NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES WASHINGTON, D.C.

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Texas prosecutors' deaths leave officials, public shaken

BY CHARLIF BAN

STAFF WRITER

Following the second shooting death of a Kaufman County, Texas prosecutor in two months, elected officials in the county east of Dallas are shaken and left appreciating the normalcy of their jobs.

District Attorney Mike McLelland and his wife Cynthia were found shot to death outside of their home March 30. This followed the still-unsolved Jan. 31 shooting death of Assistant Prosecutor Mark Hasse, in broad daylight as he walked to the county courthouse.

Gov. Rick Perry (R) will make an appointment to fill the district attorney's seat, which is held in the interim by McLelland's top prosecutor Brandi Fernandez. She will hold the job for 21 days.

"We're still in a process of trying to believe that it happened," said County Judge Bruce Wood. "We hope that the memorial service (April 4) will help people start the healing process. We know closure will be a long way off."

Meanwhile, Wood said "Our

County **Features**

employees have been showing up for work. I cannot brag about them enough."

The U.S. Marshals Service has evaluated the safety of the courthouse, which contains the court

See **SHOOTINGS** page 2

West Virginia sheriff killed in his car

County law-enforcement officials are also being targeted in West Virginia, where Mingo County Sheriff Eugene Crum was shot in the head April 3 while eating lunch in his car.

Crum took office in January after serving as chief magistrate for Mingo County, resigning to run for sheriff, a general election he won unopposed after winning the Democratic primary by 8 percentage points.

"He was a lifelong law man," said Commission President John Hubbard. "His life's passion was to be sheriff of Mingo County. He was the

See CRUM page 2

"NACo extends its sympathies to Mingo and Kaufman counties for their tragic losses. Keeping the community safe is a bedrock county government service. Brutal attacks on those who serve and preserve the safety of their communities remind us all of the debt we owe to those who freely choose to keep us safe."

-NACo Executive Director **Matt Chase**



Photo courtesy of Kittias County, Wash.

Kittias County, Wash. Commissioner Mark McClain presents an award for the 2012 coloring contest for grades K-5 held each year during National County Government Month. See page 6 to read more about how counties are celebrating this year.

Counties look at options for keeping air traffic controllers working

BY CHARLIE BAN

STAFF WRITER

Two days before contract air traffic control tower workers were set to be furloughed because of delayed the closure of 149 towers, including at more than 84 countyowned airports.

The reprieve, now until June 15, was prompted by several legal challenges to the closure decisions, including one by Cuyahoga County, Ohio.

Exemptions for various Depart-

ment of Transportation programs has left much of its \$637 million share of the across-the-board cuts to fall on the FAA — approximately 60 percent, according to FAA Administrator Michael sequestration budget cuts, the Huerta. The FAA makes up 20 Federal Aviation Administration percent of the overall DOT budget.

The lower flight volume landed the affected airports on the closure list, which has already been reduced.

"I like to think having a control tower makes life safer," said Peter Camp, Snohomish County, Wash.

See AIR TRAFFIC page 8



The sequester means costs for Build America Bonds projects > Page 5

In Senate test vote, Internet sales tax measure gets significant support > Page 2

U.S. Supreme Court says no permits needed for run-off from logging roads > Page 8

Youth Promise Act reintroduced in House > Page 9

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Marketplace Fairness Act could soon become reality

BY MICHAEL BELARMINO

ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR



In a significant, although symbolic. victory for main street businesses, and state

and local governments, the Senate has overwhelmingly supported an amendment on the Marketplace Fairness Act filed to the FY14 Senate Budget Resolution.

The amendment, led by Sens. Dick Durbin (D-III.) and Mike Enzi (R-Wyo.), would give state and local governments the authority to enforce already existing sales and use tax laws on remote or online sales.

The budget resolution, adopted

March 23 is non-binding, but 75 Senators voting in favor of the amendment indicates that the pending legislation, the Marketplace Fairness Act of 2013 (S. 336). would likely pass if brought to the Senate floor. There is an identical bill with bipartisan support in the House (H. R. 684), but it has yet to see any action.

NACo has long supported the Marketplace Fairness Act, along with other state and local government groups and a wide array of businesses that includes Amazon and Best Buy. The bill would not create a new tax, but rather a more efficient way of collecting the sales tax already owed to state and local governments, and would in the early morning hours of finally put local business owners

Counties encouraged to thank senators who supported the amendment

NACo thanks Sens. Durbin and Enzi for their leadership and support on this issue, Sens. Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.), Roy Blunt (R-Mo.), Ben Cardin (D-Md.), Heidi Heitkamp (D-N.D.) and Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.) for speaking out for the Marketplace Fairness Act during the budget resolution debate, and the 20 additional co-sponsors who have championed the legislation in the Senate. These lawmakers have pushed tirelessly for this important legislation.

and retailers on an equal footing in National Bellas Hess v. Illinois Dewith their online counterparts.

If the legislation is enacted into law, it would cap efforts that span several decades to overturn two U.S. Supreme Court decisions. The

partment of Revenue. In Bellas Hess, the court was essentially asked to decide whether a state could require a mail-order company that had no physical presence in the state to colstate. The court ruled, and affirmed in a subsequent decision, that states could not require remote sellers to collect sales taxes without a physical presence in the state.

The two cases, however, were during an age when retail was a much different industry than today. The Internet has evolved into one of the primary marketplaces for today's shoppers, facilitating billions in sales every year, and the software used by retailers today to quickly calculate anything from shipping costs to estimated delivery dates is far beyond what was in use during the two court cases.

Even though much work still needs to be done, the vote on the amendment is significant and revifirst dates back to the 1967 decision lect taxes on sales it made within the talizes efforts to pass the legislation this year. Counties can build on this momentum by asking their members of Congress who have yet to express support for the legislation, to do so by cosponsoring the Senate or the House bill.

> *To see how your Senator voted, access this article online at www.naco.org/ countynews.

U.S. Marshals inspect Kaufman County courthouse

SHOOTINGS from page 1

facilities and county administrative offices.

The sheriff's office's public information officer had not responded to inquiries from County News by press time, but Wood said the latest he knew was that no physical evidence has linked the McLelland and Hasse cases.

"But in my opinion it's more than a coincidence," he said.

Though he is a high-profile public official in Kaufman County, Wood does not feel unsafe and acknowledges that the administrative work he does is a far cry feels safe.

"With all of this protection, it's hard not to feel safe," he said. tense, County Clerk Laura Hughes "I'd never felt unsafe before. But now, everyone's awareness is much greater."

a larger facility, with a citizens' advisory committee making recom- challenge with them, he said, is

in county facilities. Those concerns are now amplified, Wood said.

Kaufman County has received the good wishes of its neighbors and many of the 254 counties in

"Everybody's trying to help; we're trying to do the best we can as county officials and employees to work through it," he said. "People mourn in different ways, and the big challenge will be finding the way to normalize what happened. We'll never go back to the way things were before, but we also want to never forget Mike, Cynthia and Mark. The old saying, 'time from prosecuting crimes. Still, he is the great healer,' I think there's some truth to that."

Media coverage has been insaid, with television news vans filling courthouse parking lots. Wood said despite the volume Plans were already in works for of news reporters, they have been respectful and diligent. The

mendations as to safety concerns letting the world know — the a NACo past president, said even is among the outlets carrying the story — that what happened is not normal for the rural county of more than 100,000.

> our county is still a great county, happen," he said. "Prosecutors we have great citizens and unfortunately we also have some people who are out to harm others."

To the west, in Tarrant County, the courthouse closed on April 2 in memoriam to the McLellands. just as it had earlier for Hasse.

County Judge Glen Whitley, ing to help."

British Broadcasting Corporation on the other side of the bustling metropolis, county employees were feeling the impact.

"Everyone's awareness is a little more on edge, it's brought "We want people to feel like us back to reality that these things deal with dangerous folks day in and day out.

> "I hope they know we're all thinking about them and we're available to do whatever it is they need us to do," he added. "Whatever they need, we're will-

CRUM from page 1

only sheriff in county history to have attended the police academy. He did this because he felt a calling to do that work."

Crum's career included stops in two different police departments in Mingo County. He became a special investigator for the county prosecutor's office and with Williamson Police Chief David Rockwell built a task force to combat the abuse of prescription painkillers, a pervasive problem in southern West Virginia. In the three months Crum was in office, 52 cases were brought to court, and more than 40 are ready to go to a grand jury.

Eugene had the unique ability to speak with anyone make them feel worthy and important," Hubbard said. "It was a true gift."

On April 3, authorities said Tennis Melvin Maynard approached Crum in a parking lot and shot him twice before fleeing. Crum died instantly. A sheriff's deputy chased and shot Maynard, who was taken alive to a local hospital.

Hubbard said Maynard was apparently stalking Crum. Crum usually had lunch with the county commission following its meetings, but with the commission tied up in another matter, Crum went off to eat alone the day of the shooting.

Crum's duties will be performed by David Rockwell, the chief of police in the town of Williamson, and Crum's widow, Rosie, will be appointed to his office.

"It's something everyone in the department and the county supports," he said. "This is senseless, in every sense of the word, how this happened."

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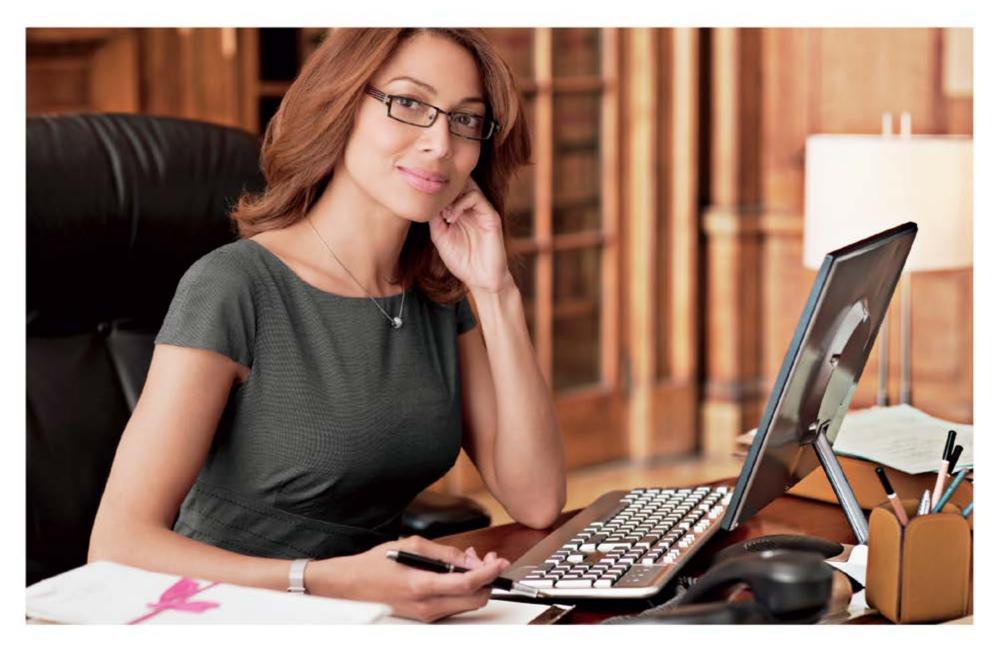
News to use from past County News

» Look for new Creating Healthy Counties newsletter

Through support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and in partnership with the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, NACo will publish a bimonthly newsletter providing background information on the County Health Rankings & Roadmaps, and highlighting ways that counties can address community health. Visit www.naco.org/improvingcountyhealth.

For more information, contact Katie Bess, health associate, at 202.942.4215 or kbess@naco.org.

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Counties honored for their transparency on the Web

By Christopher Johnson

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT



Ninety-six county websites were among 247 sites recently named 2013 Sunny

shine Review award program, now in its fourth year, recognizes the best state and county government websites in America for transparency.

County award winners were chosen from among 1,000 qualifying government websites and graded on a 10-point transparency checklist. Judges compared content available on government websites against their guidelines for what should be provided. They sought information about budgets, meetings, lobbying, financial audits, contracts, academic performance, public records and taxes. Evaluations were performed in February 2013.

"The Sunny Awards recognize governments that make transparency a priority," said Michael Barnhart. president, Sunshine Review. "The winners of the Sunny Awards are cities, counties and school districts members] continue to challenge us that proactively share the public information that empowers citizens and keeps government accountable to the people."

Santa Fe County, N.M. was one of 38 counties to receive an A-plus rating, having every section required by the Sunshine Review. The county,

for the second straight year, had its budget visible along with contact information for administrative and elected officials, meeting schedules and a public records search among the required items.

"Santa Fe County is honored to Award winners. The annual Sun-receive a Sunny Award," Commissioner Daniel Mayfield said. "Our county understands the importance of transparency and is continuously working to promote and increase transparency. This would not be possible without the work of our public information office and our dedicated staff."

> Pinal County, Ariz. was also rated an A-plus for its transparency in government. County bids, proposals and RFQs are listed on the website, as well as a searchable database of contracts the county has with its vendors. The county also hosts financial reports, including monthly expenditure reports, campaign finance reports and searchable tax information.

"The board has been clear about making the website a hub for free public access to information. [Board to create more ways to do county business through the website," said Heather Murphy, Pinal County communications director.

Allegheny County, Pa.'s was one of 58 county websites to receive an A-minus rating, meeting every criteria except one, lobbying.

Otherwise the county's sections on county commission meetings and public records helped Allegheny receive its award.

Florida led all states with 11 counties followed by Georgia and Virginia with nine receiving A-minus or higher ratings. No California, Utah or Nevada counties earned an A-plus.

Since its inception in 2008, Sunshine Review has analyzed the websites of all 50 states and graded more than 613 county, city and state governments A-plus or A-minus.

*For more information on these winners and how to enter your county's website see this story online at www.naco.org/

38 Counties, **Boroughs and Parishes Received** Scores of A+

(all elements included)

Anchorage, Alaska Pinal County, Ariz. Adams County, Colo. Douglas County, Colo. El Paso County, Colo. San Juan County, Colo. Okeechobee County, Fla. Pinellas County, Fla. St. Lucie County, Fla. Cherokee County, Ga. Clayton County, Ga. Cobb County, Ga. Coweta County, Ga. Henry County, Ga. Kauai County, Hawaii Canyon County, Idaho Lake County, Ill. McHenry County, Ill. Will County, Ill. Johnson County, Kan. Lafourche Parish, La. Terrebonne Parish, La. Allegany County, Md. Aroostook County, Maine Anoka County, Minn. Sussex County, N.J. Santa Fe County, N.M. Fulton County, Ohio Oklahoma County, Okla. Tulsa County, Okla. Aiken County, S.C. Arlington County, Va. Chesterfield County, Va. Gloucester County, Va. Mathews County, Va. Montgomery County, Va. Prince George County, Va. Washington County, Va.

Pension funding guide for state, local governments now available

By Deseree Gardner

ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

for elected officials concerning pension funding. The guide, and state governments should consider in developing a pension funding policy.

The guide fills the gap left by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) standards that change the way governments report pension liabilities.

how to calculate the actuarially determined annual required contribution (ARC), which many governments have used not only for accounting, but also to budget their pension plan contribution each year. The new GASB accountrelationship between pension accounting and ARC funding that was present under prior GASB statements.

The new GASB standards measurements of pension how employers fund the cost of benefits or calculate their ARC. This is a significant change for government employers because the ARC historically served as a guide for policy makers, employees, bond rating agencies and the public to determine whether pension obligations were being appropriately funded.

In addition to GASB's new accounting standards,

ratings agencies publicize their pension calculations, state and local officials would be faced with NACo has joined other the challenge of interpreting three national public sector organi- sets of pension numbers: an aczations in issuing a new guide counting number to comply with the GASB's financial reporting requirements, an actuarial calcula-Pension Funding: A Guide for tion to determine funding require-Elected Officials, proposes a ments for budgeting purposes, number of objectives that local and a financial analysis figure produced by bond rating agencies to evaluate and compare issuers of municipal debt.

Recognizing the need for action, the Big Seven national associations representing state when it issued new accounting and local governments and the Government Finance Officers public pensions and sponsoring Association (GFOA) established a Pension Funding Task Force. The task force has monitored the work GASB's new standards no of the actuarial community and longer provide guidance on the rating agencies, and worked to develop guidelines for recommended funding standards and practices, as well as to identify methods for voluntary compliance with the new GASB accounting standards before the deadline for implementation.

The recently released pension ing standards now end the funding guide provides key facts about public pension plans and a brief overview of which issues state and local officials should address. The guide also explores why developing a pension funding focus entirely on accounting policy is essential in light of the new GASB accounting standards, liabilities and no longer on and offers guidelines to follow when developing that policy.

> During NACo's 2013 Legislative Conference, panelists presented information on the new GASB accounting standards during the workshop "Public Pension Reform: Navigating the Regulatory Landscape," moderated by Glen Whitley, NACo past president and a Tarrant County, Texas judge.

In addition to the Big Seven, the task force also includes the National Association of State Audipolicymakers should be aware tors, Comptrollers and Treasurers: that rating agencies such as the National Association of State Moody's may use yet another Retirement Administrators; and set of criteria to assess the the National Council on Teacher impact of pension obligations Retirement. The Center for State on the creditworthiness of a and Local Government Excellence municipal bond issuer. If the is the convening organization.

Affiliate News

Terry Allan, RS, health commissioner for the Cuyahoga County, Ohio Board of Health (CCBH) Ohio, was named the National Association of County and City Health Officials' (NAACHO) new president April 1. Former President John Wiesman, DrPH, vacated the position $prior to the \,end \,of \,his term \,to \,accept \,an \,appointment \,from \,Washington$ Gov. Jay Inslee (D) to become the state's secretary of health.

Georgia F. Heise, DrPH, director of the Three Rivers Health Department in Owenton, Ky. also became NACCHO's new president-elect on April 1.

Allan brings 24 years of public health experience to his role as NACCHO president. He serves 850,000 residents and thousands of businesses in Greater Cleveland as CCBH's health commissioner

During his tenure, childhood lead-poisoning rates have been reduced by more than 50 percent and CCBH has widened its regional scope of services, aligning select programs with the needs of neighboring health partners in order to reach people in as many as 14 Ohio counties.

Heise serves a population of 50,000 in the rural Kentucky counties of Carroll, Gallatin, Owen and Pendelton. She is passionate about advancing public health in the areas of accreditation and policy development. Three Rivers was in the first cohort of public health departments to receive accreditation from the Public Health Accreditation Board in March 2013. She has served as NACCHO's vice-president since June 2012.

• CountyNews

Sequester cuts hurt county issuers of Build America Bonds

By CHARLES TAYLOR SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Clarke County, Va. financed construction of a new high school in 2010 using Build America Bonds, a form of "direct-pay" bonds created $in the 2009\,federal\,stimulus.\,The\,new$ bonds were "marginally less costly than competing financing methods" — such as tax-exempt bonds — said Michael Hobert, chairman of the county's Board of Supervisors.

Now, the sequester's across-theboard cuts will mean an 8.7 percent cut in tax credits or subsidy payments from the U.S. Treasury Department to issuers of those bonds.

Counties across the United States found Build America Bonds (BAB) and other direct-pay bonds attractive financing options because they effectively lowered interest payments. The bonds allowed state and local governments to issue taxable bonds in 2009 and 2010 for capital projects and receive federal subsidies from the IRS for a portion of their borrowing costs.

Hundreds of counties used them to build new facilities, renovate hospitals, build new schools and roads, according to the U.S. Office for other direct-pay bonds.

PHARMACIES

Timber counties question Forest Service's recall of payments

Alvin Black, a county judge from Montgomery County, Ark., is a bit perplexed.

The U.S. Forest Service wants states that received payments in January under the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) program to return 5.1 percent of the money — \$17.9 million — because of the sequester. Some 729 counties with federal forest lands in 41 states received the payments, authorized last year at \$323 million.

In letters to 41 governors, USDA wrote that states "will receive a bill for collection to return the sequestered amount to the Treasury."

The problem is: Though the bulk of the funds were disbursed in 2013, it's 2012 money, timber county officials say.

"It is beyond me how they can apply the sequester rules to this FY12 money because it was allocated a year ago. Somebody needs to explain that," said Black, who also serves on NACo's Public Lands Steering Committee. Arkansas has been asked to refund more than \$400,000.

Black isn't yet sure of the exact monetary impact on his county, where 70 percent of the land is owned by the federal government, including the Ouachita National Forest.

"We'll still function if we have to turn this back in," he said, "but in my mind, at least, they're over-reaching here, and I don't know how they're justifying it.'

Neither do 31 bipartisan members of Congress who recently wrote to Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack complaining about the retroactive

of Management and Budget. Now \$3.35 billion worth of BAB pay- mean a loss of \$11,000 for the next ments are subject to sequester cuts fiscal year, an amount that might and about \$900 million in payments

For Clarke County, the cut will strike some as "comparatively small," Hobert said.

recall of funds. "We respectfully request that you provide our offices with an explanation of the legal rationale to request these refunds from states and counties," said the letter, also addressed to the acting director of the Office of Management and Budget.

The request is an even bigger issue in Oregon, where Doug Robertson is a Douglas County commissioner and president of the Association of O&C Counties, a coalition of timber counties. The state would have to send \$3.6 million back to Washington.

He said governors have been given the option to repay the money from allocated but unexpended funds that typically remain at the state level and don't flow to counties. "If that's not the choice, they would come directly to the counties" and take it out of funds counties use for roads, schools, search and rescue on federal lands and firefighting.

"You're talking about counties, some of whom are on the brink of insolvency as we're speaking," Robertson said. "We're urging the governor to choose to to repay this amount of money through the use of allocated but unspent Title II dollars." Those funds are used by statewide resource advisory committees to prioritize projects on federal lands such as conservation and watershed improvements, he said.

"It's just another blow to counties that are trying their best to simply survive to keep their services at acceptable levels," Robertson added, "and boom, here we come again with another hit, and it's just very difficult."

"However, unless these payments are shielded from further sequester reductions in October, the annual amount of funding lost to Clarke County for this long-term

obligation will continue to increase." Bill Daly is director of governmental affairs for the National

See BONDS page 13



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National County Government Month in full swing

BY JIM PHILIPPS MEDIA DIRECTOR



This month across the country hundreds of counties are celebrating Na-

tional County Government Month (NCGM) with outreach events, contests and proclamations, many wrapped around this year's theme Smart Justice: Creating Safer Communities. The theme fits nicely with NACo President Chris Rodgers' 2012–13 "Smart Justice" presidential initiative, which is showcasing innovative county government justice will sponsor its Free E-Waste Day. system policies and practices among the nation's counties.

For example, Gila County, Ariz. is celebrating NCGM by highlighting its county justice programs and services. Public events include county department open houses and an Earth Day poster and essay contest for students in grades K-12. Contest winners will be announced at the Gila County Board of Supervisor's meeting on May 7, and all entries are being displayed at the courthouse during the month of April.



On April 27, the Gila County Residents are encouraged to bring any type of electronic equipment, non-vehicle batteries, cell phones, VCRs, CDs, and small and large appliances.

In DeKalb County, Ga., CEO Burrell Ellis kicked off NCGM on April 1 by introducing new Police Chief Cedric Alexander during his oath-of-office ceremony at the DeKalb History Center in downtown Decatur. Following the ceremony, Ellis and Alexander then visited students at Cedar Grove

Middle School in Decatur, according to CrossRoadsNews.com.

In Monmouth County, N.J., the library is again sponsoring its highly successful Food For Fines program during NCGM, which forgives library fines in return for food donations to benefit the FoodBank of Monmouth and Ocean Counties.

According to the Atlantic Highlands Herald, library patrons who have outstanding materials can bring their food items to the circulation desk at each library branch. In return, the libraries will reduce their late book return fee fines by \$1 for every food item donated. Separate bins will be placed in the libraries for people who do not have fines but wish to donate food items.

Using other food donation points throughout the county, the monthlong food drive last year brought in a total of more than 11 tons of food. which supported more than 200 charities that the FoodBank serves. Monmouth County officials noted that last year the library forgave more than \$20,000 in fines during the food drive.

Also marking NCGM, the Kitsap County (Wash.) Board of Commissioners and the Curry County (N.M.) Board of Commissioners adopted NCGM proclamations.

A special feature of NCGM is the National County Government Month Award. The purpose of the award program is to encourage counties to participate in NCGM

Quick Takes Most Valuable College Basketball Programs (Figures in millions) 1 - Louisville (Jefferson County, Ky.)

2 – North Carolina \$36.1 (Orange County, N.C.) **3 – Kansas** \$29.6 (Douglas County, Kan.) \$28.2 4 – Duke (Durham County, N.C.) \$25 5 – Kentucky (Fayette County, Ky.) \$24.4

National Association of County Information Officers (NACIO)—a NACo affiliate—will again judge the at *jphilipps@naco.org*. entries. Three counties will receive metropolitan counties, and second place awards will be presented.

All entries will be posted online other counties to use. There is no cost to apply. Applications must be eligible.

applies for an award, NACo wants to know about the NCGM activities and programs you have planned. A special online form is available on the NCGM page of the NACo website so you can inform NACo about your county's NCGM plans. There you will be able to upload your photos, flyers, calendars, proclamations and other county government month materials so

and recognize nationally counties with other counties to help them that sponsor outstanding programs have a successful celebration. You during the month of April. The may also send your activities and materials directly to Jim Philipps, NACo media relations manager,

Since 1991, NACo has encourthe top award in rural, suburban and aged counties to actively promote county government services and programs. It is not too late to participate in NCGM. A booklet to serve as a database of ideas for full of ideas to celebrate NCGM is available on the NCGM page in the Solutions Center under the "Tell the be received by Friday, May 24 to Public What Counties Do" section of the NACo website. The booklet Whether or not your county contains suggested community activities, a draft proclamation, a sample news release, media outreach strategies and more.

> Also on the NCGM Web page, you will find free downloads for logos, banners and posters with the 2013 Smart Justice theme and blank space for your county to localize and "make it your own."

To learn more about the NCGM award NACo can share this information program visit www.naco.org/NCGM.



Years affiliated with NACo: two Years in public service: 33 Occupation: County mayor

Education: M.P.A. – master's of public administration

The hardest thing I've ever done: Deciding to run for public office Three people (living or dead) I'd invite to dinner: Dietrich Bonhof-

fer, George Washington and my father

A dream I have is to: see my grandchildren become adults.

You'd be surprised to learn that I: enjoy classical, country and gospel music.

The most adventurous thing I've ever done is: parasail.

My favorite way to relax is: mountain hiking.

I'm most proud of: my three children.

Every morning I read: the local paper cover-to-cover.

My favorite meal is: oysters on the half shell.

My pet peeve is: tardiness. My motto is: the Serenity Prayer The last book I read was: The Generals. My favorite movie is: Gettysburg.

My favorite music is: gospel, country, classical. My favorite president is: Andrew Jackson.

NACo, Nationwide extend partnership

NACo, the only national organi- largest supplemental retirement zation that represents county governincome program available to county ments in the United States, renewed its long-standing partnership with Nationwide Retirement Solutions (NRS) March 28. Since its inception in 1980, the relationship between the vision to see that their members two organizations has helped public have the necessary resources that employees save for retirement.

The renewed partnership will continue that mission through 2020 and ensures county employees receive the benefits of NRS' innovative 457 deferred compensation retirement plan offerings.

"Nationwide continues to show its innovation and commitment resources, competitive products and to the public sector plan market by addressing both sponsor and participant needs with solutions like their new highly competitive 457 plan offerings and Investment are passionate about serving the Fiduciary Services by Morningstar," said Matt Chase, NACo executive director. "John Carter, the new leader of retirement plans at Nationwide Financial, shares a sense of purpose and passion for the work our organizations have done in the past, our focus on the needs of participants today, and our commitment to helping our shared constituents long into the future."

Through the partnership, NA-Program has grown to become the participants.

employees, helping more than 340,000 workers prepare for and live in retirement.

"Nationwide shares in NACo's will help them best prepare for the retirement they deserve," said John Carter, president of retirement plans for Nationwide Financial. "Our priority, as it has been since the first day of the partnership, is to ensure their member counties are provided with industry-leading educational on-site support they need to prepare for retirement."

"This partnership has worked so well for so long because both parties retirement needs of America's workers," said Eric Stevenson, senior vice president of public sector retirement plans for Nationwide Financial. "We're excited and energized as we continue the next chapter in this valued relationship."

Nationwide Retirement Solutions has provided 457(b) public sector retirement plans since 1974 and currently has more than 7,600 public sector plans under admin-Co's Deferred Compensation istration with nearly 1.2 million • **CountyNews** • **CountyNews** April 8, 2013 | 7

Why Counties Matter





NACo recently produced Why Counties Matter to show how **COUNTY GOVERNMENTS PLAY A KEY ROLE IN AMERICA'S SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT**.

National County Government Month provides a great time to let your residents now about the responsibilities of counties. Download the video from the NACo website and show it to community groups, in schools and to business leaders.











Use the video to talk about the national role of counties, then get into the specifics of what your county does. Take this opportunity and spread the word and show Why Counties Matter!

www.NACo.org









Counties build healthy, safe, vibrant and resilient communities

Thank you to all the counties that provided photos for the NACo video: Alexander County, N.C.; Allegheny County, Pa.; Association County Commissioners of Georgia; Berks County, Pa.; Bexar County, Texas; Blue Earth County, Minn.; Boone County, Mo.; Buncombe County, N.C.; California State Association of Counties; Clark County, Ohio; Dakota County, Minn.; Douglas County, Colo.; Douglas County, Neb.; El Paso County, Colo.; Fulton County, Ga.; Henderson County, N.C.; Hennepin County, Minn.; Honolulu City and County, Hawaii; Johnson County, Kan.; Linn County, Iowa; Los Angeles County, Calif.; McDowell County N.C.; Mecklenburg County, N.C.; Monmouth County, N.J.; National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors; National Association of County Information Officers; New Hanover County, N.C.; North Carolina Association of County Commissioners; Orange County, Calif.; Pierce County, Wash.; Pitt County, N.C.; Polk County, Iowa; Polk County, N.C.; Rockingham County, N.C.; Salt Lake City, Utah; Sonoma County, Calif.; Ventura County, Calif.; Wake County, N.C.; Washoe County, Nev.; Wilson County, N.C.; Yolo County, Calif.; Yuba County, Calif. ... We appreciate it! We weren't able to use them all, but you may see them in some future project.

CountyNews • NACO 8 | April 8, 2013

Supreme Court overturns ruling on logging roads

ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTORS

In good news for forest counties, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned a May 2011 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruling that would have required logging companies and state and local governments to obtain industrial Clean Water Act (CWA) permits from the EPA for storm water runoff from logging roads.

The ruling in *Decker v. Northwest* Environmental Defense Center (NEDC) means companies and state and local governments and would prelocal governments are not required to secure federal CWA permits associated with industrial activities. Instead, the roads will be regulated through state best-management money. practices.

"Forty-four percent of the roads and highways in the U.S. are owned and maintained by counties, and county roads run through federal and state lands where logging activities occur." Two of the roads in question in Decker were, in fact, county-owned roads, used for purposes other than logging such as recreation, and emergency and wildfire response.

Requiring industrial pollutant discharge permits for county-owned logging, forest or recreational roads. would create additional burdens on empt local government authority, Chase said. Additional mandates or requirements would cost counties and their residents even more

Under the CWA, any dis-"NACo applauds the court charge of any pollutant from a for this decision," said Matthew point source requires a National

Chase, NACo executive director. Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. There are exceptions to the permitting requirements including a provision called the Silvicultural Rule, which specifically defines timber "harvesting operations, surface drainage, or road construction and maintenance from which there is natural runoff" as "non-point source silvicultural activities" and thus excluded from NPDES permitting requirements.

In the 9th Circuit case, the lower court decided logging-road culverts, ditches and channels that discharge to a water of the U.S. are point sources associated with industrial activity and should be regulated under the NPDES permit program.

However, the Supreme Court concluded in its March 20 Decker opinion that EPA was reasonable in its longstanding interpretation that storm water runoff from logging

Not Really Settled Yet

While the Supreme Court affirmed EPA's interpretation of the Silvicultural Rule, the court did not answer whether storm water runoff from logging roads is, in fact, a point source and, thus regulated under NPDES rules. NEDC, the original plaintiff in the case, has indicated it will continue to push for NPDES permits for logging and forest roads. A new case has been filed in the 9th U.S. Circuit Court on EPA's 2012 clarification on the Silvicultural Rule, which it released on Nov. 30, 2012. In the rule, the EPA clarifies that logging roads do not require stormwater permits.

It is likely litigation will continue for years on this issue.

and forest roads is not associated of raw materials," and summarily with an industrial activity. The court overturned the 9th Circuit decision. said it was understandable for the EPA to conclude the regulation bill is expected to be introduced extends only to traditional industrial buildings rather than conveyances associated with "the harvesting point sources.

On the congressional front, a in the House and Senate to clarify that forest and logging roads are not

More than 80 county-owned airport control towers at risk

AIR TRAFFIC from page 1

executive director. His county's Paine Field Airport was on the original closure list. "We see this as an issue of safety and economics, and we feel strongly that safety is approved when you have mix of small planes with large ones."

The Cuyahoga County Airport, uses as many as six controllers. In its appeal, the county argued that sequestration does not excuse the FAA from observing safety regulations, which would be limited by the tower's closure.

It also alleges the FAA has not done its due diligence and perform a standard comprehensive review of operations for safety before deciding to close the tower.

The suit cited an incident in mid-March in which a Lear jet rolled off the runway but air traffic controllers were able to close the runway to prevent collisions with other planes. In addition, the weather patterns near Lake Erie bring snow and necessitate snowplows to clear the runways, well into May. Those plows are also coordinated by the tower personnel.

houses North America's largest maintenance and repair facility, and is also neighbor to Boeing's wide-body aircraft plant. With the city of Conroe. Each party more than 600 planes based there, the airport is the largest facility in and some relief may be comthe state.

challenge to the airport with its mix Transportation Commission is of slower and faster planes. The considering a grant to reimburse



Large planes built by Boeing sit at Paine Field, an airport owned by Snohomish County, Wash. Its air traffic control tower was scheduled to be closed under the sequester, but was saved when the list was pared down.

multiple voice reports by pilots, which would become the standard operating procedure without an air traffic control tower, preclude use of the airport by larger, faster airplanes, Airport Director Dave Waggoner wrote in his successful appeal of the tower's closure.

In Texas, the Lone Star Execu-The Snohomish County airport tive Airport, owned by Montgomery County, will keep air traffic controllers on the job for 90 more days, thanks to an agreement with will contribute \$25,000 monthly, ing from the state Department A closed tower presents a special of Transportation. The Texas

90 percent of operating costs for functioning air traffic control tower at raising money to pay the conair traffic controllers through the is more attractive," he said. end of June.

"An uncontrolled airport isn't unsafe, but its safety is improved (by controllers)," said Airport Director Scott Smith. "Corporate flights share the same traffic patterns with recreational flights, and things can road, so to speak, but it's so much better with controllers.'

Lone Star sees about 200 takeoffs and landings a day.

Smith said closure would hit the marketability of the adjacent business park because some corporate airplane contracts don't allow pilots to fly into uncontrolled air fields.

"In general, an airport with a

The airport has a runway extension in progress, and that, plus the state, local and federal the airport open," said Commiscontributions to the \$3 million sioner Tim McCormick. "We tower would be a waste of money have intersecting runways, so it's if it was out of use.

"There's also the job loss issue," get confusing. There are rules of the he said of the four full-time and employed there.

> The relief from the state, Smith said, will buy time for a federal solution.

> "Air travel is successful and think there will be enough political support to save it."

Ohio County, W.Va. is looking hours.

trollers at Wheeling Ohio County Airport from a variety of sources.

'We're fully expecting to keep absolutely crucial to have order out there."

The airport sits on the Marcelfour part-time air traffic controllers lus Shale, and McCormick said proceeds from gas drilling could pay to keep the tower open.

The Owensboro-Daviess County Airport in Kentucky will go on without a control tower, which economically viable on this level; I the county expects might lead to Allegiant Airlines restricting its takeoffs and landings to daylight • CountyNews

Legislation to prevent youth violence reintroduced

BY DALEN A. HARRIS

ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR



This time may be the charm. Reps. Bobby Scott (D-Va.) and Walter Jones

(R-N.C.) have again introduced the Youth Promise Act, a bill that would provide federal support for comprehensive community-based services, and evidence-based prevention and intervention programs.

Formally titled the Youth Prison Reduction through Opportunities, Mentoring, Intervention, Support, and Education Act, the bill, strongly supported by NACo, would implement the best policy recommendations from crime policy makers, researchers, practitioners, analysts and law enforcement officials from across the political spectrum concerning evidence- and researchbased strategies to reduce gang violence and crime.

Homicide is the second leading cause of death among youth aged 10-24 years in the United States,

Control and Prevention (CDC). In nonfatal injuries sustained from

and attempted homicide is a major 2009, a total of 650,843 young peo- assaults, according to CDC; and ty-based services, evidence-based cause of injuries as well according ple aged 10–24 years were treated to data from the Centers for Disease in hospital emergency rooms for

More than youths have been killed in Cook County, Ill. since 2008 ... **80**% of the homicides occurred in 22 predominantly **African-American or Latino** neighborhoods.

no state, city or county is immune prevention and intervention proto the devastating impact of youth

homicides occurring in 22 predominantly African-American or Latino neighborhoods. The vast majority of these are the result of gang violence.

While a sustained tough-oncrime strategy has yielded mixed results, NACo members have long advocated that implementing a wide range of comprehensive communi-

grams for youth is most effective at reducing crime and saving national, More than 500 youths have state and local correctional, court, been killed in Cook County, Ill. juvenile justice, health care, law since 2008, with 80 percent of the enforcement, social service and other expenditures.

> Under the act, communities facing the greatest youth gang and crime challenges would be able to create a comprehensive, coordinated response and intervention model for reducing gang violence

> > See VIOLENCE page 12



Word Search

Rogers County, Okla. Facts

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

RXGNBGABPPNXNNVBYUCI EXPTKTSHALEOIQMWBRC BUNUQZAKZHHIUGOARGFX CBLOUHWVLGTMXGSYTLWD SWAGLOUHAXWRHOEVF ABYIEANINCARIVOSUB MOQLFWEMCKNSNIKPMUP X L J R N L E X I W G U O R R E M K O L UETKRLRTVEDWPVHHGQ CVEOHXOOVWLSZGPKARE GRRXFQNGLPNTLAMBKIG ZHEAAKIEAEIUADTCUSOA SHVZILRTYVRONJESNPDV CDOYUGGKASFSDMEAPFAD HOALOWHHKVRRWWEWOZEK CLEMROGERSSPABOADWEA ITMTFCCLYXQTDKEJQVG J N T H G I I Y P T U I Q O B O F K X GWMSQJFZSUGGECGBPVZS LAOCNXRWNVEYTSBYDAZT

BEANS (basic crop of county) **CHEROKEE NATION** (largest of three Cherokee federally recognized tribes)

CLEM ROGERS (pioneer of Cherokee Nation, father of Will Rogers) COAL (mining of this resource helped county economy)

CRAIG (adjacent county) MAYES (adiacent county) **NOWATA** (adjacent county) OIL (discovered in 1892, additional

source of county revenue) **PUMPKINS** (basic crop of county) **SHALE** (mining of this resource helped county economy) STAND WATIE (Civil War southern general) **TULSA** (adjacent county) WAGONER (adjacent county) **WASHINGTON** (adjacent county) WILL ROGERS (son of Clem Rogers, Oklahoma's Favorite Son)

Created by Christopher Johnson

Senate committee passes Water Resources Development Act

ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

In a rare show of bipartisanship, the Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee has passed S. 601, the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2013 unanimously. The Senate is expected to act on S. 601 by late April or early May.

WRDA authorizes U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' local projects such as flood control, navigation, ecosystem restoration, water supply and emergency management. Typically, WRDA is a biannual bill. However, it was last authorized in 2007 and 2000, respectively. Funding occurs through the annual appropriations process. However, a Corps project cannot begin without WRDA authorization.

The 284-page bill authorizes 18 new Corps projects nationally. It reforms Corps processes to streamline projects and sets up a pilot program that would allow state and local governments to oversee Corps-authorized projects.

The bill calls for the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund each year to provide funding for projects at a level equal to the level of Harbor maintaining current federal law for administrative costs.

plus interest for that year. Ad- tion through the Corps in a longditionally, the legislation provides a "point-of-order" enforcement mechanism if Congress tries to bypass this requirement.

The bill also includes the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) of 2013. The WIFIA provision establishes a pilot program to assess the ability of innovative financing tools, such Inhofe (R-Okla.), Tom Udall (Das user fees or other dedicated funding sources, to leverage private monies to fund water infrastructure

S. 601 requires the Corps to review its levee vegetation policy. The Corps' policy requires all vegetation, except grass, to be removed from levees in order to allow for easier inspections and to reduce any potential weakening of levees through root growth. Noncompliance makes a community ineligible for federal disaster assistance. NACo supports modification of the Corps vegetation policy.

According to Sen. David Vitter (R-La.), the bill does not address the nation's inland locks and dams, an issue the senator hopes to remedy during Senate floor debate.

NACo supports preserving and

Maintenance Trust Fund receipts that provides for federal participastanding partnership with state and local governments for funding, implementing and maintaining WRDA projects.

Brownfields BUILD Act Introduced in Senate

In other recent action, Sens. Frank Lautenberg (D-N.J.), James N.M.) and Mike Crapo (R-Idaho) introduced S. 491, the Brownfields Utilization, Investment, and Local Development Act of 2013, also known as the BUILD Act.

The BUILD Act is a bipartisan bill that would make more community groups and local governments eligible for the brownfields program. Brownfields are previously used industrial or commercial sites that may be contaminated by lower levels of hazardous waste or pollution and have the potential for reuse.

The BUILD Act would increase the limit for site remediation grants; allow the award of multipurpose grants to fund multiple elements of a project; broaden eligibility to include nonprofits and other community groups; and eliminate the prohibition on using grant funds

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Senate bipartisan immigration bill expected soon

By Marilina Sanz

ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

The much anticipated unveiling of the Senate bipartisan comprehensive immigration bill is expected the week of April 8. The House bipartisan group working on reform is also rumored to be ready to introduce a bill soon

While details are scant on the Senate bill, speculation is not. One issue attracting a lot of attention is health care coverage for the individuals who move from undocumented to provisional status. By all indications, the bipartisan legislation is not expected to expand health care coverage, especially under the Affordable Care Act, because it would be too costly.

NACo's comprehensive immigration reform resolution calls for preserving the eligibility of legal noncitizens for federally funded health federally funded health benefits.



Bennet (D-Colo.)

McCain (R-Ariz.)





Gang of Eight



Graham (R-S.C.)



Menendez (D-N.J.)



Rubio (R-Fla.)



Schumer (D-N.Y.)

benefits and providing a sustainable funding stream to counties for their cost of providing health services to legal non-citizens who are denied

Under current law, immigrants in the country illegally are not eligible to participate in the exchanges or receive subsidies under the Affordable Care Act. They are also ineligible

for Medicaid. Most newly arrived legal immigrants are not eligible for ued over the creation of a guest worker Medicaid for five years unless the state has opted to provide coverage to children and pregnant women.

Hospitals, on the other hand, must provide emergency health care to anyone who needs it and are reimbursed for Medicaid emergency serregardless of citizenship status.

There is also a lot of uncertainty about how long the path to citizenship will take. Since the steps from provisional status to permanent legal residency depend on securing the border and clearing the current backlog for legal immigration, this could take years. Some speculate that under the are considering replacing some family Senate bill it will take about 13 years to become a citizen.

Meanwhile, negotiations continprogram. The Chamber of Commerce and the AFL-CIO reportedly agreed on the framework of a future guest worker program during discussions with Sen. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.), but the remaining members of the so-called "gang of eight" still need vices if the person is income-eligible to agree to it. The agreement would require prevailing wages for the guest workers and provide 20,000 visas a year, gradually increasing to 75,000.

> Disagreement over a guest worker program derailed the Senate bill in

> Another sticking point: Some in the Senate, according to the CQDaily, reunification visas with employersponsored visas for skilled workers.

Broadband expansion remains FCC priority despite changes

BY YEJIN JANG

ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

With the recent resignation of Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Chairman Julius Genachowski and Commissioner Robert McDowell, commentators are starting to speculate about what these changes in personnel could mean for the FCC's agenda. What is clear, however, is that the FCC will continue to push the expansion of broadband as a priority.

In 2011, the FCC launched the Broadband Acceleration Initiative to expand the reach of robust and affordable broadband. To accelerate deployment, the FCC has already implemented several measures such as increasing access to wireless spectrum or revising pole attachment rules. And in a series of workshops, it spotlighted the latest technology that can assist in the expansion of broadband.

Of those technologies, distributed antenna systems (DAS) and the deployment of small cells were highlighted as viable solutions to increasing broadband access in areas that lack coverage or capacity. Counties need to take notice of these new technologies since their deployment may impact local zoning or land use laws.



DAS device sits atop a utility pole.

the breadth of coverage and expand limited capacity. They have the advantage of being able to support multiple frequency bands and typically have a range of less than half a mile but can extend farther with more DAS nodes. DAS can be DAS is best understood as a deployed indoors or outdoors and network of antennas that extend can typically be found in places like countynews.

stadiums or convention centers. The disadvantage to deploying DAS is that it requires large upfront capital investments primarily due to the designing, siting and installing of multiple nodes and miles of fiber cable to which the DAS would connect.

The term "small cells" typically refers to what are known in industry parlance as microcells, picocells or metrocells and femtocells. These small cells are distinguished from each other by their size and coverage capacity. These small cell devices are similar to DAS in that they transmit at lower signal power levels (when compared to traditional large cell towers) but are physically smaller than DAS.

Small cells, which resemble household routers, are generally deployed on a piecemeal basis to provide coverage or enhance capacity in smaller areas with a single communication technology for a single wireless carrier; this, in some cases, can be a limitation. Small cells can be used both indoors and outdoors, and are commonly found in high-traffic environments like subway platforms or bus terminals.

For more information, contact Yejin Jang at yjang@naco.org, or view this story online at www.naco.org/

OSHA launches safety campaign to prevent falls



Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), the

Occupational Safety and Health CPWR - The Center for Construction Research and Training will be launching the second year of a construction fall prevention campaign April 28. It is a national initiative to prevent falls at small residential construction sites. Falls continue to be the leading cause of construction.

The Need for a Campaign to Prevent Falls

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, in 2010 more than 10,000 construction workers in the private construction industry were injured after falling while working from heights on the job and another 255 workers were killed.

Falls account for approximately 32 percent of all work-related injury deaths in construction. Falls from roofs make up one-third of these fatal falls, and falls from ladders and scaffolds together make up another third. Falls from heights cause the second-highest rate of nonfatal

The National injuries and illnesses resulting in days away from work.

Online Resources Available

NIOSH and OSHA collabo-Administration (OSHA), and rated on the development of a poster and a fact sheet to promote the campaign. These and other materials are available on the NIOSH website (www.cdc.gov/ niosh/construction/stopfalls.html) and the OSHA website (www.osha. gov/stopfalls). In addition, there is a central campaign website managed work-related injury and deaths in by CPWR (www.stopconstructionfalls.com), which provides those interested in joining the campaign additional resources and information on ways they can participate.

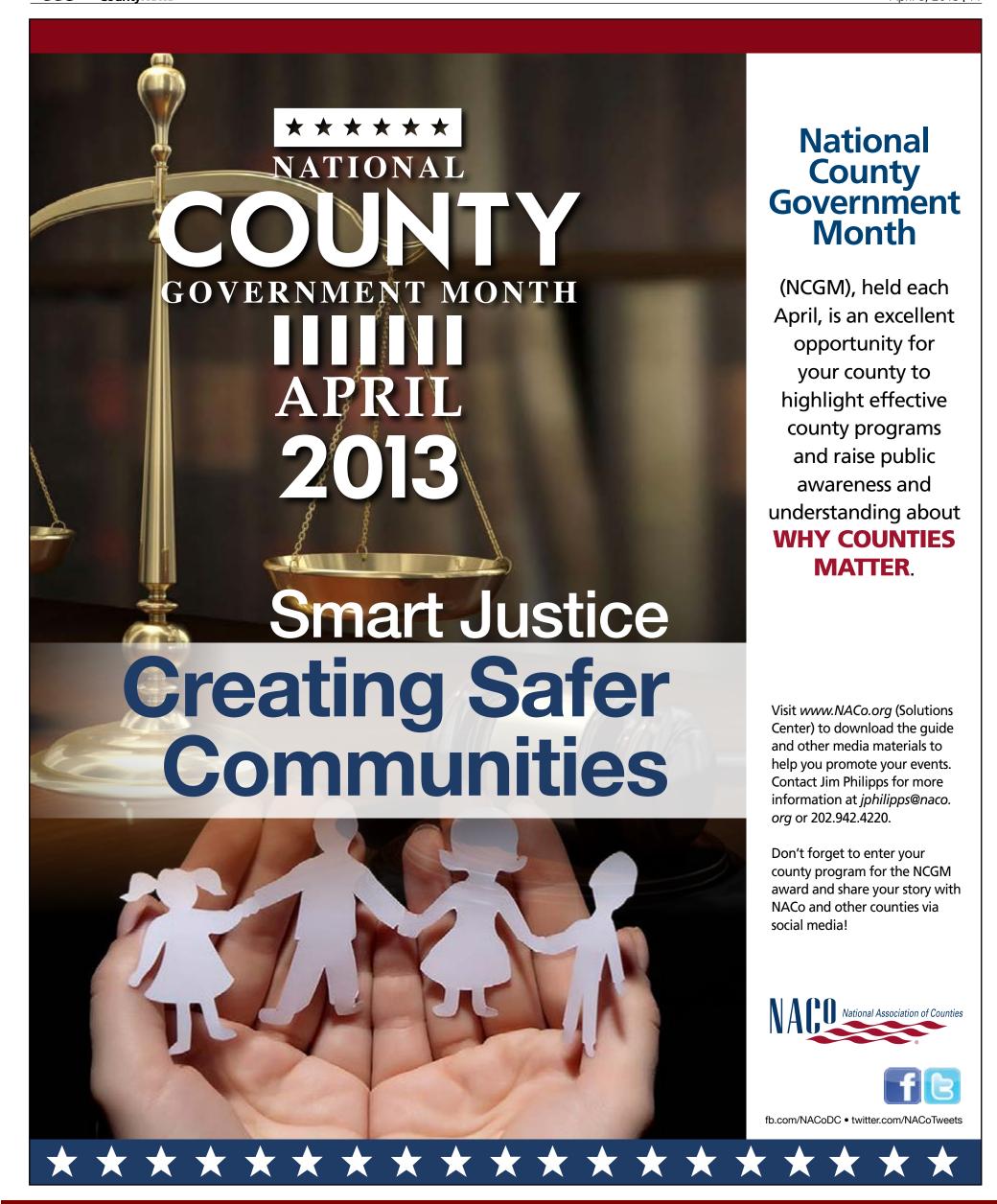
Who's at risk of falling?

- Almost 65 percent of fatal falls in construction occur among workers employed by small firms — those with 10 or fewer employees.
- Another 20 percent occur in firms with fewer than 50 employees.
- Fatal falls are more likely to occur on residential construction sites than other sites.

Join the NACo Network...



fb.com/NACoDC twitter.com/NACoTweets linkedin.com/in/nacodc youtube.com/NACoVideo April 8, 2013 | 11



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Model Programs From the Nation's Counties

San Juan County, N.M.

Juvenile Offenders, Shelter Dogs Bring Out the Best in Each Other

BY CHARLIF BAN

STAFF WRITER

A program at the San Juan County, N.M. Juvenile Facility is helping troubled kids learn that a trusting relationship that allows happiness is a warm puppy, not a warm gun.

On the suggestion of a local attorney who is involved in animal causes, Juvenile Services Director Traci Neff started Kids for Canines, a program that pairs juvenile offenders with dogs from the local animal shelter.

Over 12 weeks, the long-term dogs to train them for eventual adop-

throughout their days, including going to classes, therapy and other activities. The process teaches both the dogs and their trainers to develop each to grow and fit in socially.

"Just having a dog along with them helps even out some stressful situations, like therapy or if there's tension in family settings," Neff said. "They're more vulnerable and it strips away a lot of the hardness and resentment, and helps counselors get to work faster."

the program's value comes in the pleasantly unexpected developments in their rehabilitation.

"We expect them to make progress in behavior, substance abuse, those things," she said. "What we don't expect is the reactions they show when they see the dogs take on parts of their own personalities. It's a silent opportunity to watch these kids mature."

The dogs provide a constant reminder that the inmates — kids - are important, because they For the dogs, the benefit is rely on them for their food, care inmates, ages 15-18, work with two clear — they move on, ready to and affection. The relationships fit in with an adoptive family and they develop help them recognize

tion. The dogs accompany them get out of the shelter. For the kids, empathy and foster pride in their work caring for a living, breathpatience and motivation necessary to successfully train the dogs are all want to see.

> "They have an opportunity to provide some affection (to the dogs) without getting hurt," she said. "These kids are damaged, but they can actually take care of something, love something and that something isn't going to say anything back, hurt them, leave them. That gets them a long way toward rehabilitation."

> Since its inception in 2010, the program has been supported entirely by volunteers and the Aztec Animal Shelter, which provides the dogs and all necessary supplies, making it free for with the program include a pet therapy trainer and a retired canine retrievers and cattle dogs.

"I'm not a dog person," Neff said. "A lot of the volunteers said Model Programs from the Nation's they're not kid people, but it worked out for all of us."

At the end of the 12-week period, participants hold a graduing animal. The responsibility, ation ceremony for the dogs who are ready to be adopted.

The handlers explain why their attributes Neff and her colleagues dogs are ready for adoption and describe their personality and what makes them proud of the work they've done together.

> "We've struggled a little, emotionally, with departure," Neff said. "That's one reason we do the graduation ceremonies, to bring closure to the process."

> One youth was so affected by his experience with his dog that when it came time for it to be adopted, his grandfather took the dog in. When the young man was paroled, he joined his dog.

'The shelter director was so impressed with the job he had done," Neff said. "She said it would the county. Volunteers involved be a hardship to separate the two

Three years later, the boy is a police offer. Many of the dogs are man and his dog remains by his

Counties highlights award-winning

Stopping youth violence subject of legislation

VIOLENCE from page 9

and crime in their communities by forming Promise Councils.

The councils would include representatives from county government, law enforcement, court services, schools, social services, health and mental health providers, and community-based organizations, including faith-based organizations. They would be charged with developing a coordinated plan for implementing evidencebased prevention and intervention strategies to reduce gang violence and crime, as well as address its problems and costs. The councils would then ensure that the savings are documented, so that some of and applied to continue the program Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, the

beyond the initial federal funding. Funds authorized under the act would be given directly to units of local government or Indian tribes and would be subject to local control.

"In light of increased youth violence in counties across the nation, the urgency for Congress to enact this legislation has never been greater," said NACo President Chris Rodgers, a leading smart justice proponent. The legislation was reintroduced with 53 House members as co-sponsors. In addition, more than 250 national, state and local government, professional, civil rights, education and religious organizations have supported the bill, including NACo, from implementing the programs the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the Children's Defense Fund, the counsel, House Judiciary Subcomthe savings can then be recaptured National Juvenile Justice Network,

National Education Association, the NAACP, the American Bar Association, the Coalition for Juvenile Justice, and the Campaign for Youth Justice.

NACo members have supported the legislation since it was first introduced in 2007, but congressional efforts to enact the law have stalled despite wide public support. However, Scott, the bill's chief sponsor, and NACo have continued to champion the legislation over many years, and Santa Fe County, N.M. and the City and County of San Francisco are among a handful of local governments that have adopted local board resolutions in support of the act.

Bobby Vassar, minority chief mittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security and Investigations, recently attended NACo's 2013 Legislative Conference to highlight the association's support for the legislation and met separately with NACo's president and the leadership of NACo's Justice and Public Safety Steering Committee. Throughout, he expressed Scott's gratitude to NACo for supporting the bill and urged counties to contact their members of Congress in support of H.R. 1318.

*To access sample resolutions that counties can adopt in support of the Youth Promise Act, see this article online at www.naco.org/countynews.

NACo on the Move

» NACo Officers, County Officials

• NACo Executive Director Matthew Chase spoke about NACo's federal advocacy efforts and new "Why Counties Matter" campaign at the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania spring conference in Dauphin County March 18.

Chase also spoke at the Michigan Association of Counties Legislative Conference in Ingham County (Lansing) March 20.

» NACo Staff



Yejin Jang

- Yejin Jang has been named an associate legislative director in the Legislative Affairs Department. Previously, Jang was Legislative Affairs grassroots coordinator.
- Bert Jarreau, chief innovation officer, served as a speaker at a workshop entitled Professionalizing the Nation's Cybersecurity Workforce at National Academy of Sciences in San Antonio, Texas March 27. The workshop served as a datagathering event to obtain input on public and

private sector employers of cybersecurity workers.

• Michael Belarmino, associate legislative director, spoke on local tax and budget outlook and trends at the Grantmakers Income $Security\,Task force's\,Annual\,Budget\,and\,Tax\,Briefing\,in\,Washington,$ D.C. March 18.

On the Move is compiled by Christopher Johnson.

There's few things of which we're so fond

As tax-free municipal bonds. When stirring the embers Of all of your Members

Here's the latest and especially timely verse from "limerickateer"

Grant Veeder, auditor, Black Hawk County, Iowa and NACo

Board member. Veeder has been penning limericks for NACo

A Short Ode for Municipal Bonds

and state association meetings since 2011.

Be sure they know which side you're on.

• CountyNews April 8, 2013 | 13

W.Va. county also takes a hit to subsidy payments

BONDS from page 5

Association of Bond Lawyers. "Unless Congress goes back in and undoes the sequester process, this is the first year of a total of nine years of sequesters," he said. In future years, the cuts would be "probably less" than this year's 8.7 percent.

"There aren't a lot of choices that the local governments can make to change this," he said. "They have the bond payments that they're obligated to make and separately from that, economy while providing a new you've got the federal subsidy that justice center. federal law is cutting.

"Right now, I think we're just in a position of explaining to people what is going on."

He said that there may be some situations — depending on the language of each individual bond "extraordinary call." That is, they can call in the bonds and then re-fund them with tax-exempt bonds.

Wood County, W.Va. used Recovery Zone Bonds, another type of BAB created by the 2009 stimulus, to purchase and renovate a building to house justice and law enforcement offices that had been separately located. As a result of the sequestration, its interest subsidy for this type of bond is being reduced, county officials said.

"It has to give you a little bit of concern, but what is, is. That's the way it worked out," County Commission President Wayne Dunn said. was taken out that we could sure have used. We counted on that money when we started this process," he continued.

Even with the reduction, "the deal was still the best deal we were ever going to find." At the time, he said, it did stimulate the local

Meanwhile, counties' bond counsels across the country are getting out the word to county boards and commissions about a sequester-related consequence they might not have been aware of.

Clarke County's Hobert is document and the economics of the sympathetic to the federal budget deal — where an issuer can do an plight—up to a point. "The County of Clarke fully understands that the federal government must act with greater fiscal responsibility, and that doing so will require spending reductions that will impact this county," he said. "Indeed, our recently advertised budget makes across-the-board expenditure reductions in anticipation of reduced federal revenue.

> "However, reneging on a longterm commitment for financing is qualitatively different from changes in annual appropriations."

The H.R. Doctor Is In

'Neil'ing' to HR

Neil Reichenberg has been a "That was right around \$5,000 that friend and professional colleague for decades. He has also been executive director of an extremely important public sector association for decades with missions not unlike those of NACo. IPMA-HR stands for the International Public Management Association for Human Resources.

> Like NACo, its job is to empower local agencies and employees to deliver successful public service. It has a mission to educate and develop the skills, knowledge and abilities of public employees. It also fosters networking. It, too, has a mission to defend agencies against threats of policy weirdness generally fostered by congressional legislative proposals. It encourages educational seminars and conferences around the country.

All of these important words, like education, innovation, encouraging or defending exemplify not only IPMA-HR and NACo, but Neil personally. He is a staunch supporter of local government in America in ways which we will never appreciate fully.

The HR Doctor has been a also featured him as a speaker. occupation and in every jurisdiction

"Every manager an HR manager" is truly important and needs to be emphasized within every organization ...

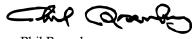
Amazingly, we have been presenters in Africa, in the United Kingdom, in various places around the United States and very recently at a North Carolina state-wide conference in Raleigh. I'm not quite sure whether Neil is following me around, or I'm followinghim. I prefer to think of it in the latter sense... that I'm following along in the footsteps of a national hero in public administration.

The Raleigh conference was attended by professionals from cities, counties, school boards and even an occasional stray state employee. Not unusual was the absence of attendees from the federal government. The lovely HR spouse, Charlotte, and I had fun and, I hope, contributed to conference learning and a renewed presenter at many conferences that sense that every manager in any

must also be an HR manager in order to be successful. This is a theme which Neil and I share passionately.

"Every manager an HR manager" is truly important and needs to be emphasized within every organization and every association of organizations. Think about how it applies to your county and its various departments. Ask yourself if the staff, and in particular, the managers and supervisors, know how to spell "HR" and know that if they prepare well and behave well toward one another. HR will be known as a corporate hero, rather than being thought of as either a giant filing cabinet or an organizational emergency room.

Neil, I look forward to being on the same conference program with you again soon. I have no idea where it will be, but I do know that wherever it is I will be honored to share our sense of what a positive difference assertive human resources can make in serving the public.



Phil Rosenberg The HR Doctor • www.hrdr.net

Research News

Community Development Block Grants on the Chopping Board



Do you know which government program contributed an average of 147,000 iobs and \$13.1 bil-

lion to the U.S. economy annually between 2003 and 2008? Did you know that the same program has lost more than \$1 billion in funding since FY10?

Although county and city officials identify it as one of the most successful domestic federal programs, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program is on the chopping block yet again due to the sequester.

For more than 40 years, the CDBG Program has helped states and counties assist low-to moderateincome residents and spur local economic growth. These federal grants have been used to create dollar. This shows how states and Gada, research intern.)

historic areas and construct affordable housing, and to build senior

For example, the Georgia State CDBG Program awarded the town of Social Circle in Walton County \$500,000 in CDBG funds to rehabilitate the rail system in order to persuade General Mills to locate a new southeastern distribution center in Social Circle. After the guarantee of rehabilitated railroads, General Mills began construction of the 1.5 million square-foot LEED Goldcertified facility which attracted CDBG Program's 2012 funding \$43.7 million in private investment and created of 200 new jobs.

Often, counties and other local grantees use other resources to match CDBG money. According to HUD, the CDBG Program leverages an average of three dollars in non-CDBG funding for each CDBG (Research News was written by Brittany

"business incubators," to revitalize local governments have maximized the impact of CDBG funds through private and public partnerships and efficient management.

What about the **Sequestration Effect?**

According to the Office of Management and Budget Report to the Congress on the Joint Committee Sequestration for FY13, all of HUD's programs await a 5 percent funding decrease due to the sequester. Therefore, an additional \$165 million could be cut from the level of \$3.3 billion.

* Check out this story online at www. naco.org/countynews for a copy of the CDBG preliminary report and other HUD information.



Originally part of the Cherokee Nation, Rogers County was created January 26, 1907 and named for Clem V. Rogers, a leader of the Cherokee Nation and father of "Oklahoma's favorite son" entertainer Will Rogers.

Rogers was born in 1839, shortly after the Cherokee Nation came to Indian Territory. As the Civil War began, he cast his fortune with the South and became a captain in Gen. Stand Watie's regiment.

The Will Rogers Memorial Museum is the most popular attraction in the county where more than 1 million patrons visit annually. Farming, mining, shale and oil production have also been important to the county economy.

The seal shows the outline of the county with cattle representing agriculture, a teepee representing the Cherokee Nation, an oil well representing one of the many resources in the county, Will Rogers and Route 66 which traverses the county from the northeast to the southwest.

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

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News From the Nation's Counties

▶ ARIZONA

PIMA COUNTY has proposed changing zoning rules to make it easier for developers to include "green" amenities in buildings.

The zoning code change would make it easier to include amenities such as rainwater harvesting in plans by adjusting building heights or landscape requirements. For example, green roofs, which are rooftop gardens, could count toward landscape requirements in some cases.

The changes are part of the county's efforts to promote developments that use resources more efficiently and "to eliminate potential barriers" to green building, the Arizona Star reported.

▶CALIFORNIA

• Authorities in LOS ANGE-LES COUNTY say the use of nitrous oxide as a recreational **drug** has grown from a "rave party" phenomenon to mainstream use. demonstrated by the more than 350 illegal parties raided by the Sheriff's Office since September at which the gas had been sold.

They say the drug has spurred deaths — all in the name of a temporary high that lasts just a few minutes and costs just a few dollars. The gas is legal for dental work and is mixed with oxygen to produce "laughing gas." The food cream containers.

The department has also created a new social media team to monitor and identify such illegal activities around the clock. They found that many social media posts advertise alcohol and illegal drugs such as nitrous oxide and that their targets are teens, USA Today reported.

• With 18,000 uninsured residents, YUBA COUNTY is opening a call center to address consumer questions about the Affordable Care Act.

The hotline's goal is to help businesses and individual callers sift through new federal health care mandates and decipher how to implement or abide by the reforms.

The cost to build the taxpayerfunded center is \$150,000 to start, CBS Sacramento reported, but the cost may increase — 21 workers are being initially hired to field the calls. Funding for the call center will come from the state and fedmore money will be needed to pay workers' salaries.



▶VIRGINIA

Cecile, Marie-Grace, Molly and Julie have something in common: They're among the several iconic American Girl Dolls that ARLINGTON COUNTY Public Library patrons can borrow for a week at a time. Each doll kit comes with the doll's first book and a guide depicting life in Arlington during her era, created

by the library. The dolls also have journals that borrowers can use to chronicle the dolls' experiences with their temporary families, according to WTOP news.

"Parents love it. They love the local history," said Diane Kresh, libraries director. "They love the fact that have until May 15 to apply or risk fatal car accidents, rapes and teen it's something that children who might not otherwise be able to have access to the dolls — because they're very expensive — can enjoy, something that's really deeply part of American culture."

In stores, the dolls sell for more than \$100 each. So far, the library has at least 16 of the dolls.

▶FLORIDA

BAY COUNTY inked a conindustry also uses it in whipped tract for inmate labor, but the prisoners won't be coming from the county jail.

> They'll be transported from a state facility in WASHINGTON **COUNTY** four times a week. They will mostly perform lawn maintenance and be overseen by a single correctional officer paid for by the county. The county already has a contract with GULF COUNTY for inmates who work in the water division.

Right now, the county's Public Works Department uses two fiveman squads from the Bay County Jail. The county isn't charged for the inmates nor does it pay for a correctional officer to oversee them. A single public works employee monitors each squad. Only inmates who have been sentenced can work on the squad, they must be healthy enough to do the job and low-risk enough to be allowed outside the jail, the News Herald reported.

►KANSAS

New rules and a cleanup effort eral governments, but Nobles says at the SEDGWICK COUNTY graffiti on the decline. Inmates school system.

who continue to pencil drawings or scratch messages on cell walls will face additional vandalism charges.

They have scrawled, drawn or etched messages on every available surface of some cells, including murals with some artistic merit, profanity, gang signs and references to the Ku Klux Klan.

Earlier this year, jail officials entrusted one inmate with the task of cleaning the walls and painting over the problem. He spends several minutes to several hours scrubbing down each cell to remove as many pencil marks as possible and another two to three hours to apply paint.

In return, staff logs the inmate's work hours, which will be turned over to the court, the Wichita Eagle reported. A judge then may choose to assign a dollar figure to his work and apply it to any fines or restitution he owes.

►MARYLAND

Poor test scores, overcrowding, staff turnover and general inefficiency have prompted PRINCE **GEORGE'S COUNTY** Executive Rushern Baker to make a bid to the Detention Facility has jail cell state for control of the county's

State lawmakers introduced a bill that would give Baker partial control of the schools, allowing him to select and have authority over the superintendent but keeping the school system's purse strings in the hands of the elected school board, the Washington Post reported.

Baker said he would have greater are stressed to the max." input in the day-to-day operations of the school system. Control of the budget — which the State Legislature might decline to grant would allow Baker to consolidate purchasing and other operations with the rest of the county government, creating greater efficiencies.

►MISSOURI

A CHRISTIAN COUNTY commissioner anticipates a bill in the Legislature would hinder county governments from regulatcounties.

HJR 11 proposes an amendment to the Missouri Constitution that. if approved by voters, would bar any state farming regulations from being enacted without approval of the Missouri General Assembly.

The fact that the 255-word bill contains no language regarding local regulation alarms Ray Weter, who served four terms in the state House and wants the issue of local control addressed if the General Assembly sends the constitutional amendment proposal to voters. The bill is too vague as it relates to county government, he said, according to the News-Leader.

"My suggestion to the counties has been to find a way to exclude local governments from the provisions of this resolution," Weter said. "I would love the law if it said something to the effect that local municipalities are excluded from the provisions."

►NEW YORK

County clerks throughout the state say they're being swamped by requests from pistol permit holders to exempt them from public disclosure.

A provision added to the state's new gun law in January allows residents to submit a form that, if approved, would keep their pistolpermit records safe from freedom of information requests, The Journal News reported. Permit holders having their information available to the public.

"It started a little slow the first week, with a couple of hundred a day, and now we get about 700 to 800 at the most per day," said Tim Idoni, WESTCHESTER COUNTY clerk. "People realize that the deadline is approaching soon to get these forms in."

MONROE COUNTY Clerk Cheryl Dinolfo added, "Right now we are absolutely overwhelmed; we By selecting the superintendent, have lines out the door and our staff

►NORTH CAROLINA

The **BUNCOMBE COUNTY** Board of Commissioners recently approved granting health insurance and other benefits to the domestic partners of county employees in same-sex or opposite-sex relationships, The Asheville Times-Citizen reported.

The western North Carolina county, seated at Asheville, becomes the fourth county in the state to offer such benefits to gay and ing agriculture in their respective lesbian couples, after DURHAM, **MECKLENBURG** and **ORANGE** counties.

▶OHIO

SUMMIT COUNTY Council has adopted a resolution urging Congress and President Obama to

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Financial Services News

Target Date Funds Can Help Investors Diversify

Since their introduction, target date funds have enjoyed ongoing growth. It's easy to see why

Individuals can select just one fund that is managed assuming the investor will begin withdrawals from the fund at or near a specified target date. In this way, an individual leaves to the fund manager decisions about proper asset allocation and diversification - two important concerns that can challenge even the savviest investors.

Thus, target date funds seem to have a certain "set it and forget it" appeal, especially to deferred compensation plan participants. The basic concept is easy to understand and requires little maintenance by the investor. But that appeal needs to be balanced with certain realities that should be understood before an individual opts for a target date fund.

How a Target Date Fund Works

As the name implies, a target date fund is designed for retirement plan participants who expect to begin needing the invested assets in a specific

Job Market & Classifieds

■ DEPUTY COUNTY **ADMINISTRATOR – CHARLES** COUNTY, MD.

Salary: \$93,190 - \$149,517 annually; DOQ.

Charles County Government is seeking an experienced professional to provide high-level project management of Commissioners' priorities and tasks, and to assist in overseeing the day-to-day administrative functions of the County Administrator's Office. Must be able to maintain confidential information. Requires a Master's degree in public administration or related field and 10 years' progressively responsible experience managing government functions, programs, and services. This is an appointed position, reporting to the County Administrator, and serving at the pleasure of the Board of County Commissioners. Please include résumé with completed application. Residency within Charles County within a reasonable period of time is encouraged and preferred. Applicants are encouraged to apply online at www.CharlesCountyMD.gov.

Closing date: This position is open until filled, with applications submitted $by \, April \, 29 \, receiving \, best \, consideration.$ Equal Opportunity Employer. We Value

Advantages

- Basic concept is easy for participants to understand
- Low minimum amount required for access
- Professionally managed portfolios offer instant diversification
- Exposure to asset classes not found in many core menus, and
- One size fits all, set it and forget it solution.

Disadvantages

- One size fits all solution based solely on age
- Expense ratios tend to be higher than other funds
- Invests only within the company's family of funds
- No guarantee that the fund's objective will be met, and
- Potentially false sense of security.

plans to retire in 2025, they might select a target date fund with 2025

To achieve its objective, a target date fund moves along a glide path that adjusts its portfolio over time, away from an asset allocation that may be considered riskier to one that is intended to be more conservative. In fact, the fund continues along its glide path after the target date — in many cases, 20 years afterwards—because even in retirement, most individuals need a certain amount of investment growth to keep up with inflation.

Target Date Funds Are Not a Cure-all

There are certain trade-offs participants should consider before investing in a target date fund. These funds assume all participants of a given age have the same investment needs and about the same risk tolerance.

By investing in a target date fund, an individual is investing in a fund of funds and therefore is sharing in the expenses of those funds as well as the target date fund itself.

Additionally, target date fund managers usually invest only within their company's family of funds, which can have varying degrees of investment success. The quality of target date funds can vary over time, which is why "setting it and forgetting it" may not be prudent.

The NACo Deferred Compensation Program offers Nationwide Target Destination Funds, a series of 11 target date funds that are subadvised by third-party fund-management firms. This offers a level of objectivity not offered by many other target

Nationwide Target Destination Funds invest in several Nationwidebranded subadvised funds, as well

year. For example, if a participant as third-party funds. In addition, the NACo Deferred Compensation Program is supported by Nationwide Retirement specialists, who can help county workers understand their options through the program.

> To learn more about how the NACo Deferred Compensation Program can benefit county employees, contact Lisa Cole by email at lcole@naco.org or phone at 202.942.4270.

> (Financial Services was written by Bob Beasley, communications manager, Nationwide Retirement Solutions)

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Before investing, carefully consider the fund's investment objectives, risks, and charges and expenses. The product informational brochure and underlying fund prospectus contain this and other important information. Both the product informational brochures and underlying fund prospectuses can be obtained online at NRSforu.com or by calling 877.677.3678. Read the prospectuses carefully before investing.

The use of asset allocation and diversification as part of an overall investment strategy, even within target date fund, does not assure a profit or protect against loss in a declining market. After all, investing involves market risk, including possible loss of principal. There's never a guarantee that the investment objectives of a target date fund will be achieved.

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NRW-3709AO-NX.2 (04/2013)

King County, Wash. protects 43,000 forest acres from development

NEWS FROM from page 14

maintain the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds, the Akron Beacon Journal reported.

"It's one of the items debated in Congress as an additional way to raise revenue for the federal government," County Executive Russ Pry said. "We believe it has been a very good financing tool that has helped us with numerous infrastructure projects both here in the county, our cities and our municipalities."

The resolution passed unanimously and is supported by the County Commissioners' Association of Ohio and NACo.

Several counties across the country are also considering or have passed similar resolutions.

▶TEXAS

The HARRIS COUNTY Sheriff's Office has launched a digital billboard campaign in an effort to catch suspects in seven sexual assaults on women in the last 18 months. The sign's messages can be changed electronically, unlike a conventional billboard that requires manual labor.

"We've exhausted leads, so we've hit a wall," Deputy Thomas Gilliland told the Houston Chronicle. "It's another tool for us to get to the public."

Authorities said the suspects found their victims through online dating services and arranged dates that resulted in the women being beaten and sexually assaulted.

►VIRGINIA

Can't make it to Pamplona. Spain for this year's running of the bulls in July? Organizers in **DINWIDDIE COUNTY** are planning their own version of the tradition.

The **Great Bull Run** at the Virginia Motorsports Park in the county is expected to draw thousands Aug. 24. The bulls will run on the raceway's quarter-mile course.

County Administrator Kevin Massengill said, "Any type of event that brings so many people to Dinwiddie County, and while they're here, they're [sure to] stop at our restaurants, as well as some of the other business opportunities that are here. So it's good for the community."

As with the event in Spain, there'll also be a massive tomato fight.

►WASHINGTON

• CLARK COUNTY commissioners have extended a holiday on several county development fees for another year. They unanimously approved a recent resolution that continues the practice of reducing or removing development fees on new business construction in the county, The Columbian reported.

This largely preserves the status quo — waiving 50 percent of fees for commercial developments and 100 percent of fees for non-retail developments, provided that the business creates 10 new full-time

The types of fees being waived are related to building, engineering and site-planning costs on new construction. Also being waived or reduced are traffic impact fees on the same eligible projects.

County general fund dollars will offset the lost planning fees, while the county's road fund will cover the traffic-impact fees.

Commissioner David Madore said the goal is to "encourage job

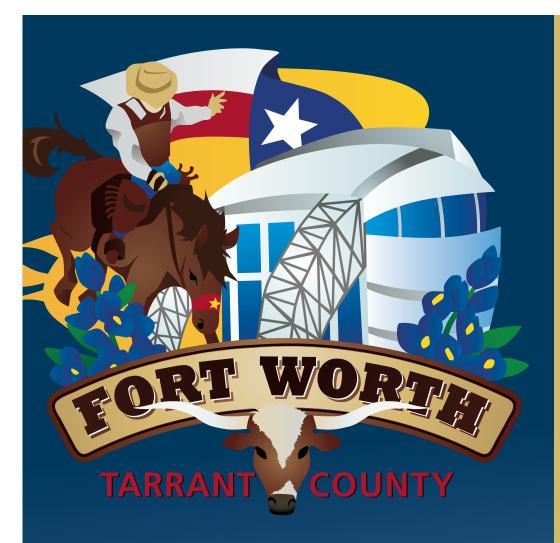
• KINGCOUNTY has reached an agreement to permanently protect the 43,000 forested acres in the county from development, according to County Executive Dow Constantine.

"This is the largest swath of unprotected forestland remaining in King County," he said. "With this agreement, we will dramatically extend our green wall against sprawl, and achieve the ambitious goal set a decade ago of protecting 200,000 acres of working forests countywide."

Constantine sent legislation to the County Council to authorize \$8.1 million in existing funding from the county's Conservation Futures Fund. Last fall, the council approved \$3 million from the conservation fund and from the King County Parks levy toward the total \$11.1 million price. The land would remain in private ownership with the right to harvest timber sustainably.

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

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