFERENCE SCHEDULE (FULL SCHEDULE AVAILABLE ONLINE)

#### THURSDAY, JULY 20

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Mobile Workshops

#### FRIDAY, JULY 21

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

CIO Mobile Forum

9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Policy Steering Committee Meetings

11:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Mobile Workshops

4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Exhibit Hall Reception

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

NACo Opening Reception

7:15 p.m.

NACo Night at the Ballpark –  
Clippers vs. Syracuse

#### SATURDAY, JULY 22

8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Standing, Ad Hoc, Advisory  
and Task Force Meetings

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Exhibit Hall Open

11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Tech Town Hall

1:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

NACo Board Forum

3:15 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

General Session

5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Open for State Association  
and Affiliate Meetings

#### SUNDAY, JULY 23

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

Non-Denominational Worship  
Service

9:00 a.m. – noon

NACo Board of Directors and  
Resolutions Committee Meetings

9:00 a.m. – noon

Exhibit Hall Open

9:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Educational Workshops

Noon – 1:45 p.m.

NACo Achievement Awards Luncheon

5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

“Brilliant Ideas at Work” Awards  
Reception (*invitation only*)

5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Open for State Association and  
Affiliate Meetings

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

LUCC/RAC Reception (*invitation only*)

#### MONDAY, JULY 24

8:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.

Educational Workshops

9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

NACo Annual Business Meeting and  
Election

11:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Regional Caucus Meetings

12:45 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.

NACo New Board of Directors  
Organizational Meeting

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

General Session

4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Open for State Association and  
Affiliate Meetings

6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Conference-wide Celebration Event



# Trump, like others before him, wants to privatize air traffic control

From AIR TRAFFIC page 3

a cost of billions of dollars, with many on Capitol Hill criticizing the pace of deployment as another example of government bureaucracy and red-tape gone awry.

While debating a new FAA Reauthorization bill in 2016, Chairman Shuster pushed hard for ATC privatization, but in the end had to settle for an extension of the last authorization when the votes could not be mustered to support the spinoff. With the president

now providing support, Shuster has doubled-down on his efforts to see this privatization provision become a central part of a new authorization, due by the end of September 2017. Senate Science, Commerce and Transportation Chairman John Thune (R-S.D.) has expressed reserved support for this effort, maintaining however that the House would be the chamber taking the lead for this section.

Counties, as owners and operators of 34 percent of the

nation's public airports, are a major player in the debate over any reform to the nation's air-traffic control system. While there is no debate about the safety advances NextGen would bring, a central question remains as to the fate of smaller civil aviation facilities under privatization.

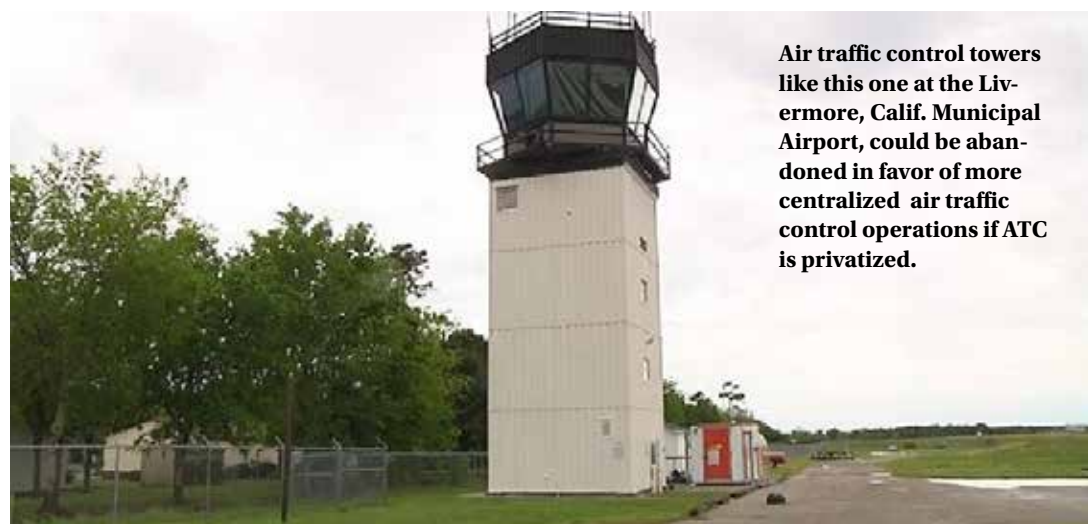
Both local control and employment questions come to the forefront with the possibility of remote towers replacing manned towers at airport facilities. Some critics fear that a pri-

vate corporation would decide it is more "economically viable" to maintain a current tower or consolidate control functions to a centralized location hundreds of miles away.

In his remarks, President Trump did add assurances that rural airport facilities would benefit from the new ATC privatization push. However, he offered no specifics. Trump's visit June 7 to Ohio included a trip to the Brent Spence Bridge, which

spans the Ohio River between Cincinnati and Kentucky, to talk about the importance of waterways and bridge infrastructure.

He also met with a group of local and state-elected officials — which included NACo President Bryan Desloge — back in Washington to discuss the topic. Capping off "Infrastructure Week," Trump visited the Department of Transportation, to discuss highway and railroad infrastructure. **CN**



Air traffic control towers like this one at the Livermore, Calif. Municipal Airport, could be abandoned in favor of more centralized air traffic control operations if ATC is privatized.

## Infrastructure plan short on details

From BUILD, page 1

tel in Washington sits in what was once known as The Old Post Office Pavilion, a government-owned building vacant for years, costing taxpayers for upkeep and maintenance. When the Trump corporation beat out other hoteliers such as Hilton and Starwood for the lease, it became a profitable entity for the federal government through lease terms.

A third principle seeks to leverage the private sector in the form of public-private partnerships. This has long been promoted within the halls of Congress as a way for private dollars to build infrastructure, and collecting a return on the investment through tolls on lanes and bridges, for example.

While the administration conceded public-private partnerships will not be the solution to all infrastructure

needs, it claims they "can help advance the nation's most important, regionally significant projects."

Most troubling, however to county governments, is the second principle in the document, titled "Encourage Self-Help."

This notion builds upon the administration's desire to force local governments to come up with their own funding, without help from Washington. This would strain the successful federal-state-local partnership in infrastructure that has been a bedrock for decades and place a debilitating burden on the backs of residents in the form of new taxes and degraded infrastructure.

The document went on to list examples of new revenue generators, which could include expanding current financial instruments such as Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation (TI-

FIA) loans or lifting the cap on private activity bonds to include public infrastructure eligibility as well as encouraging states and localities to toll existing roadways and encourage private investment within highway rest areas.

As far as a funding amount, the paper states that \$200 billion would be the dedicated federal investment in this initiative. However, no specifics as to what the money can be spent on or how it would be distributed, has been released.

While this White Paper, much like the budget it accompanied, is merely a set of principles that have yet to be expanded, it should give county leaders pause as they attempt to come to grips with a new infrastructure reality from Washington, a reality that critical funding that has flowed in the past could dry up sooner than anyone thinks. **CN**

## PROFILES IN SERVICE

### SHELLEY GOODMAN TAUB

NACo Board of Directors  
Commissioner  
Oakland County, Mich.



**Occupation:** Retired teacher and medical management professional.

**Education:** University of Michigan; B.A. Ed./Postgrad work in education and medical management.

**Three people (living or dead) I'd invite to dinner:** Margaret Thatcher, Joan of Arc, Jennifer Taub.

**A dream I have is to:** Tour the world.

**You'd be surprised to learn that I:** Drove a school bus through southern California.

**The most adventurous thing I have ever done:** Climbed Chichen Itza.

**My favorite way to relax is to:** Read.

**I'm most proud of:** My children.

**Every morning I read:** Two to three papers.

**My favorite meal is:** Chinese food.

**My pet peeve is:** Dog walkers without bags.

**My motto is:** Be kind.

**The last book I read was:** *Vinegar Girl* by Anne Tyler.

**My favorite movie is:** *On the Waterfront*.

**My favorite music is:** Beethoven.

**My favorite U.S. president is:** Abraham Lincoln.

**My county is a NACo member because:** NACo works!

The hardest thing I've ever done:  
Climbed Chichen Itza.



# NEWS FROM ACROSS THE NATION

## ALABAMA

After the state Legislature cut funding for mental health care in the state, county sheriffs' departments are spending more time dealing with calls from the mentally ill.

## LAUDERDALE COUNTY

is teaming up with the City of Florence to combat the problem. The county recently swore in a police sergeant to serve as the **new coordinator for Community Mental Health Officers**. The new coordinator will have the authority, through the county probate judge, to involuntarily commit those with mental illness, until a hearing can be scheduled. Two deputies from the county sheriff's department are also in training for how to respond to crisis mental health calls. They'll work with four city police officers who have also been trained.

## ALASKA

**NORTHWEST ARCTIC BOROUGH** has struck a **new payment in lieu of taxes agreement** with Teck Alaska, operator of the zinc-lead Red Dog Mine in the borough. For the next 10 years, the borough will receive annual payments from Teck Alaska estimated to be between \$14 million and \$18 million per year, according to Alaska Public Media. A new Village Improvement Fund will also be created with separate funds of \$4 million to \$8 million per year and go toward community services and infrastructure with input from 11 villages.

## CALIFORNIA

**SAN DIEGO COUNTY** recently completed its **first online auction of real es-**



**tate properties**, raking in \$5,613,700, a record-breaker for the county, according to the San Diego County Treasurer-Tax Collector's Office. The last auction, held in 2013 at the San Diego Convention Center, took in \$3.49 million.

"We wanted to open this auction up to a worldwide audience, and moving it online allowed us to do that with great success," said Treasurer-Tax Collector Dan McAllister. "Our team did a fantastic job finding the right system that makes it easy for bidders to take part in our auctions from now on." More than \$2 million will go to pay back taxes and fees, leaving about \$3.6 million in proceeds.

The county will hold another auction in July, hoping to unload another 1,000 properties, mainly timeshares. Starting bid? \$100.

## CONNECTICUT

A former state senator says that **"It's Time for County Government in Connecticut"** in an opinion piece in the *Hartford Courant*. The state did away with county governments years ago, but Gary LeBeau writes that the state's 169 cities and towns are eating up budgets due to redundancy in services, especially school budgets.

"In Connecticut, we have a total of 538,893 students in public schools whose education is managed by more than

160 bureaucracies and their attendant costs," he wrote. "I am not talking about doing away with any direct services to students or to citizens. I am not proposing that one teacher, principal, police officer or park worker be laid off. I am proposing that management be consolidated to save millions and millions of dollars throughout the state."

State lawmakers abolished county governments during the 1959 Connecticut General Assembly legislative session.

## DELAWARE

### NEW CASTLE COUNTY

Executive Matt Meyer signed an executive order May 24 addressing the issue of **undocumented residents** in the county. The order clarifies the county's policy in four areas: law enforcement, cooperation with federal authorities, the collection and sharing of immigration status information and access to county services.

"Our goal here is not to play into some national game — bucking up or agreeing or disagreeing with any federal immigration policy," Meyer said at a public ceremony, surrounded by immigration advocates. "It's to clarify what our county government is doing, what we're doing for you, how we're using your taxpayer dollar and making sure those living, working, playing across our county are aware of what that work is."

## MONTANA

Due to a lack of jail space, **LAKE COUNTY** has created the **Sheriff's Labor Detail program**, which allows inmates to work eight hours of community service in exchange for two days off their jail sentences, according to a news release from the sheriff's office. There are currently 800 people in the county waiting to serve jail sentences, according to the *Daily Inter Lake* newspaper. Since the program started in April, inmates have helped decommission po-



lice cars for auction, rake the courthouse lawn and pick up trash on county roads. The sheriff's office also takes requests from non-profits that could benefit from work performed by the labor detail inmates.



## NEW YORK

• Dwindling landline phone fees funding **OSWEGO COUN-**

**TY's** 911 coffers are prompting legislators to consider a **30-cent monthly charge on all cell phone bills** in the county. The money would be going towards staffing and maintenance at the county 911 center.

The county has lost more than \$50,000 in 911 funding over 10 years. Oswego is only one of five counties in New York that currently doesn't impose the fee on mobile phones.

• Non-profit organizations that rent out rooms in **WARREN COUNTY** may soon have to pay a **4 percent occupancy tax** under changes to the tax that would take effect in 2018. Treasurer Michael Swan has proposed doing away with an exemption for nonprofits because the law makes it difficult to determine who among the numerous cottage and cabin rental business owners have to collect the tax. *The Post-Star* reports that Swan would like to standardize tax collection for organizations that rent out four or more cottages or cabins.

## OHIO

County recorders **cannot remove racist language** from





## LOUISIANA

**PLAQUEMINES PARISH** will receive a settlement of \$45 million from BP, formerly British Petroleum, over damages from the 2010 oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, the parish recently announced. Oil from the Deepwater Horizon offshore oil rig explosion fouled sections of the parish's coastline, and fishing and oil businesses suffered from the spill, the Associated Press reported.

"The money is going to help us with infrastructure," Vince Frelich, director of the parish's coastal restoration, told *LouisianaRecord*. "We've had water (problems) since Katrina, so we've been working on building another water system and (updating) the drainage and sewer systems and our levees. That's one of our most important (projects) for the public at this time."

The parish opted out of a \$20.8 billion agreement BP reached two years ago that was split between five states, and federal and local governments.

**Deepwater Horizon** photo courtesy of U.S. Coast Guard

old deed restrictions and covenants, according to a ruling by a federal judge.

U.S. District Judge William O. Bertelsman said the Ohio Legislature never gave county recorders the authority to alter documents, even those that say certain lots are "exclusively for the White Caucasian Race" or "American Citizens," and other examples written before the Fair Housing Act of 1968 outlawed such discrimination.

The complaint argued that county recorders violate that law when they provide documents in a land transaction that include clauses that are restrictive, based on racial identity.

**WYANDOT COUNTY** Sandy Micheli, president of the Ohio Recorders' Association, told the *Columbus Dispatch* that although the group does not condone racial covenants, the documents have historical value because "those are the kind of documents that led to the civil-rights movement," she said.

## PENNSYLVANIA

• **ADAMS COUNTY** will soon offer **mental health**

**services** for the first time, including early intervention, mental health and intellectual disability services. Residents previously had to travel to **YORK COUNTY** for treatment. Services provided by 13 staff members will be housed in the county's new human services building, and will begin during the summer, *The Evening Sun* reported.

• With 130 municipalities, **ALLEGHENY COUNTY** ranks second nationally, behind only **COOK COUNTY's** 135. Now County Executive Rich Fitzgerald is hoping the state Legislature will pass a bill allowing some of those governments to **voluntarily unincorporate**.

The *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review* reports that Fitzgerald hopes a bill that would allow disincorporation, in Allegheny County, would be introduced in the Legislature by the end of the year. The county's municipalities range from more than 300,000 in Pittsburgh down to 63 in Haysville. Of the 130 municipalities, 40 have fewer than 2,000 residents.

• **DAUPHIN COUNTY** is of-

**fering veterans ID cards** so they can easily cash in on discounts offered by local businesses. Interested veterans bring their certificate of release or discharge from active duty, and stop by the county courthouse to get a card, printed in minutes. The card provides an extra layer of proof of their status to local businesses. Businesses that offer discounts can be listed on a page on the county's website.

## TEXAS

**EL PASO COUNTY** has sued Gov. Greg Abbott, Attorney General Ken Paxton and Texas Department of Public Safety Director Steve McCraw, seeking a federal court ruling declaring the **state's new immigration law**, which goes into effect Sept. 1, unconstitutional.

The lawsuit charges that the law, if enacted, would violate several provisions of the U.S. Constitution, including the 14th Amendment's guarantee of the equal protection of laws

and due process clause; and the Fourth Amendment protection against unreasonable searches and seizures, the *Texas Tribune* reported.

The law allows peace officers to question the immigration status of people they legally detain or arrest and punishes department heads and elected officials who don't cooperate with federal immigration agents by turning over immigrants subject to possible deportation.

Elected or appointed officials found in violation could face criminal charges in the form of a class A misdemeanor and possible removal from office. It is scheduled to go into effect Sept. 1.

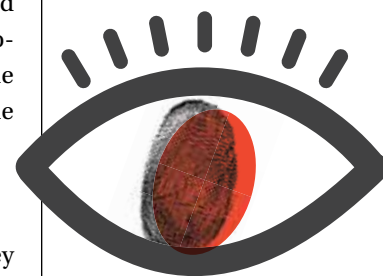
El Paso County agreed in 2006 to a court settlement after a local resident sued, accusing sheriff's deputies of conducting unlawful immigration checks at roadside checkpoints. The parties reached an agreement: The sheriff's office had to "memorialize in writing its policies that prohibits Sheriff's Department deputies from enforcing civil immigration law."



## VIRGINIA

A posse's days may be numbered. A manhunt in **STAFFORD COUNTY** ended after sheriff's deputies used a **drone** to locate a man who had shot into a vehicle.

When deputies arrived on the scene, the man was gone. Although the drone was also equipped with infrared cameras to track body heat, the normal camera helped the drone operator see the suspect's movement, deputies told NBC 4 News. The footage helped SWAT team members apprehend the suspect.



## WISCONSIN

A 20-second **scan of an inmate's iris** is supplementing fingerprint records in the **MILWAUKEE COUNTY** Jail.

The sheriff's office is the first agency in Wisconsin to adopt this technology, already in use in more than 100 law enforcement agencies nationwide, according to Wisconsin Public Radio. Though the scans won't replace fingerprints, they will be added to a national database that currently sports 1 million scans.

## ACROSS THE NATION

The national nonprofit Corporation for Supportive Housing has selected four counties to participate in a new Social Innovation Fund **Pay for Success initiative** that will focus on using criminal justice and homelessness data to ensure those leaving incarceration will successfully reintegrate into communities, reducing recidivism and improving public safety.

The four counties selected — **SALT LAKE COUNTY**, Utah, **BOONE COUNTY**, Mo. **CLARK COUNTY**, Nevada and **MCLEAN COUNTY**, Ill. — will receive technical assistance to integrate data from their homelessness assistance and criminal justice agencies to better match eligible individuals with supportive housing efforts that could be financed through the use of the private-public-philanthropic funding found in Pay for Success partnerships.

*News from Across the Nation is compiled by Charlie Ban and Mary Ann Barton, senior staff writers. If you have an item for News From, please email cban@naco.org or mbarton@naco.org.*



# Always a Time to Remember Dad

**Hi** Dad! We are now in the calendar neighborhood of “Father’s Day,” making it totally appropriate to consider some of the many ways you shaped my life and laid down for me the educational and moral basis for joy, passion and giving. Of course, I think of you every day, not just on this rather artificial mercantile holiday our culture has created.

In this brief writing, I want to look specifically at a couple of things I learned by your example which have helped shape my career and outlook on life. These are things that will also constitute a legacy going way beyond my time and your time on our favorite planet Earth. The legacy will carry on in how the HR daughters, Elyse and Rachel, meet their responsibilities for future stewardship.

Though you left Earth more than 40 years ago, every time I think of you, two great visions still stand out. The first is your total lifelong passion for music. The second is your hard work and dedication to your public service job.

My fondest memories of you were those you created with your magnificent, early 19th-century violin. You literally made it sing and made it a magician’s tool. I remember how often you would bring our guests to tears at home recitals by playing Schubert’s *Ave Maria* or the “Meditation” from the opera *Thais* by Massenet. You could then seamlessly morph into a gypsy music master sitting around a campfire releasing your flying and accurate fingers playing Monti’s *Czardas*.

Your artistry made you a centerpiece for our engagement with other people, waiting eagerly in the hope that they would be invited back for another musical evening. Your



violin, mom’s lovely singing voice and my feeble attempts to play duets with you on the guitar helped me learn about how a person can be a hero in life by means of sensitivity rather than testosterone overdoses. You taught me how joy could be shared with many others. All these were lessons directly applicable to the career a person chooses and the degree to which they shape a life of happiness and success. Without passion for what you do, there can be no real fulfillment. You are living the life of a robot simply wasting the precious time we have in life.

I have always carried the lesson of passion around with me and thought about it often as I shared learning, development and training activities with people at work and graduate students I taught. I carried that lesson — and its identical twin, humor — with me in doing seminars and conference presentations. Those seminars may have occurred in an auditorium or meeting room, but thanks to your lessons, I came to easily imagine that the audience and I were really in our small apartment living room enjoying snacks — preferably chocolate

desserts — and the informality of being with friends. I learned from you that it is always my duty to seek out the company of others to learn from them and hopefully to share with them life experiences and knowledge that I’ve gained over the years.

“Dad, the passionate musician” is always accompanied in my memory by “Dad, the hard-working public servant.” We lived in crowded Los Angeles and your near blindness prevented you from driving. The result was about an hour-and-a-half bus commute each way five days a week to work. You did all this not necessarily out of the challenge and enjoyment of being a journey-level clerk in a federal bureaucracy, but in order to earn an honorable living helping your colleagues be successful in their engineering and other technical work. You did it to produce a stable, though very modest income to pay mother’s medical bills and to make a life of joy in our small apartment.

Every day you would leave before dawn and every evening during the workweek you would come home after dark. How exhausting it was for you! You were always ready, howev-

er, to spend time with me and mom and to ask with honest enthusiasm about what we accomplished during the day and what was exciting about our adventures. I remember how happy we both were when I got my driver’s license and could use mom’s car early in the morning to give you a jumpstart on your bus trip by flying down Wilshire Boulevard, exceeding the speed limit, to catch up with the bus that would get you to the office 15 to 30 minutes earlier. I’m amazed that I was never stopped by the LAPD for speeding!

I also remember how happy you were to tell your work colleagues about what your only child was up to in school and how happy it made you feel by sharing my interest in music, government and science when I got to come to your office to visit. I doubtless blushed a lot as you went around introducing me to everybody! I tried hard never to disappoint you.

The concepts of that vision of “Dad, the hard worker” reflects well on any public servant who understands that their work affects the lives of others and that they have a duty to do that work effectively and caringly,

no matter what their position in the organization might be. You did that work for many years proudly earning a government pension which, along with the access to post-retirement health insurance, allowed you to have a comfortable retirement. I only later came to realize that those seeds you planted by honorable employment made the rest of your life much more comfortable and much less stressful than it otherwise would have been. The importance of thinking now about the future and sacrificing now for a better future are lessons you taught me and lessons I have tried to impart to my beautiful daughters.

These were also lessons I hope I imparted over the decades to the people that worked with me or reported to me as an HR director in city and county government and as a county chief administrative officer. Your lessons of personal sacrifice and accepting risks for larger goals also helped make me a better intelligence officer just as they certainly made me a better daddy and hubby. There are many lessons from your life of stewardship, service to others, humor, “husband-hood” and fatherhood that ring true as much today as they did decades ago when I was a growing kid.

Thank you for those incredibly great gifts to me, borne out of love and grown out of the crucible of your own life experiences as an immigrant child. With some slight apologies to Kipling, I hope that when I “... meet you later on at the place where we have gone” we will have an eternity to go over all of these things and to watch in awe as our great, great, great grandchildren and those of friends and family members develop their own strong legacies. **CN**