

NACO National Association of Counties

CountyNews

| The Voice of America's Counties

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES ■ WASHINGTON, D.C.

VOL. 45, NO. 11 ■ June 3, 2013

Collaboration is key as 'cowboy' takes reins of WIR

By CHARLES TAYLOR
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The new president of NACo's Western Interstate Region (WIR) could have stepped out of Hollywood's central casting and into the role of a cowboy. John Martin looks the part — bearded, mustachioed and turned out in vintage-looking Western garb — and identifies with the culture.

This former lawman, in his fifth four-year term as a Garfield County, Colo. commissioner, assumed the presidency at WIR's 2013 conference in Coconino County, Ariz. on May 24. Gordon Cruickshank, a Valley County, Idaho commissioner, was elected second vice president.

For all Martin's Old West appearance, he bridges then and now. "We want to be a voice of reason, a voice to be reckoned with and a voice to be trusted when it comes to lobbying issues and also friendship," he said of the WIR leadership team. "We're going to make sure that things get done."

Lesley Robinson, commissioner, Phillips County, Mont. moved from second to first vice president, and

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Photo by Charles Taylor

Commissioner John Martin, Garfield County, Colo. (second from left), is the new president of NACo's Western Interstate Region, sworn in May 24 at the WIR Conference in Coconino County (Flagstaff), Ariz. With him are (l-r) Mayor Jerome Selby, Kodiak Island Borough, Alaska, immediate past president; Commissioner Lesley Robinson, Phillips County, Mont., first vice president; and Commissioner Gordon Cruickshank, Valley County, Idaho, who is new to the leadership team as second vice president.

FY14 approps inches ahead, despite lack of budget agreement

By PAUL BEDDOE
ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

Despite vast differences between the House and Senate FY14 budget resolutions, appropriators from both chambers have started to move forward with their FY14 spending bills.

At a hearing May 21 to approve the 302(b) allocations — the top-line amount each appropriations subcommittee can spend — House Appropriations Committee Chairman Hal Rogers (R-Ky.) said in his opening statement, "Clearly, this is an austere budget year. Sequestration is taking a huge toll on discretionary spending, leaving us with this very low top-line number. Yet our hands are tied, and we must try and make do with the level we have right now."

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CountyNews Features

Board approves adding medical services to prescription program

By TOM GOODMAN
PUBLIC AFFAIRS DIRECTOR

The NACo Board of Directors has approved a proposal to add other medical services to the association's prescription program. The services include lab, imaging, hearing aids and exams, vision, and diabetic supplies.

The Board also adopted a partnership agreement between NACo and the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) and ratified bylaws for Next Generation NACo during its May 23 meeting in Coconino County, Ariz. at the

Western Interstate Region (WIR) Conference.

Executive Director Matthew Chase briefed the association's leadership group on an assessment of NACo's advocacy efforts by the University of Arkansas and Chief Financial Officer Dave Keen gave an update on the budget.

In addition, at the suggestion of President Chris Rodgers, the Board approved a resolution eliminating the Labor and Employee Benefits Steering Committee and designating the Community and Economic Development Steering Committee to handle its issues.

The vote on the discount medi-

cal services authorizes NACo staff to negotiate with CVS Caremark to add the services to NACo's existing Prescription Discount Card Program, enhancing that member benefit. NACo had hired Buck Consultants from Washington, D.C. to evaluate Caremark's proposal to add medical service, as well as one from Careington, Inc., which administers NACo's Dental Discount Program. Buck concluded that the medical services offered and the costs to residents by both companies are comparable.

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Cleveland County, Okla. takes brunt of ‘grinder’ tornado

By CHARLIE BAN
STAFF WRITER

After a tornado cut through Cleveland County, Okla. May 19, Commissioner Rod Cleveland considered the results and felt somewhat fortunate.

“It mainly went through rural areas, though it hit a few neighborhoods,” he said. “It could have been worse.”

A day later, it was. A second tornado left a 17-mile path of destruction and 24 confirmed dead in the areas south of Oklahoma City. The storm affected Oklahoma, Pottawatomie, Cleveland, Lincoln and McClain counties, with the most severe damage in the suburb of Moore, in eastern Cleveland County. The tornado’s path mimicked those of tornadoes in May 1999 and May 2003, but outdid their impacts.

“This one was a grinder,” Cleveland said. “In ’99, it swept through pretty fast. This one just sat on us for a while.”

The National Weather Service (NWS) reported that the tornado was approximately half a mile wide and was on the ground moving northeast for approximately 40 minutes. The storm’s maximum width will be determined after four NWS survey teams complete their work. The NWS said the tornado intensified rapidly, over the course of four miles, and by the time it reached Moore, its estimated peak winds topped out at 190 miles per hour, earning the second most severe designation for tornadoes.

Cleveland spent May 21 viewing the extent of the destruction.

“We have whole neighborhoods a half-mile wide where there’s no houses, buildings are stripped down to the foundation,” he said. “Not one tree standing.”

The commercial center of Moore, which had largely developed in the 14 years following the last major tornado hit, was “pretty much devastated.”

At the Moore Medical Center, three cars were in a pile.

“It looks like someone stacked them to get them out of the way,” Cleveland said. “The storm did that.”

County facilities escaped damage, with the health department building being mere blocks from the tornado. “We have quite a few county employees that lost their homes, though,” Cleveland said.

The county’s priority was clearing roads—sweeping nails, clearing downed power lines—and



Minerva Studio / Shutterstock.com

A resident searches through the remnants of her home left in ruins after the May 20 tornado that ripped through Moore, Okla. in Cleveland County.

by the afternoon May 21 the major thoroughfares were open, but the task of opening roads to neighborhoods remained daunting.

Gayle Ward, executive director of the Association of County Commissioners of Oklahoma, didn’t sleep at all Monday night.

“This one is absolutely the worse one we’ve ever seen,” she said from her office in Oklahoma City.

Supplies, she said, are pouring into the city, where they’ve been temporarily stored in the Feed the Children warehouse. “We’re having trouble storing all the sup-

plies,” she said, which can’t yet be distributed because search and recover activity is ongoing. “It’s a real touchy situation. They’re still looking for bodies.”

She’s been suggesting to people who call her office wanting to help that they send donations to the Red Cross. “They’re the people on the ground handing out toothbrushes to the kids or clean underwear. They need money to do that.”

Ward said she couldn’t get the children out of her mind. Four schools in the Moore area were impacted by the tornado, which

Comparison of May 20, 2013 Tornado Track with May 3, 1999 and May 8, 2003 Tornado Tracks



County commissioner provides ‘boots on the ground’ in Moore, Okla.

Oklahoma County, Okla. Commissioner Brian Maughan saw firsthand the damage to Plaza Towers Elementary School. He describes it here:

“As soon as we saw the funnel on television in our county emergency operations center, I alerted our crew to prepare all our heavy equipment for movement to Moore. We were rolling before 5 o’clock, and after we arrived we were assigned to what was probably the most sensitive location, the devastated Plaza Towers Elementary School where a number of children had died.

“We staged our equipment that night and remained on site for the next few days, assisting the rescue workers in lifting and moving an amazing amount of rubble. At one point, the firefighters feared that a victim might be located beneath a car that had been thrown upside down into the principal’s office. We used our Gradall to pull down exterior walls to access the area and then to remove the car. Fortunately there was no victim.

“Our entire crew has worked with diligence and dedication in this effort. They have formed a close team with the rescue personnel. I am just immensely proud of what they have done to help the people of Moore. In cases like this, jurisdictional lines don’t count. We are here to help for as long as necessary.”

weather observers said was topped by 2-mile-wide debris ball.

The Associated Press reported that the tornado tore the roof off of Plaza Towers Elementary and knocked down walls while students and teachers huddled in hallways and bathrooms. CNN added that seven students there died.

“Hitting a school is going to change things.” There is already talk in the State Legislature, she said, about bond issues to finance storm shelters in schools.

It’s easy to get complacent about tornadoes in Oklahoma, but that’s all changed for Ward.

“I just paid a ton of money for a security system for our [association’s] building. Now, I’m going to have my staff look into building a storm shelter in the back so we have someplace to go.”

NWS reported that the tornado touched down in Grady County at 2:45 p.m. CDT and ended at 3:35 p.m. in Moore, part of Cleveland County. The service declared a tornado emergency for McClain, Oklahoma and Cleveland counties.

According to the Associated Press, more than 200 emergency responders worked through the night looking for survivors, aided by helicopter-mounted spotlights.

Oklahoma State Department of Health reported that Moore Medical Center was damaged, which prompted 13 patients to be transported to other hospitals. The Oklahoma Corporation Commission reported more than 61,500 outages related to the storm.

President Obama signed a disaster declaration May 20 and ordered federal assistance to the area.

(Bev Schlotterbeck, executive editor, also contributed to this report.)

CountyNews

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(202) 393-6226 • FAX (202) 393-2630
Published biweekly except August by:
National Association of Counties
Research Foundation, Inc.
25 Massachusetts Ave., N.W.
STE. 500, Washington, D.C. 20001
(202) 393-6226 | FAX (202) 393-2630
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, 25 Massachusetts Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001.

POSTMASTER: send address changes to
County News, 25 Massachusetts Ave. N.W., Ste. 500, Washington, D.C. 20001
(USPS 704-620) ■ (ISSN: 0744-9798)
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Research Foundation, Inc.

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NACo election credentials forms due June 28

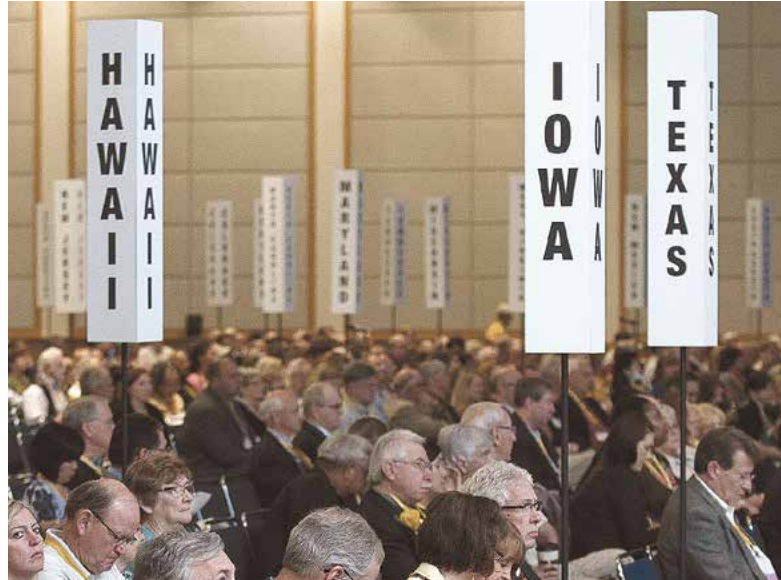
By ALEX KOROKNAY-PALICZ
MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

Credentials and voting information for NACo's 2013 election were mailed May 15 to the chief elected official (CEO) of each member county.

In order to vote, a county must have paid its 2013 dues before voting occurs and have at least one paid annual conference registration. The CEO must indicate the names of the voting delegate and alternate authorized to pick up a county's voting materials on the credentials form. There can only be one alternate designated on the form.

State association of counties presidents can 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/credentials. The deadline to return the form is Friday, June 28.

This year's election will be held on Monday, July 22 at 10 a.m. during the Business Meeting at the NACo Annual Conference: County Solutions and Idea Marketplace in Tarrant County, Texas. Counties will vote on resolutions that set NACo legislation and asso-

ciation policy for the coming year. Delegates will also elect NACo officers for the coming year. The position of second vice president is usually contested. This year, there are four announced candidates for the position.

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. NACo's bylaws allot one vote per \$500 in dues.

- Counties with dues of \$400 to \$499 receive one vote
- Counties with dues of \$500 to \$999 receive two votes
- Counties with dues of \$1000 to \$1,499 receive three votes, and so on.

The maximum number of votes a county can receive is 112.

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.

2013 Election Officials

The 2013 Credentials Committee members are: Judge Glen Whitley, Tarrant County, Texas, chair; and Supervisor Efren Carrillo, Sonoma County, Calif.; Kim Hackney, deputy chief administrative officer, Shelby County, Tenn.; and Councilwoman Arlanda Williams, Terrebonne Parish, La.

The NACo bylaws also provide for a parliamentarian, reading clerk and tally clerk to aid in the election process. They are: Marc Hamlin, district clerk, Brazos County, Texas, parliamentarian; Howard Hunter, Hertford County, N.C., reading clerk; and Board Chair Marina Dimitrijevic, Milwaukee County, Wis., tally clerk.

If you have any questions, please contact Alex Koroknay-Palicz, membership coordinator: akpalicz@naco.org or 888.407.NACo (6226) x291 or 202.942.4291.

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NACo National Association of Counties

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FCC to test switch from landline to Internet-based phones

By YEJIN JANG
ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR



The Federal Communications Commission, responding to an AT&T November 2012 petition, recently issued a public notice seeking comments on how to test ways to switch legacy copper phone networks to a new Internet-protocol (IP) infrastructure. The notice specifically requests comments from local governments on how and to what extent they should be involved in this process.

In its petition, AT&T argued that it is subject to obsolete rules on dominant incumbent local exchange carriers (ILEC) that were passed when cable companies only

delivered TV services, not like the “triple play” bundles offered today that include phone service. An ILEC is the telephone (landline) provider that serves a defined geographical area.

AT&T asked that it be allowed to conduct IP transition trials. The FCC is now soliciting comments on questions such as where trials should occur, how trials should be conducted, how to measure performance and how pricing structures would be constructed.

AT&T and others in the telecommunications industry ultimately seek to avoid having to maintain a legacy copper network when consumer demand increasingly seeks faster and broader Internet capacities, which require an IP-based network.

SpeedRead » » »

- » FCC exploring transition from landline to internet phone systems
- » Public notice asks for local government input
- » Comments due July 8

The IP transition is an important issue for counties with far-reaching implications. For instance, during electric outages, landline phones connected to a copper network would still hold a dial tone and emergency calls could be made. If a fiber network serves the same area, the phone may not return a dial tone during an emergency with power outages

unless there is backup power.

The FCC public notice mentions other changes that may go hand in hand with an IP transition such as the switch from wire-line to wireless.

If the industry switches to an IP network, those areas that are far removed from a central population hub may no longer be served by fixed landlines, but may instead be serviced by wireless devices. This could disrupt daily and emergency communication, especially during power outages.

An IP transition could also affect so-called “caller of last resort” (COLR) obligations now imposed on ILECs.

Currently, an ILEC that serves an area is required to connect every person who requests phone service in that area. There is some discussion about how this obligation would change with an IP transition. Namely, industry has introduced the idea of serving these faraway customers with wireless phones instead of a traditional wire-line phone.

NACo maintains a neutral position on the type of technology used

to deliver telecommunications and technology services. NACo supports competition between providers to ensure consumers receive an appropriate range of services at the lowest possible cost. NACo also has a strong interest in fostering interoperability, which will assist counties in their obligation to provide emergency communication and response services.

To access a copy of the public notice, go to <http://transition.fcc.gov>, scroll down the page to the May 10, 2013 date for a link to the notice.

Comments may be submitted online by going to the FCC’s electronic filing site or by sending to Yejin Jang at NACo. Comments are due July 8.

Please note that once comments are submitted, all information, including names and addresses, will be publicly available via the Web.

To submit your comments to NACo for forwarding to the FCC, send to yjang@naco.org.

**To file your comments at the FCC, see this story online at www.naco.org/ countynews.*

FY14 approps discretionary spending would take 17% hit in House budget

APPROPS from page 1

The House and the Senate have made no significant progress in settling on a FY14 budget and currently are roughly \$91 billion apart on the overall discretionary level. For the time being, House leaders are hewing to demands from their more conservative members that they will use a \$967 billion top-line spending figure that assumes the sequester remains intact, while the Democratic Senate is siding with the White House, and calling for scrapping sequestration and setting spending at \$1.06 trillion.

Protecting the Pentagon appears to be Rogers’ priority — largely at the expense of other domestic programs. While defense and homeland security receive a less than 1 percent reduction from current levels, discretionary spending takes a \$72 billion, or 17 percent, hit.

Especially gutted are the departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education (Labor-HHS-Ed). The Labor-HHS-Ed allocation is capped at \$121 billion, 20 percent lower than this year’s amount (after sequestration).

About \$44.1 billion is allocated for the bill funding the departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development (HUD), for a reduction of 9 percent. Before sequestration, Transportation and HUD were funded at \$51.8 billion and \$67.9 billion in 2010.

Without an agreement, it is unclear how many of the annual bills will move to the floor and

SpeedRead » » »

- » Little progress in settling on a FY14 budget
- » House and Senate roughly \$91 billion apart on discretionary spending
- » Senate wants to scrap sequestration. House assumes sequester stays

on to conference. In fact, even conservative House members are hesitant about voting “on the record” for deep cuts to popular government programs required by sequestration, on top of the other underlying caps imposed by the Budget Control Act (P.L. 112-25). This may make it difficult to move individual spending bills before the end of the federal fiscal year on Sept. 30. As has been the case over the past few appropriations cycles, the gap in spending almost guarantees continuing funding resolutions will be needed to keep government operating until Congress comes to a broader accord on fiscal issues.

Senate Appropriations Chairman Barbara Mikulski (D-Md.) said she aims to move the FY14 spending bills through the committee before August recess. She plans to hold a full committee vote on 302(b) allocations in June.

House conservatives are setting their sights on new targets for spending cuts — entitlements and mandatory programs — in exchange for increasing the debt limit later this year.

Meanwhile, lawmakers are talking about targeting entitlement spending in the context of the debate over raising the debt ceiling. House GOP leaders have been making the case that the debt ceiling debate gives them leverage with Democrats to achieve major tax reform while conservative members of the Republican Study Committee have been calling for changes to mandatory spending — Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, widely viewed as the main drivers of long-term federal debt. Though tax reform is popular with conservatives it is viewed as insufficient.

Both approaches present major risks to counties, with threats to the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds on the table in tax reform and cuts to Medicaid on the table in entitlement reform.

Quick Takes

Top U.S. Counties by Hispanic Origin Group

Group / County	% of Population
• Cubans Miami-Dade County, Fla.	48%
• Salvadorians Los Angeles County, Calif.	22%
• Guatemalans Los Angeles County, Calif.	21%
• Mexicans Los Angeles County, Calif.	11%
• Puerto Ricans Bronx County, N.Y.	6%

Pew Research Center, 2010 U.S. Census

Profiles in Service



» Harrison Moody

NACo Board Member
Supervisor
Dinwiddie County, Va.

Number of years active in NACo: 5

Years in public service: More than 30 years

Occupation: Agribusiness

Education: Virginia Tech

The hardest thing I’ve ever done: owned and operated a dairy and poultry operation

Three people (living or dead) I’d invite to dinner: Jesus Christ (He’s still alive), my wife and my parents.

A dream I have is to: wake up in Heaven.

You’d be surprised to learn that I: am claustrophobic.

The most adventurous thing I’ve ever done is: probably the dumbest also — climbing agricultural silos without a safety rope.

My favorite way to relax is: watching a good movie.

I’m most proud of: my family.

Every morning I read: The Bible.

My favorite meal is: filet mignon, baked potato and a salad.

My pet peeve is: people who think they know things that they really don’t.

My motto is: “Don’t Give Up, Keep Moving Forward.”

The last book I read was: *The Harbinger*.

My favorite movie is: *Courageous*.

My favorite music is: rock and roll.

Senate Judiciary Committee clears immigration bill; House bipartisan bill may be introduced in June

By MARILINA SANZ
ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

While the Senate moves forward on immigration reform, passing its comprehensive bill out of the Judiciary Committee May 21, the House continues to work on two different tracks: an incremental approach preferred by Judiciary Committee Chairman Bob Goodlatte (R-Va.), and comprehensive legislation being developed by a bipartisan, so-called “gang of eight.”

The Senate Judiciary Committee

Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) that make two major fixes to the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP). First, it allows SCAAP reimbursement for incarcerated individuals who have not been yet convicted of a crime. Secondly, it directs the Department of Justice to continue reimbursing for people in the “unknown status” category. These are individuals whose status is unknown because they have not come into contact with the federal immigration system and therefore do not appear in the Department of Homeland Security database.

Meanwhile in the House, Goodlatte has introduced three individual bills to date: the Legal Workforce Act (H.R. 1772), the SKILLS Visa Act (H.R. 2131) and the Agriculture Guestworker Act (H.R. 1773).

The Legal Workforce Act, which is co-sponsored by Rep. Lamar Smith (R-Texas), would mandate local and state governments to verify the immigration status of current employees who have not gone through the E-verify system. The Senate version of immigration reform only applies E-verify to new hires.

Although the precise language was not yet available, reports suggest that the SKILLS Visa Act, co-sponsored by Rep. Darrell Issa (R-Calif.), increases the H-1B visas to 155,000 a year. H-1B visas are used for highly skilled workers, including physicians. The Senate



Photo by Reuters/Mario Anzuoni

Candidates hold U.S. flags during a naturalization ceremony to become new U.S. citizens at the Convention Center in Los Angeles, Calif. Feb. 27.

bill would increase the H-1B visas to 180,000.

The Agricultural Guestworker Act would establish a new H-2C visa program, which affects the industry’s entire labor force, not just seasonal workers. The proposal does not provide a path to citizenship for the unauthorized agricultural workers currently in the country, although it does state they may participate in the H-2C program.

House Comprehensive Reform

In recent weeks there have been conflicting reports about whether the House gang of eight had reached agreement. At first, it was announced that they had agreed on principles, but later there were reports that the negotiators were at an impasse, particularly over the issue of health care coverage.

However, the group apparently came to an agreement shortly

before the Memorial Day recess, staking out similar territory as the Senate on health care access for those on their way to legalization — excluding them from health care subsidized by the Affordable Health Care Act except in the case of emergencies. The House bill would go one step further though by deporting any one who accepts non-emergency subsidized care. And also unlike the Senate bill, there appears to be language mandating that they buy health insurance.

While the House bipartisan group wants to introduce legislation early this month, there may still be a few other glitches revolving around the implementation of E-verify and a visa program for low-skilled workers.

In the Senate, it is expected the bill will go to the Senate floor once the committee report and the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) cost analysis are completed. CBO is expected to need two weeks to complete the bill’s scoring, which means that the bill may be ready for floor consideration the week of June 10. Floor consideration is expected to last three weeks.

tee approved the Border Security, Economic Opportunity and Immigration Modernization Act (S.744) by a vote of 13–5. Sens. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.), Jeff Flake (R-Ariz.) and Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) joined the majority in voting for the bill.

The legislation includes several provisions that NACo supported, including an amendment by Sen.

Older Americans Act reauthorization bill introduced in Senate by Sanders

By MARILINA SANZ
ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) has introduced the Older Americans Act (OAA) Amendments for 2013 (S. 1028). The bill would reauthorize OAA programs through FY18, and unlike an earlier version Sanders introduced, would keep ombudsman and legal services at the local level. The previous version would have moved those activities from the area agencies on aging to the state units on aging.

It also does not include specific funding levels for most OAA programs, especially nutrition, supportive services and the National Caregiver Support Program (NCSP). Instead it designates such sums as may be necessary.

S. 1028 revises the definition of greatest social need — one of the two main criteria for determining eligibility for OAA services — by adding multiple situations or classes of individuals who could

be considered in greatest social need such as those with physical or mental disabilities, Alzheimer’s disease, positive HIV status, abused and neglected, and veterans.

The bill also changes the definitions of an eligible care recipient under the NCSP to clarify the coverage for adult disabled children. There has been some confusion under current law about coverage for adult disabled children.

In other provisions: State plans would need to attest to a Home Care Consumer Bill of Rights and a plan for enforcing it that has been approved by the assistant secretary of aging; or a waiver from the assistant secretary and a proposal

for developing a bill of rights and plan for enforcement. The Home Care Consumer Bill of Rights is a proposal from Sen. Al Franken (D-Minn.) that is modeled after a Minnesota program.

The legislation would not move the Older American Community Service Employment Program from the Department of Labor to the Department of Health and Human Services as proposed in the president’s FY14 budget plan. It only calls for a feasibility study.

The bill has 14 cosponsors, but no Republicans. Previous OAA reauthorizations have always had bipartisan support. No timetable was given for full committee consideration.



Photo by Bob Fogel

Former NACo President Judge Glen Whitley (I) of Tarrant County, Texas and current NACo President Chris Rodgers of Douglas County, Neb. enjoy a train ride during a NACo Transportation Steering Committee visit and briefing sponsored by Union Pacific Railroad at its headquarters in Omaha (Douglas County), Neb.

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Board approves Next Generation NACo, partnership with NCACC

BOARD from page 1

Buck recommended accepting the Caremark proposal because the prescription program already exists in nearly 1,400 counties, giving Caremark a marketing advantage and making it easier to make these services available to county residents.

The cost for residents to receive the discounted services is \$6.95 per month or \$69 per year for an individual and \$8.95 per month or \$79 per year for a family. The discounts available through the program include:

- lab – 20 to 70 percent
- imaging – 40 to 75 percent
- hearing aids and exams – free exams and 35 percent off hearing aids
- vision – 35 percent off retail eyewear, 15 percent off contact lens, 15 percent off retail or 5 percent off promotional for LASIK and PRK, and
- diabetic supplies – 24 percent average savings, up to 75 percent.

The dental program, which is now available in 64 counties, will continue as a separate program.



Photo by Charles Taylor

NACo Board members are briefed on everything from the association's financial position to the results of an assessment of NACo's advocacy efforts May 23 at their board meeting in Coconino County (Flagstaff), Ariz. during the Western Interstate Region Conference.

NCACC, NACo Partnership

Wake County, N.C. Commissioners Betty Lou Ward and Joe Bryan introduced the proposal for a partnership agreement between NACo and NCACC. Ward, a NACo past president, said the agreement was initiated because her state did not have all of its counties as members of NACo last year for the first time in many years. She said North Carolina officials sought the agreement "to maximize our efforts to make both associations stronger."

Bryan, who serves as the South Region representative on the NACo Executive Committee, said his association set up a task force to study the relationship between NACo and NCACC, and determine how it could be improved and enhanced. He said the state association board voted unanimously to approve the agree-

ment. The NACo Board also voted unanimously to approve it.

According to the agreement, NCACC actions include promoting the benefits of NACo, encouraging active participation, creating a NACo presence on its websites and sharing more information. For its part, NACo will provide updates on federal issues through presentations and video conferencing, solicit ideas for workshops, provide information about NACo to newly elected and other county officials, and ensure that communications reach all officials and managers.

Next Generation NACo Network

Lee May, chair of Next Generation NACo Network, presented the proposal for the Board to approve bylaws for the group. May, commissioner, DeKalb County,

Ga., said the bylaws are based on those developed for the Women of NACo.

Rodgers formed the Next Generation NACo in 2012, appointed a chair and vice-chairs and charged them with developing the group into a sustained NACo program that engages young county officials in the association. May said there are currently 82 officials participating in the group.

Board member and Fairfax County, Va., Supervisor Gerry Hyland said his first reaction was concern about creating another organization because NACo has so many of them. But he said he now supports the idea and applauds the effort to get young people involved in the association.

May said part of the reason the bylaws were proposed was that the group "wanted the Board to embrace this new organization." The bylaws were approved.

NACo Advocacy Assessment

NACo's advocacy assessment was managed by Jim Youngquist, director of the Institute for Economic Advancement at the University of Arkansas-Little Rock. The assessment team also included former NACo presidents Kaye Braaten and Valerie Brown, former Madison County, Ala.

Commissioner Mike Gillespie and NCACC Executive Director David Thompson.

Chase said the purpose of the study of NACo's advocacy efforts was to get an independent assessment.

The group conducted in-person interviews with two dozen representatives from the White House, Congress, federal agencies, the media and other national associations. Also, an online survey was conducted with members of NACo's policy steering committees and caucuses, and in-person interviews were done with some NACo staff.

Chase said the assessment determined that NACo's key areas of strength are:

- good conferences with a wealth of information
- accurate and nonpartisan info upon request
- a neutral and informed voice
- provides forum for two-way dialogue between county officials and federal officials, especially federal agencies, and
- strong liaison between Washington — especially federal agencies — and counties.

Chase said the areas of opportunity as a result of the assessment include:

- gathering and analyzing ideas and solutions related to county

policies, practices and innovations from the membership and then sharing more frequently and consistently with federal officials, media and think tanks

- hosting events with White House and federal agency inter-governmental affairs liaisons at the NACo office

- conducting more regular and timely updates, dialogues and actions with NACo committee and caucus members

- continuing to expand and enhance NACo's research capacity, especially related to policy priorities and key programs, and

- providing more leadership within coalitions, especially "Big Seven" public interest groups, of which NACo is a member.

Looking ahead, Chase said the association will take advantage of these areas of opportunity, as well as be more strategic and proactive, raise the understanding of counties and strengthen partnerships with affiliates and state associations.

In summarizing NACo finances for 2013, Keen said the budget is on track and investments are doing well. The surplus that was in the budget was \$46,816, he said. Keen is now forecasting a surplus of \$112,205. He said revenue projections are up \$891,391 and expense projections are up \$826,003.

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Forest service official foresees worsening fire seasons ahead

WIR from page 1

Mayor Jerome Selby of Kodiak Island Borough, Alaska, became immediate past president. Martin praised him as “a friend, a colleague, as a mentor and also a pacesetter.”

Partnerships and civility were among the dominant themes throughout the conference, in workshops that covered topics ranging from recovering from fire disaster, and forest health, to working with the private sector to address county needs and sage grouse conservation.

SpeedRead » » »

- » John Martin, Garfield County, Colo., new WIR president
- » Fire-related costs comprise half the Forest Service's budget
- » Western governors seek dialogue with counties

Among the featured speakers were U.S. Rep. Ann Kirkpatrick (D-Ariz.), Leslie Weldon, deputy chief, USDA Forest Service and Jim Ogsbury, executive director of the Western Governors' Association (WGA).

The NACo Board of Directors also held its spring meeting concurrently in Flagstaff, the county seat (see related story, page 1).

Weldon said more than 9 mil-

lion acres of forests and grasslands burned last year with fire-suppression costs that exceeded \$1.4 billion nationally. She said fire-related activities now account for half of the Forest Service's budget compared to about 25 percent in the early '90s.

“We're used to thinking about fire seasons like this year's as exceptional,” she added. “But we're starting to think that this is becoming more a pattern that we need to prepare ourselves for. And this means also preparing the public and Congress about what to expect and what not to expect.”

She said one way to improve forest health, which can lower fire risks, is through restoration activities.

“One thing that's quite critical for our ability to be successful is the reauthorization of the stewardship contracting authority which is in this year's farm bill, which we hope will be successful in working its way through the process,” she said. “This will help maximize ability of restoration work and create jobs at the same time.” This authority allows the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management to enter into long-term contracts (up to 10 years) with communities, the private sector and others to meet land-management objectives such as reducing wildland fire risk.

During Kirkpatrick's remarks, she said the United States still has a job deficit that the West can help fill by creating jobs in emerging technologies such as “biotech, bioscience, wind and solar creation.”



Photos by Charles Taylor

Commissioner Doug Thompson (l), Fremont County, Wyo., receives the 2013 Dale Sowards Award for public lands county advocacy from WIR President Jerome Selby, Kodiak Island Borough, Alaska. Thompson's lei is courtesy of the Hawaii delegation.

She added that 21st century job creation in the region hinges on “building up our infrastructure.” “We just saw last night the collapse of a bridge on highway 5 in Wash-

ington,” she said during the May 24 general session. “We know that there are many bridges across the country that are in disrepair, and we can't wait any longer.”

She offered her office's help to all comers, not just Arizonans. “Please consider my office in Congress as part of your home base, regardless of what state you're from. Our issues are the same, and we want to help you out.”

She closed with a quote from Thomas Edison: “Opportunity is missed by most people because it comes dressed in overalls and it looks like work. So we've got our work cut out for us.”

WGA's Ogsbury is relatively new to his association, which represents 19 Western state governors; he was hired at the end of last year. “I didn't come to this job with any political agenda other than that I believe in the authority of the states and local government,” he said. “I don't think they're the red-headed, bastard step-child of the federal government.”

He welcomed opportunities for states and counties to start a conversation about how the two levels of government could work together more effectively on common Western issues — such as energy and water resources — to develop a stronger voice regionally and in Washington. WGA is developing a 10-year energy vision for the West, he said, which will include “The State of Energy in the West,” to be unveiled at the association's annual conference later this month.

He said he's committed to starting a dialogue with other Western-focused groups, like WIR, the Council of State Governments-West and the Western Municipal League.

“If we're not working on issues of common concern, we really should be: issues like financing of infrastructure, issues like better weather forecasting tools and issues like drought mitigation.”

As is customary at the conference, the winner of the Dale Sowards Award was announced; this year it went to Fremont County, Wyo. Commissioner Doug Thompson. It honors — and now memorializes — Sowards, a former Conejos County, Colo. commissioner, who died in March at the age of 94. He was instrumental in the creation of WIR and was a long-time advocate for public lands counties.

The recipient, chosen by the WIR board, is someone who has demonstrated outstanding service to public lands counties and draws attention to their accomplishments and the public policies they represent.

Next year's conference will be held in Anchorage Borough, Alaska, May 21–23.



(Left) U.S. Rep. Ann Kirkpatrick (D-Ariz.) says high-tech jobs and building infrastructure are keys to economic success for Western counties. (Right) Jim Ogsbury, executive director, Western Governors' Association, sees opportunities for collaboration between Western state governors and counties on issues of common interest such as energy development and water resources.

New approaches boost Minn. county's recycling rates

By CHARLIE BAN
STAFF WRITER

Recognizing that people listen closely to their friends and neighbors, Hennepin County, Minn. has started cultivating a group of educated residents to evangelize for recycling in their communities.

The county's master recycler program, modeled after one in Portland, Ore., is one part of the county's effort to continue boosting its recycling rate, which saw a 3 percent increase in 2012 after a decade of stagnation. Now at 43 percent, the county's ambitious goals aim for recycling and composting levels of 48 percent by 2015 and 65 percent by 2030.

Two classes a year make 60 ordinary residents into de facto experts on recycling, ready to bring their expertise to the subdivisions while maintaining the credibility their friends and neighbors seek. They receive 20 hours of training, and go out and perform 30 volunteer hours spreading the recycling message.

Emily Barker took the class in fall 2012 and is now into her first season as a master recycler.

"I did it because I love to keep learning, even if it isn't in an academic setting," she said. "This is valuable information to share with people. It's not the latest and greatest, but it's practical and it can do a lot of good in the community."



Photo courtesy of Hennepin County, Minn.

A class of master recyclers takes a field trip to a Hennepin County, Minn. landfill.

Barker has seen the most success in her office at a nonprofit organization. By sharing tidbits of knowledge here and there, she's influencing 30 coworkers. She's helped the building manager analyze the trash can sizes and help systematically promote recycling.

The approach works because of the third-party validation the master recyclers offer.

"We put the small trained army out there," said Paul Kroening, the

county's supervising environmentalist. "Rather than listening to the county, 'the man,' people are being influenced by someone who knows what they're talking about. 'Hey Bob, why aren't you recycling that?' sounds a lot better when it's not an authority figure asking."

One of the program's main strengths, Barker said, is the tone master recyclers' messages take.

"There are plenty of messages out there that it's wrong to not re-

cycle, but when someone suggests recycling something, reusing it or composting it, it's more positive. We try to make it the easy choice to make. People are genuinely motivated by doing good, but there's a threshold if it's complicated or difficult. There's a limit."

The environmental services department attributes its recent bump in the recycling rate to education efforts and new policies for residential recycling. The most dramatic

change, according to Kroening, was changing program requirements for recycling companies to allow residential customers to recycle without separating the materials.

"A third of residents — mainly in Minneapolis — had to separate their recyclables into eight different bins," Kroening said. "We simplified that and made it a lot more attractive to recycle. It was too complicated before and discouraged people from trying it."

The big improvement there — swapping small bins for the different materials for 60- or 90-gallon carts.

"Those old bins, if they filled up, people were likely to just throw whatever it was into the trash," Kroening said. "Who was going to save something for a week just so they can recycle it? Now they have three, four, five times the capacity."

Educating the county about what could and should be recycled also went a long way. The 40 municipalities in Hennepin County mostly had different terminology.

"We came up with common terminology, images, we got everyone on the same page about what to recycle," Kroening said.

From here, the county will focus its attentions on multi-family and commercial recycling policies and education. The transient population of renters is fertile ground of making an impact on people's recycling habits, he said.

Obama names Lomax, Patrick to presidential election commission

Clark County, Nev. Registrar Larry Lomax and Tammy Patrick, Maricopa County, Ariz. federal compliance officer, were two of 10 appointees named to the Presidential Commission on Election Administration by President Barack Obama.

The commission was created following the president's State of the Union pledge to identify nonpartisan ways to shorten lines at polling places, promote the efficient conduct of elections and provide better access to the polls for all voters.

"We have an obligation to ensure that all eligible voters have the opportunity to cast their ballots without unwarranted obstructions or unnecessary delay," Obama said. "I am pleased that these committed individuals have agreed to offer their expertise to the Presidential Commission on Election Administration and I look forward to working with

them in the coming months."

In addition to his position as Clark County registrar, Lomax serves as Nevada's representative to the Election Assistance Commission's Standards Board. He was elected by the board's members to the Standards Board's Executive Board and also served on a Pew Foundation committee focused on modernizing the nation's system of registering voters.

Patrick, a compliance officer in Maricopa County's Election Department, became a voting member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers' working group on developing standards for a universal format for election results reporting in 2013. She is also a representative on the Mailer's Technical Advisory Committee to the U.S. Post Office and serves as the co-chair of the Postal Task Force for the Election Center.



Photo courtesy of DeKalb County, Ga.

DeKalb County, Ga. CEO Burrell Ellis, in partnership with the DeKalb Chamber of Commerce and the DeKalb County School District, presented \$120,000 in college scholarships to 26 DeKalb County public high school students in a ceremony May 14. Ellis was inspired to create the scholarship fund after receiving an award in 2012 from NACo, which included a \$5,000 scholarship donated by the Siemens Corporation. He used the award as seed money to establish the DeKalb County Education Scholarship Fund.

Pictured here: Scholarship winner Kearia Banks displays her scholarship award from Siemens Corporation. From left: Angela Roberts, WBPA television host; Ellis; Banks; Arnie Silverman, chairman, DeKalb Chamber of Commerce; Michael Thurmond, DeKalb School interim superintendent; and Thomas Phillips, Siemens Corporation. Banks plans to major in biomedical engineering at Georgia Institute of Technology.

Coconino County parks take an entrepreneurial approach

BY CHARLES TAYLOR
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

From a treetop sports adventure course to an amphitheater, residents of Coconino County, Ariz. have entertainment and recreational opportunities available to them the county couldn't have afforded without the help of public-private partnerships.

And these agreements have proven to be mutually beneficial.

The topic of innovative collaborations was covered extensively during a recent workshop at NACo's Western Interstate Region Conference in Flagstaff, the county seat. Attendees also heard from other partners in the region who are working with local governments and nonprofits to create high-tech jobs and infrastructure partnerships.

The 411-acre Fort Tuthill County Park has been an especially attractive magnet for private investment, said Judy Weiss, the county's parks and recreation director. It is home to the 3,000-seat Pepsi Amphitheater, the Flagstaff Extreme adventure course and the North Pole Experience, a seasonal "Santa's Compound" including an Elves University. All are generating revenue for the parks department.

"When I first got here, the first thing the Board of Supervisors told me was the parks and recreation department should be self-supporting, and I said that's never going to happen," Weiss recalled. "But they said, okay, can you be entrepreneurial? Can you be more businesslike? And so we've embarked on these public-private

partnerships with their support."

So far, the results have been impressive. In 2012, the three facilities attracted \$919,000 in private capital investments in the park, generated \$133,000 for the parks department and county, and created 98 jobs for a total economic impact of \$9 million, according to a Northern Arizona University Rural Policy Institute study.

The benefits of such partnerships extend beyond the county's borders, according to Liz Archuleta, chair of the Board of Supervisors. That \$9 million includes hotel room nights, money spent at restaurants and other regional attractions. "What it clearly shows

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- » Agility needed to work with private sector
- » Parks-generated revenues ease burden on general fund
- » Nearly \$1 million in private investment in county park

for counties is that it is not only a benefit to the county and the government but to the overall economy of the region," she said.

The contracted revenue from these agreements goes back into the parks and recreation budget,

not the general fund, Weiss said. "This revenue is not much, but it helps offset our burden on the general fund."

From the amphitheater, the county receives a contracted minimum plus a percentage of sales from tickets, merchandise and concessions. Flagstaff Extreme kicks in 3 percent of ticket, food, beverage and merchandise revenue, and, for the North Pole Experience, the county receives a flat rate from ticket revenue tiered with attendance and 3 percent of revenues from merchandise sold on and off site.

Weiss calls partnerships like these "potatoes from the sky."

"Typically in the public sector, we have to solicit for these things, and we have to go out for an RFP," she said. "These have come to us in a very special kind of way.... They come through the door, through the regional economic agency or, in a couple of cases, they just walk through your door and have a proposal for you." It can be a case of success breeding success.

That was one of the factors that attracted Scott Pace, owner of the North Pole Experience (NPX), to the county. He was looking to expand and move from a small-town location more than three hours east of Flagstaff and contacted the Chamber of Commerce, who put him in touch with the county. The parks department had a "1931-era" building at Fort Tuthill Park that it wasn't using in the wintertime, Pace said. He met with Weiss, and "she just pulled together realtors and different people and said, 'Hey maybe we can put something together with you directly.'"

Pace poured about a half-million dollars into retrofitting the building and upgrading its heating and electrical systems, which benefits the county when it uses the building during the rest of the year. The Christmas village operates from mid-November to late December.

"From an investment standpoint, it's good for us because we don't have to buy or build a building," he said. "For them, they never use it in the wintertime anyway, so it's a win for the county."

See **PARKS** page 10



Photo courtesy of Flagstaff Extreme

Thrill-seekers navigate rope lines and platforms at Flagstaff Extreme in Coconino County, Ariz.'s Fort Tuthill County Park. The for-profit enterprise generates revenue for the county's parks and recreation department through a public-private partnership.

Shale energy development impacts county infrastructure

BY THERESE DORAU
PROGRAM MANAGER



When it comes to extracting shale oil and natural gas, county leaders recognize the impact energy development can have on county-maintained infrastructure. Concern about infrastructure impacts was second only to environmental issues when attendees were informally polled during NACo's May 2 webinar, Early Indicators of Shale Energy Development.

What makes infrastructure impacts so important? During the webinar, rural economics experts, Don Macke and Dick Gardner, highlighted the particular challenges of boom-and-bust development

cycles, where longer time-frames for development are the norm and inconsistent revenue flows to the county can be expected. These and other factors drive a county's ability to manage infrastructure needs. Early planning and active coordination with adjacent local governments, state agencies and industry representatives is essential for counties experiencing energy industry growth, Macke and Gardner said.

County planning for shale energy development should include county services related to transportation, public safety, water and wastewater, and planning and permitting. Increased traffic and heavier vehicles can add wear and tear on roads and require more signaling infrastructure and safety measures.

Capacity for wastewater treatment and protection of the quantity and quality of the public and private water supplies are also essential as more residents and more varied industrial uses increase demand and potential for contamination.

Public safety and fire protection can become more challenging. Crime may rise as populations grow and diversify. With rapid development, building code enforcement staff will become stretched. Particularly, Gardner recognizes that counties often use a voluntary force of first responders, however energy development brings with it "potential for some very technical fires and emergencies at well sites that require much more additional training."

Planning and permitting are also

essential infrastructure services to manage. As population increases, additional hospital, school and detention facilities will be required. The private sector will require housing and retail buildings, and growing industry may require additional transportation infrastructure. Planning and permitting services can be "overwhelmed," Macke said, finding it "easy to be focused solely on the next person in line and not to be thinking strategically about what you need to be doing at the county to position yourself to digest the rest of the boom."

In addition to infrastructure services, other community services such as education, health care and social services, housing, economic development and service industry support, diverse constituent opin-

ions, and community character must also be actively managed by county governments.

Macke and Gardner draw from experience studying communities in western North Dakota's recent shale gas boom as well as decades of resource economics.

Another webinar will be held June 27 (The Scoop on Shale: A County Primer on Shale Energy and Hydraulic Fracturing), and a Solutions for Shale-Impacted Counties forum will be held at NACo's Annual Conference: County Solutions and Ideas Marketplace on Sunday, July 21 in Tarrant County, Texas.

*To access a recording of the May 2 webinar, see this story online at www.naco.org/countynews.

Program aims to solve parking woes

By CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON
EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

It's a challenge faced by drivers everywhere. Whether they're headed downtown for a meeting or going to a sporting event, the endless circling and maneuvering to find that empty parking spot is inevitable.

The City and County of San Francisco's SFpark uses smart parking meters that — like congestion pricing on toll roads — change their prices according to location, time of day and day of the week with the goal of keeping nearly 15 percent of spaces vacant on any given block. Funding for the project comes primarily from a \$19.8 million grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation's Urban Partnership Program. The system can be accessed via a smartphone app.

"This innovative project's main goal is to reduce the number of drivers circling and double-parking, reduce traffic congestion and create safer streets for everyone," said Jay Primus, project manager, SFpark. "The parking information on the app, the website and the real-time information signs allow SFpark to make it easier to park and drive in San Francisco."

SFpark was launched in 2011 by the San Francisco Municipal Transit Agency (SFMTA) as a pilot program designed to inform drivers in real-time of available parking spaces. The pilot covers 7,000 of San Francisco's 28,800 metered spaces and 12,250 spaces in 15 of 20 SFMTA-managed parking garages.

The program installed several thousand in-ground sensors in these parking garages and metered spots in the most congested parts of San Francisco. Additionally, the city replaced thousands of old parking meters with new smart meters that accept credit cards. The sensors keep tabs on how often, and for how long, a car occupies a space, and meters record when someone has paid for the space.

The system operates under the principle of demand-responsive pricing. The parking rate in a given metropolitan zone is adjusted up or down depending on the demand for spaces. Full blocks go up in price while emptier blocks see rates go down. Rates are adjusted once a month. As of April 2013,



Courtesy of SFpark

SFpark's single-space meters allow drivers to pay with coins, credit or debit cards, and SFMTA parking cards. They cover more than 5,100 spaces across the pilot areas.

prices range from 25 cents to \$6 per hour during normal hours with an \$18-per-hour cap for special events such as baseball games or street fairs.

Instead of drawing in reams of revenue for the SFMTA, the SFpark program has actually contributed to a slight loss. The agency lost around \$5.5 million from lack of parking citations in FY12, although those losses are partially offset by an increase of \$4.4 million from additional meter revenue.

Prices can be checked via SFpark.org, iPhone and Android apps on many smartphones or even the region's 511 phone system. By checking parking availability before leaving home, drivers will know where they can expect to find parking and how much it will cost.

Public-private partnerships' benefits outweigh risks for county thus far

PARKS from page 9

Pace has nothing but praise for the county's ability to turn on a dime.

"Government entities versus business entities usually move at different speeds," he said, "and when we met with the county, they operated and worked at just lightning speed So my compliments to the county."

Archuleta said that's no accident: The board set the expectation of efficiency. "We didn't expedite any building permits or any processes like that," she said. "Work went into the front end of identifying when do they need to be open for business, and then what needs to happen to enable them to meet that deadline, and then we committed to making sure that we kept to those deadlines."

She added that once you execute the first successful agreement, "you pretty much have a template" to apply to other business partnerships.

Weiss said news of the county's agility is spreading: "So now, I get cold calls all the time. People come into my office totally unsolicited. We just had a mountain bike concession come through the door unsolicited just a couple of weeks ago."

She cautioned that there are risks that accompany such partnerships, including the following:

- The use period. If a partner makes a huge financial investment, as in the case of NPX, your agreement will need to be long term so they can recoup or exceed their investment. The county has entered some 15- to 20-year agreements.
- Insurance and liability. She said extreme sports are a growing trend in parks and recreation. With Flagstaff Extreme, for example, adventurers can swing



Photo courtesy of the North Pole Experience

The North Pole Experience is another moneymaker for Coconino County's parks department. Here kids work with the holiday attraction's elves and help build toys.

or climb from tree to tree at heights of up to 60 feet in the park's Ponderosa pines. "We have some good insurance and liability (coverage) for those things, she said.

• Conflicts of use. With multiple uses, such as occur at Fort Tuthill Park, Weiss said you want to make sure that the uses are compatible with the county's mission.

"Then there's the public benefit part of it," she continued. "It is a quid pro quo: the county's getting something; the public's getting something and the private partner is getting something."

"We always have to keep that public benefit in mind. And you don't have to say yes to every guy that walks in your door."



Photo courtesy of Larry Naake

Former NACo Executive Director Larry Naake and his wife, Joan, pose with NACo scholarship winner Will Federman. The \$10,000 scholarship, created in honor of Naake's 21 years as NACo executive director, recognizes a deserving student pursuing a career in public policy and public service. Federman recently completed his associate's degree at Montgomery College, Germantown, Md. where Joan Naake is acting instructional dean. Federman will complete his college education in California.

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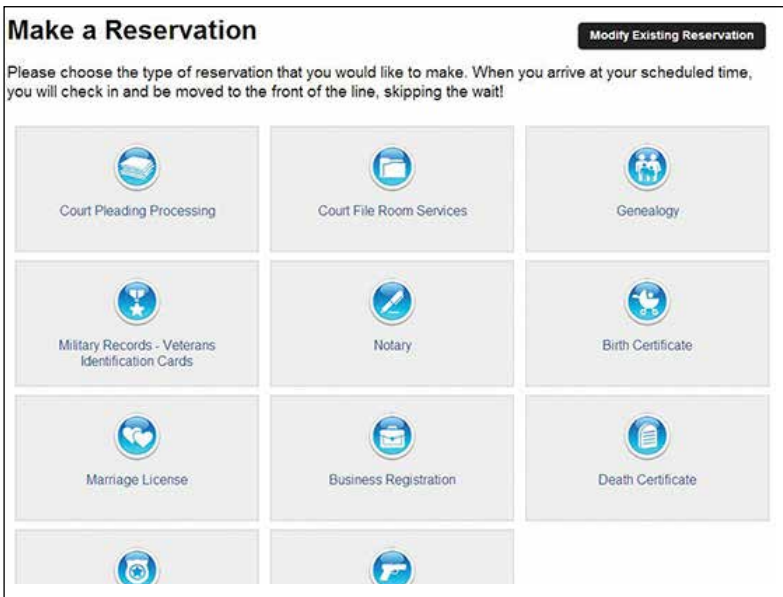
Clerk's Office Appointment System Evens Out Workday, Lines

By CHARLIE BAN
STAFF WRITER

With a little planning, the Macomb County, Mich. clerk's office has turned its feast-or-famine customer service situation into three square meals.

The feast usually happens, appropriately enough, at lunchtime. Between 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., customers can get out of their respective offices and overrun the clerks. By trying to fit their trips into their breaks, many customers help overwhelm the office and possibly ensure they don't get back to work on time. It left the clerk's office staff members overworked for part of the day and underworked the rest of the day.

The vital records section processes an average of 180 transactions daily, enough, when focused in two hours, to make someone need a vacation, especially when combined with layoffs in the office shrinking the number of clerks available to handle those transactions. Coincidentally, Chief Deputy Clerk Todd Schmitz' family



The Macomb County clerk's office FastPass interface.

vacation to Disney World sparked a plan to make life easier when he got home to Michigan.

The FastPass system at the amusement parks allows visitors to make reservations for rides and avoid the standby queue, like the kind Schmitz was used to seeing at the office during lunch. It was similar to Apple stores, where cus-

tomers could make appointments with salespeople. That type of planning, County Clerk and Registrar Carmella Sabaugh thought, could work in her office.

"It's made a big difference. If people can sign up ahead of time, it makes it easier for everyone," she said. "Our employees can handle a more consistent work flow, and

our customers can stress a little less about waiting in line. Their time is money, too."

The Macomb County FastPass system is available online, where customers can select from among 11 types of services, choose a date and time among 15-minute windows and leave their contact information.

Customers who arrive at the office can sign in on a computer and when they are "on deck," receive a text message from the system, telling them to get ready.

"It's helped us serve individual customers more smoothly," Schmitz said. "We can have documents ready to go and take the guesswork out of someone coming up to the desk, and the clerk having no advance notice what they want to do."

Visitors to the clerk's office have enjoyed the system.

"I used the FastPass system to set an appointment time to file some paperwork to apply for my concealed pistol license," said Craig Wrubel. "I found it to be very useful, I had no waiting in any lines."

A contractor's work to create the system cost a one-time fee of roughly \$4,000, and the Web hosting costs average \$240 a year.

It is worth it, Sabaugh said. "It's making work better for our staff and the experience better for our customers," she said. "It worked for us and could work for any county,"

County Innovations and Solutions highlights award-winning programs.

Research News

Preparing for the Brunt of the Storm

After the devastating tornado in Oklahoma in May, people across the country question if they are prepared if a storm hits their area. Counties serve as a vital resource for ensuring the safety of their residents during an emergency.

Encouraging emergency preparedness is a key step in keeping residents safe when a disaster occurs. For years, county officials throughout the country have been promoting the importance of preparing for storms and other disasters.

For example, Peoria County, Ill. provides a checklist of necessary steps in preparing an emergency kit or arranging plans for keeping in touch with family members during and after a storm. In addition, the county encourages citizens to join the Peoria County Medical Reserve Corps. Through this group, medical and non-medical volunteers promote preparedness in their local neighborhood. With

▶ WEB EXTRA ◀

To learn more about St. Louis County, Mo.'s Social Media Collaboration Group, see Research news online at www.naco.org/countynews.

available training, members also assist in responding after a disaster.

Other counties have used technology to prepare and notify their residents. For example, Johnson County, Kan. collaborated with cities to form a joint alert system for the community. "Notify JoCo" allows subscribers to receive real-time alerts via phone, text message or email in case of severe weather warnings, public safety alerts or other emergencies. This unique collaboration allows emergency officials to provide one streamlined message to all users. Launched in February, Notify JoCo now has more than 133,000 registered users,

and other area cities have expressed interest in joining the system.

Social media is also playing an increasingly important role in notifying residents of emergencies and collecting information in the aftermath of a storm. For example, Fairfax County, Va. used Twitter to update residents about the progress of a severe winter storm last March.

After a tornado struck St. Louis County, Mo. in April 2013, the county's Office of Emergency Management used an all-volunteer Social Media Collaboration Group to help monitor social media for residents reporting downed trees and power lines, and other situations that required attention.

In the eye of an increasing number of storms, counties throughout the country continue to demonstrate resiliency and innovation in emergency preparedness.

(Research News was written by Kathryn Murphy, senior research associate.)

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Learn more about this featured county in 'What's in a Seal?'

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I	O	S	C	Y	A	H	R	T	P	T	H	I	X	X	V	S	L	U	F
C	C	J	M	S	L	Z	P	O	Z	C	D	P	R	E	P	N	Y	D	J
F	A	U	T	M	W	G	Q	K	C	X	X	D	K	H	V	A	R	L	B
K	X	L	B	L	U	F	E	M	G	R	Y	H	S	H	Z	D	A	F	B
I	E	J	F	M	C	J	R	R	Z	F	J	I	U	N	C	H	M	P	Q
Q	J	F	J	V	Y	L	A	A	C	P	L	K	S	L	J	R	J	O	M
M	U	Z	C	F	K	I	C	H	F	G	Q	S	P	W	C	K	M	R	R
V	B	Y	B	G	N	I	N	I	N	S	M	T	Z	Y	J	T	G	T	M
W	I	L	L	I	A	M	P	E	N	N	Z	G	W	W	Y	B	O	Q	G
K	Z	K	X	W	O	D	T	N	L	H	G	M	O	C	N	X	U	D	P

- CAPE MAY (county across the Delaware Bay)
- CAROLINE (adjacent county in Md.)
- CONSTITUTION (Delaware was first state to ratify)
- CUMBERLAND (adjacent county in N.J.)
- DOVER (county seat and capital of Delaware)
- ENGLISH (Kent named after English county)
- FIRST STATE (Delaware became

- the first state after ratifying the Constitution)
- GRAIN (small grain farming region in 18th century)
- MARYLAND (bordering state)
- NEW CASTLE (adjacent county)
- QUEEN ANNE (adjacent county in Md.)
- SALEM (adjacent county in N.J.)
- SUSSEX (adjacent county)
- WILLIAM PENN (creator of county seal in 1683)

Created by Christopher Johnson

Financial Services News

Maricopa County Discovers New Resources, Lowers Costs with U.S. Communities

As the fourth largest county in the country — with 13,000 employees — Maricopa County, Ariz. has its share of staffing issues. Most recently, the county needed to provide and maintain a pool of 75 temporary staff.

Even though selected staffing

companies had successfully filled some of the 75 positions, others were left wanting. This was largely due to inadequate recruiting resources, coupled with “candidate fallout” caused by lengthy background investigations.

The struggle to recruit the person-

nel needed for the pool threw a harsh light on the county’s recruitment practices. Under its Temporary Labor Program, the county used three cooperative purchasing contracts featuring dozens of temporary staffing vendors on each of the contracts. To add more complexity,

each county department needed to identify, qualify and manage its own vendors, which was proving to be unwieldy.

Fortunately, Maricopa County realized that it needed to streamline its temporary staffing process. It offered to be the lead public agency in soliciting bids through U.S. Communities cooperative purchasing for a managed staffing. Acro Service Corporation (Acro), which also has a comprehensive staffing division, became the approved supplier for temporary personnel and related services.

Michigan-based Acro quickly assessed Maricopa County’s temporary labor program, and with county approval, replaced it with a managed staffing Program for Contract Labor Personnel services. Unlike the traditional temporary personnel supplier program, this new program delivers value to Maricopa County beyond just simply filling temporary positions; it also establishes a dedicated program management office in central Phoenix that provides a single point of contact for all county contract labor personnel needs.

Additionally, the Acro Managed Staffing Program concept contractually engages multiple categorically-qualified associate vendors, at consistent approved pricing, and simultaneously releases new requirements to all qualified vendors on a “vendor neutral” basis.

Many of the associate vendors that are a part of the new program are the same vendors that had been previously providing staffing services to the county under other county contracts. Acro further supplemented the network with additional associate vendors to provide contract labor in labor categories that had not been well supported.

“In short order, Acro stepped in to put together highly automated and efficient solutions-based processes that have helped this specialized Maricopa County office fill the majority of its positions,” explained James Foley, deputy chief procurement officer for Maricopa County.

The new program delivered an immediate 10 percent savings on all new departmental placements, resulting in a net annual savings of \$150,000 according to Larry McLennan, the Acro program implementation manager for Maricopa County.

The new strategy provides faster access to more qualified candidates and reduces the recruiting losses due to the background investigation “fall-out” — dropping the loss from almost two in three candidates to less than one in three, McLennan added.

With the success of this new centralized, single-point-of-contact approach, Maricopa County is moving most, if not all, of its contract labor personnel ordering, time reporting, and billing to the new online system, simplifying the management of the program immensely for the county.

“Maricopa County regularly uses contracts available through U.S. Communities because the procurement processes of the lead agencies meet or exceed our standards. The program provides great value and it also reduces our administrative burden,” Foley said. “Acro brought in a whole new concept of partnering. They assessed our business needs and created a centralized program that makes this a strategic process. Acro changed the whole dynamic of our program.”

For more information on this or other U.S. Communities programs contact Jim Sawyer at jsawyer@naco.org or 202.661.8868.

The H.R. Doctor Is In

Happy Birthday to My Hero Pete

I raise a glass to toast and celebrate Pete Seeger’s 94th birthday. Pete has been a hero of mine since high school.

He taught me to play the banjo and to appreciate America’s incredibly rich treasure of folk music. He helped me appreciate the importance of looking beyond what I first see and instead envision what could be. He foresaw a path of freedom from segregation to a better nation. He looked beyond an unnecessary, horrifically costly war to a time of

peace. He saw what was ahead if we didn’t respect the planet and the environment more that we have been doing. He enjoyed making people smile and think as they use their voices to create harmony with each other.

I remember well as a graduate student, a private dinner with this American icon. I was in awe when he asked me to carry his banjo out to my car following a concert. I also could barely contain myself as I drove to a restaurant for our dinner.

As we entered, people put down their cheeseburgers and started applauding. I recall him asking me extremely complicated questions like “What are you studying and what do you plan to do with it?”

I have had the pleasure to meet several of my heroes over the years. I have found that the normal powers of speech and clear thought seem to vanish in the glory of the moment. When Pete asked me questions like the ones above, and wondered what I would order for dinner, spouse Charlotte repeatedly and humanely intervened and answered for me as I sat there drooling and babbling. At that point we all smiled and laughed.

Now that I am much older myself, though not yet close to 94, I also appreciate the perspective on aging Pete offered in one of his very many songs, “Get Up and Go.”

“Old age is golden, so I’ve heard said. But sometimes I wonder as I crawl into bed.

With my ears in a drawer, and my teeth in a cup, and my eyes on the dresser until I wake up,

Though sleep dims my vision I say to myself, is there anything more I should put on the shelf...”

I’m sure, like all of us, Pete puts an increasing number of things on the shelf at bedtime. However, the very good news is that by following his example of leadership, broad perspective, courage, sense of humor and sense of humility, we can all be heroes who produce amazing legacies. We can live far beyond our individual mortalities and inspire many other people around the neighborhood and around the world — even if we never get to have dinner with them.



Phil Rosenberg
The HR Doctor • www.hrdr.net

NACo on the Move

» In the News

• *American City & County* magazine quoted NACo First Vice President **Linda Langston** and Executive Director **Matthew Chase** in a May cover story about the importance of protecting the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds, which are used by state and local governments to build and maintain America’s infrastructure.

» NACo Officers, County Officials

NACo Executive Director **Matthew Chase** recently met with Utah Gov. Gary Herbert (R), who formerly served on the Utah County Commission and also as president of the Utah Association of Counties.

» NACo Staff

• **Kathy Nothstine** has been named a program director for the County Solutions and Innovation (CSI) Department. Prior to joining NACo, Nothstine was associate director at the National Association of Development Organizations. She will be responsible for work in the grants program areas that include Green Government, and infrastructure and sustainability.



Kathy Nothstine

» Coming Up

• **Alex Koroknay-Palicz** will be exhibiting on behalf of membership recruitment and retention at the 84th annual Mississippi Association of Supervisors convention June 17–20 in Harrison County (Biloxi), Miss.

On the Move is compiled by Christopher Johnson.

In Case You Missed It

News to use from past County News

» Check out the local sites during County Solutions and Idea Marketplace

See a bit of Fort Worth, Texas while attending NACo’s Annual Conference, July 19–22. Tarrant County is providing NACo attendees an exceptional opportunity to visit area attractions such as Cowboys Stadium, Lockheed Martin and museums.

For more information on this or registering for the conference, visit <http://www.naco.org/meetings/participate/NACoAnnual>, or contact Kim Struble at 202.942.4288 or kstruble@naco.org.



News From the Nation's Counties

► CALIFORNIA

• Californians 55 and older who move to **RIVERSIDE COUNTY** could soon get **tax breaks** if they buy homes here.

The Board of Supervisors will consider a final version of an ordinance letting residents from other California counties transfer the property tax assessments from their old homes to houses bought locally, the *Press Enterprise* reported — a move allowed by state law.

Riverside County would become the ninth county in California to offer the incentive. The county offered the incentive from 1989 to 1995, when it was scrapped out of concern the county was losing too much in property taxes.

• **VENTURA COUNTY** has changed its land-use process to **regulate hydraulic fracturing**.

County managers will now include questions about hydraulic fracturing in applications that companies submit to get permission to operate in unincorporated county territory.

The *Ventura County Star* says the move follows a similar initiative in **SANTA BARBARA COUNTY** to regulate hydraulic fracturing through the approval process for land use.

► COLORADO

• Crowds of protestors at the **ADAMS COUNTY** administration building have prompted commissioners to pass two resolutions changing the way **the public is allowed to interact** with them.

The new rules prohibit protestors on county-owned property and in county buildings, establishing a 945-square-foot free-speech area far from the main entrance to the Adams County Government Center and another at the county fairgrounds.

They also push demonstrators and petition gatherers from sidewalks and parking lots on county property.

A group trying to get a controversial stormwater fee repealed, disrupted normal business, the *Denver Post* reported.

• A new pilot program in **EL PASO COUNTY** aims to keep children and teenagers mired in the county's **child welfare system** from entering costly residential care centers.

The program, funded by a \$300,000 federal grant, marks the first effort of its kind in the state to help children in their homes rather

than in treatment centers, viewed as ineffective and expensive by county child welfare officials.

Officials hope that by catering care around kids in their homes — before more intensive treatment is needed — and by involving families, children won't slip into criminal activity.

The pilot program is modeled after an initiative in Wisconsin called Wraparound Milwaukee.

Administered through a private contractor, the El Paso County program will target 25 children ages 10 to 18 who are at risk of being placed in a residential center and who suffer from a mental illness, such as depression or severe attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, according to *The Gazette*. The pilot program will begin July 1 and will run for one year.

• **JEFFERSON COUNTY** Commissioners will allow the Sheriff to ban the **open carrying of firearms** in select county buildings.

Requests have already been made for open-carry bans in the Sheriff's Office, District Attorney's Office and Department of Human Services. The new ordinance will apply to county-owned or leased buildings that have been deemed "vulnerable" by the Sheriff's Office, following a vulnerability assessment.

Sheriff Ted Mink told 7NEWS that he proposed the ban after two separate incidents in April where work came to a standstill after individuals walked into the Department of Human Services and the Sheriff's Office with visible weapons. Mink said employees in those two offices, and in the DA's office, frequently deal with people who are emotionally distraught.

► GEORGIA

FULTON COUNTY will go to court to **challenge at least two of 14 bills** the Republican-dominated Legislature passed this year in its effort to reduce the footprint of the largely Democratic county, according to commission Chairman John Eaves.

Eaves made the commitment during an interview with WABE-FM. One measure is a redistricting bill, which the county feels could violate the Voting Rights Act. A millage rate restriction could violate the state constitution, he said.

"It certainly is an infringement on home rule."

► KENTUCKY

Officials across Kentucky are



Photo courtesy of Macomb County, Mich.

► MICHIGAN

Two white and gray **peregrine falcon chicks** living at a **MACOMB COUNTY** administration building now have names.

County Executive Mark Hackel christened the pair **WAYNE** and **OAKLAND** — in honor of Macomb's regional county partners. Their parents, Nick and Hathor, have had successful nests atop the building since 2008.

Hathor continued to squawk as *Detroit Free Press* photographers took pictures of her and her chicks after the babies were returned to the yellow brick and rock nest the couple made on a ledge.

Peregrine falcons are endangered in Michigan.

watching **LINCOLN** and **GARRARD counties** while a lawsuit moves forward that could set a precedent for **how 911 call centers are funded**.

Circuit Judge Hunter Daugherty ruled recently that a new 911-funding fee implemented on water meters in the two counties is constitutional.

Officials from Bluegrass 911, the call center that serves the two counties, have said they want to be sure the new fee will stand up in court before they commit to fully implementing it as the main source of local 911 funding.

Currently, 911 services are funded by a small monthly fee on landline phones. "However, as more and more people terminate their landline telephone service, our revenue continues to dry up and has now reached a critical level," said Garrard County Judge-Executive John Wilson.

If an appellate court upholds Daugherty's original ruling, that would further strengthen the legal basis for implementing the new fee, the first of its kind in the state.

Mike Troop, whom the Kentucky Association of Counties is paying to represent Garrard County, said the ultimate outcome of the case will have "statewide impact."

"It is an important issue statewide," he said. "It really is, because there's got to be an alternate for 911 funding."

► NEW JERSEY

• A **pit-bull** found by New Jersey State Police officer has **recovered**, thanks to the **BERGEN COUNTY** Animal Shelter and Adoption Center.

Thin and unable to walk thanks to a broken hip and pelvis, the dog received round-the-clock love and attention from the shelter's staff and is now eligible for adoption.

• After more than two decades on the **HUDSON COUNTY** political scene, Freeholder Bill O'Dea condensed his accumulated wisdom and experiences in a **fictional account of life in the political lane** in a book called *The Legacy of Haguesville*.

The 340-page novel tells the tale of Joe Davis, a councilman's son whose father's dying wish is to have Joe unseat an entrenched congressman who runs the county with an iron fist.

O'Dea says the novel is "a satirical look at the rough and tumble world of local government, politics and the inner workings of campaigns as seen through a mythi-

cal election for a congressional seat in New Jersey in 2002."

According to the *Jersey Journal*, even though O'Dea only recently finished his debut novel, he already is looking forward towards turning *The Legacy of Haguesville* into a series, including possibly a teenage spin-off.

"I started in this business at 18 or 19 (years old)," O'Dea said. "I would love to inspire (children) to get civic-minded and get involved in local politics."

• **SOMERSET COUNTY** officials unveiled a special online historical project as part of the **county's 325th anniversary celebration**. The date for the unveiling was chosen to commemorate Somerset County's founding on May 22, 1688, the *Messenger Gazette* reported.

The My Somerset County online scrapbook, www.mysomersetcounty.org, will help populate a digital history project planned by the library system. The county library system has created a place on the Web where anyone can share images of people and places. "In its early stages, the website will be a fairly simple scrapbook," said Brian Auger, director of the Somerset County Library System. "As it develops, the library will provide more features."

The library is planning to enhance the site with oral histories, stories and recollections by and about people — present and past — whose contributions have made the county what it is."

► NEW YORK

A deal between the state and the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe to resolve a **dispute over casino gaming** will result in a windfall of cash for **FRANKLIN** and **ST. LAWRENCE counties**.

The *Adirondack Daily* reported that both sides have signed an agreement that ends a three-year standoff over payments owed to the state. Under the deal, the tribe will pay the state \$30 million in back payments and 25 percent of future gaming revenues.

Under the revenue-sharing deal, Franklin and St. Lawrence counties will receive \$3.75 million each in back payments from the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino. The counties will also receive a portion of future revenues.

The deal also means that eight "North Country" counties — **CLINTON, ESSEX, HAMILTON, JEFFERSON, LEWIS,**

Dauphin County, Pa. seeks funding for state's first land bank

NEWS FROM *from page 14*

WARREN, Franklin and St. Lawrence — will be excluded from proposed casino-siting legislation.

► OREGON

Voters in two Oregon counties **rejected property tax increases** May 21 that would have funded law enforcement and public safety services, both decimated by the loss of federal timber subsidies. **JOSEPHINE** and **CURRY** counties voted against tax increases and **LANE** COUNTY voters approved one. The Associated Press reported that all three counties say big budget gaps formed after the Secure Rural Schools Act expired.

► PENNSYLVANIA

DAUPHIN COUNTY, which created the **state's first land bank**, is expected to ask the Dauphin County Gaming Advisory Board for a \$250,000 grant to begin work later this summer. Similar land banks have had great success turning around blighted areas in Michigan, Ohio and Georgia, among other places.

Commissioner George Hartwick III has said the authority will initially

focus on rehabilitating properties in small boroughs and municipalities. The authority will not have the power of eminent domain, or control over zoning ordinances, the *Patriot News* reported.

The authority will include the five members of the county Redevelopment Authority board, and two others appointed by the commissioners. Authority meetings will be public, and the authority is required to keep a public listing of any properties in its possession.

► SOUTH CAROLINA

BEAUFORT COUNTY might **exempt** most farmers, fishermen and timber harvesters **from business-licensing requirements**.

The plan, still in the works, aims to prop up the county's agriculture and fishing industries, according to County Council Chairman Paul Sommerville.

Beaufort County requires all businesses that operate in the unincorporated areas to obtain an annual business license. Fees vary depending on the type of business and its gross receipts in a given year. The county collected \$1.72 million in the fees during FY12 and has collected about

\$906,000 during the 2013 fiscal year, which ends June 30, according to county data.

County Attorney Josh Gruber said that eight of the largest counties in the state have business license requirements, including **CHARLESTON** and **HORRY** counties. Only three of those eight counties have exemptions for agriculture, according to the *Island Packet*.

► UTAH

The operator of a website that publishes jail-booking pictures sued **SALT LAKE COUNTY** for refusing his **request for photographs** of people admitted to the Salt Lake County Jail during 17 days in January.

Kyle Prall and his company, Information Freedom, LLC, are asking a 3rd District Court judge to overturn a County Council decision April 9 that upheld Sheriff Jim Winder's rejection of an application — through the Government Records Access and Management Act — for 1,388 "mug shots" of people booked into the jail between Jan. 11 and Jan. 27.

"Respondents' position would set a dangerous precedent that would extend well beyond mug shots and threaten to completely gut the public's right of access," said the suit filed by Texas-based

Prall, who runs the website *www.bustedmugshots.com*.

The sheriff said his office can deny access because it created the photographs and thus has copyright control, according to the *Patriot News*.

► WASHINGTON

• Recently, **CLARK COUNTY** Public Health teamed up with local hospitals, law enforcement and state agencies to **test the county's bioterrorism emergency response protocols** with a drill.

The exercise — which took place over three days — was part of the Washington state annual bioterrorism exercise. Every year, smaller-scale exercises take place in Clark County and throughout the state. But one region each year is selected to hold a full-scale event in conjunction with the state health department. The last time Clark County hosted a full-scale exercise was in 2005, *The Columbian* reported.

This exercise simulated an actual bioterrorism attack, requiring public health staffers to take limited initial information and, through their investigation, identify the agent (or source) of illness, where exposure occurred and who was at risk. From there, public health staff implemented a plan to obtain antibiotics

and distribute the medication to those who were exposed.

"Events like this are rare," said Richard Konrad, incident commander for the exercise. "But their consequences are so dire that we're remiss if we don't practice."

Following the exercise, outside evaluators will submit reviews of the simulation. The health department will use that information to modify its training and protocols, said.

• **THURSTON COUNTY** commissioners approved a tobacco ban that will **prohibit smoking, e-cigarettes and tobacco** products on county grounds starting next year. All county properties and worksites will be tobacco-free. County parks will not be subject to the new policy, *The Olympian* reported.

The goal of the policy is to reduce employee's and visitor's exposure to second-hand smoke, and encourage those employees who use tobacco products to quit.

The policy will take effect Jan. 1, 2014, to provide enough transition time.

(News From the Nation's Counties was compiled by Bev Schlotterbeck, executive editor; and Charles Taylor and Charlie Ban, staff writers. If you have an item for News From, please email ctaylor@naco.org or cban@naco.org.)

What's in a Seal?

» **Kent County, Del.**
www.co.kent.de.us



Kent County, Del. was founded in 1683 in the first state to ratify the U.S. Constitution. The county was named after an English county of the same name.

William Penn, a realtor and author of Pennsylvania's first constitution, had established a seal in 1683, which was used for some of the municipalities he developed. Penn's seal was brought before the commissioners of Kent County Levy Court for adoption as the official county seal in 1971.

Voted upon unanimously by the commissioners, the seal was officially presented to the county at Dover Days, an annual celebration in the state capital of Dover commemorating Delaware history.

The seal depicts three ears of corn, which are unique to Kent County and symbolic of the county's agricultural role in Delaware's economy.

The three circles prominently displayed in the middle of the seal, represent three shillings and reflects the number of councilors selected to serve in the General Assembly from each county.

A floating ribbon shown beneath the seal displays the date of 1683, which provides credence to the seal, and acknowledges the year when Kent County was established.

(If you would like your county's seal featured, please contact Christopher Johnson at 202.942.4256 or cjohnson@naco.org.)

Job Market & Classifieds

■ AD VALOREM ASSESSMENT ADVISOR – BERNALILLO COUNTY, N.M.

Salary: DOQ.

Work with the Assessor as a special adviser to the tax appraisal/reappraisal, mapping and information system divisions.

Duties and Responsibilities

1. Provide expertise and on-the-job training for personnel within the division or a specific area as designated by the Assessor.

2. Develop a methodology, supported with quantifying data, for the County appraisal/reappraisal process based upon experience in the private sector, market/cost development, and the mass assessment of properties.

3. Instruct and assist the appraisers in the valuation system of residential/commercial property and land based on sales data and benchmark costs as established in the Marshall and Swift Cost Handbook.

Minimum Qualifications

High school diploma or GED certificate plus a minimum of 10 years' experience in one of the following areas or a combination thereof: appraisal and appraisal review; real estate and development, preferably with a New Mexico Real Estate Brokers License; construction experience in single family/project development; quality-control experience

in areas of cost and data development for the construction and real-estate industries; information systems technology; GIS experience.

Bernalillo County is an equal opportunity employer, offering a great work environment, challenging career opportunities, professional training and competitive compensation.

For more information regarding the job description, salary and closing dates visit the Bernalillo County website at www.bermco.gov and refer to the section on job postings. **ALL APPLICANTS MUST COMPLETE THE COUNTY EMPLOYMENT APPLICATION.**

■ QUALITY CONTROL SPECIALIST – BERNALILLO COUNTY, N.M.

Salary: DOQ.

Under general direction of the Assessor or designee coordinate and oversee quality assurance/quality control programs for the Assessor's Office; conduct analysis of assessment reports and monitors property changes initiated by appraisal division.

Duties and Responsibilities

1. Coordinate and supervise the day-to-day operations and activities of the assigned section for the Assessor's Office through the inspection of computer assisted mass appraisal (CAMA) updates, paper flow, and transaction logs from the

various appraisal divisions.

2. Monitor and investigate property changes to insure accuracy of the change actions.

3. Assist the Assessor and deputies in the establishment of policies and procedures.

Minimum Qualifications

1. High school diploma or GED, plus a minimum of eight (8) years' experience related to property tax assessments or real estate appraisal which includes at least two (2) of those years in a supervisory or management capacity. Post-secondary education in a related field may substitute for experience on a year for year basis for up to two (2) years.

2. Thorough knowledge of appraisal methods and ad valorem assessment procedures.

3. Ability to analyze and evaluate appraisal activities of others. Bernalillo County is an equal opportunity employer, offering a great work environment, challenging career opportunities, professional training and competitive compensation.

For more information regarding the job description, salary and closing dates visit the Bernalillo County website at www.bermco.gov and refer to the section on job postings.

ALL APPLICANTS MUST COMPLETE THE COUNTY EMPLOYMENT APPLICATION.



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