

County News

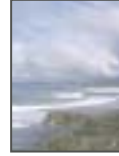
Vol. 37 No. 24 • December 26, 2005

"The wisdom to know and the courage to defend the public interest"

National Association of Counties • Washington, D.C.

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Submit your county program for an Act of Caring Award. See page 4.



Mobile, Ala. commissioner seeks help for Gulf Coast counties. See page 6.



Don't miss our focus on emergency preparedness report. See second section.

House passes bill establishing meth clean-up guidelines

Patriot Act dust-up blocks cold medicine sales restrictions

By DAN MILLER
STAFF WRITER

The House of Representatives unanimously approved the Methamphetamine Research Remediation Act, H.R. 798, Dec. 13. Now headed for the Senate, the bill directs the Environmental Protection Agency to develop model, voluntary, health-based clean-up guidelines for use by states and localities with the goal of making sure former meth lab sites are safe and livable.

Introduced by Rep. Bart Gordon (D-Tenn.) and co-sponsored by Rep. Greg Walden (R-Ore.), the bill also calls on the EPA to establish and conduct a research program to support the development and updating of these guidelines on an ongoing basis. That research would focus on topics such as identifying chemicals related to meth labs and production, better addressing the biological effects of meth and evaluating the performance of various meth lab cleanup and remediation techniques.

"The least we can do at the federal level is help arm communities and local governments, those engaged in this battle on the front lines, with the tools and research critical to the safe and effective management of lands

contaminated by use and production of this toxic substance," Walden said.

The bill also authorizes the National Institute of Standards and Technology to initiate a research program to develop meth detection equipment for field use. The equipment will help law enforcement agents detect active meth labs faster and assist in measuring levels of contamination in former meth labs.

NACo president Bill Hansell praised the passage of the bill.

"This is a much-needed first step and I applaud the House for passing H.R. 798," said Hansell. "Local governments need to have standardized guidelines for cleaning up meth labs. These guidelines should ensure that former meth labs are properly cleaned and made safe for future use. The public is well served by this bill."

According to the Congressional Research Service, each pound of meth produces about six pounds of hazardous waste. The waste is typically dumped along highways or into sewers, streams, rivers or the ground near the lab. In addition, cooking meth can infuse carpeting, walls and furniture with toxic chemicals.

■ See **METH** on page 5



Montgomery County's Brookside Gardens lets visitors walk through their annual holiday light show, which features more than 650,000 multi-colored lights. See News From the Nation's Counties, page 10.

Assault continues on franchising rights

By JEFF ARNOLD
DEPUTY LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

Just before the holiday recess, Sen. Jim DeMint (R-S.C.) introduced S. 2113, the Digital Age Communications Act (DACA). This is another in a series of bills introduced in the 109th Congress that would strip local governments of the right to enter into local franchise agreements with video providers, both new entrants and renewal of incumbent operators. This is a clear preemption of local authority, and NACo has strong policy opposing such legislation.

Of primary concern, DACA would eliminate all video franchises over four years. Sec. 408 states, "Those in existing franchise agreements at the date of enactment of this Act shall be exempt from this act until either (1) the date of expiration of the franchise

agreement or (2) four years after the date of enactment of this Act, whichever is earlier. Franchise agreements prohibited beyond this point."

Title IV in the General Provisions states that, "All communications shall be governed by a single, unified, minimally-pervasive regulatory regime determined and generally implemented at the Federal level."

DACA also assaults local governments' rights-of-way management authority. In Sec. 404 of the bill, *Rights-of-Way Authority*, it states, "All communications service providers shall be authorized to construct or operate an electronic communications network over public rights-of-way and through easements as long as it would not affect the safety, function or appearance of the property, the convenience

and safety of any person who has a right to use such easement and the cost of the installation is born by the provider. The owner of the easement must be justly compensated."

While compensation is required it is unclear what this provision really means. This legislation also puts the FCC in exclusive charge of adopting and enforcing rules related to the act, if enacted.

Sec. 402, Rulemaking and Delegation of Authority states, "Unless delegated, the FCC shall have exclusive authority to adopt or enforce rules related to this Act."

As mentioned, this is the latest attack on local franchising. S. 1504, the Broadband Investment and Consumer Choice Act of 2005 was introduced

■ See **VIDEO** on page 3

County News

Quik Takes

Total Allocation to Community Development Entities

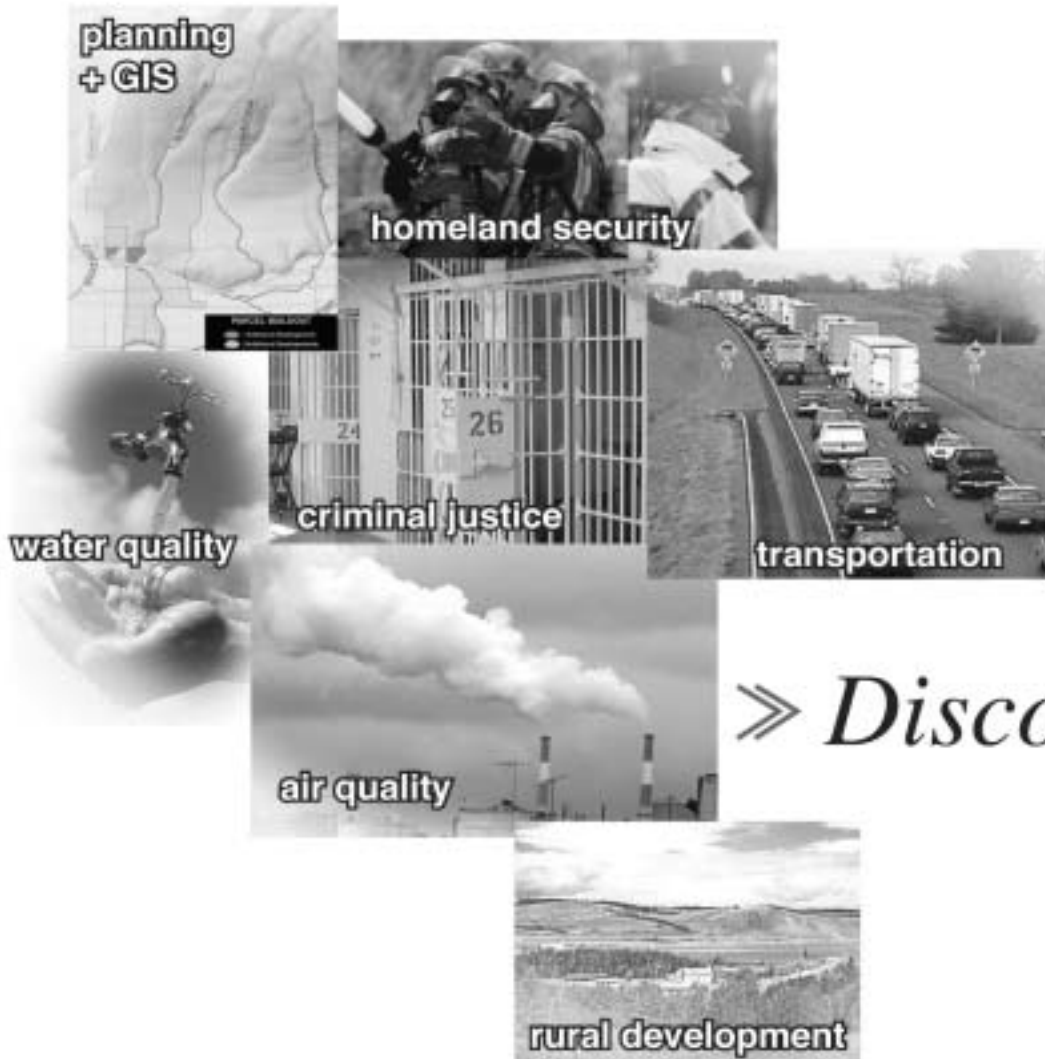
State	Amount (in millions)
California	\$428
Ohio	\$313
North Carolina	\$225
District of Columbia	\$213
New York	\$201

Source: Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, www.frbfs.org.



Training and Technical Assistance

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NACo can help you meet the challenges you face in your community.

We provide information, training and assistance to counties on a wide range of issues in order to increase knowledge, build capacity and foster innovative county practices. Through publications, workshops, best practices and small grants, NACo can help you improve local services and address your county's needs.



NACo offers coastal restoration grants

NACo is currently accepting applications for marine habitat restoration projects in coastal counties.

The new Coastal Counties Restoration Initiative will provide financial assistance on a competitive basis to innovative, high quality county-led or supported projects that support wetland, riparian and coastal habitat restoration projects.

The initiative is a partnership between NACo, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Community-based Restoration Program.

"NACo is very pleased that our new partnership with NFWF and NOAA's Community-Based Restoration Program will bring additional resources to coastal counties," said Bill Hansell, NACo president.


The new grants will range from \$25,000 to \$100,000 per award and are only available to NACo member counties or their partners. These grants are designed to enhance the capacity of counties to restore their valuable coastal resources in cooperation with NOAA's Community-based Restoration Program.

Hansell added, "Our nation's coastal environment provides tremendous ecological and economic benefits. Many counties are struggling to restore these resources that have been damaged by human neglect and numerous natural disasters. Counties across the country are taking the lead to restore our coastal resources, and NACo is proud that this new program will bolster county-led efforts."

The initiative complements NACo's long standing Five Star Restoration Program. However, the Coastal Counties Restoration Initiative differs in multiple aspects, most notably by its emphasis on marine habitat restoration and the larger grant awards. See side bar for a list of major differences between the two programs.

The deadline for the Coastal Counties applications is Feb. 24, 2006. Grants will be awarded by June 1, 2006.

(For more information and to access the full Request for Proposals and application instructions visit, www.naco.org/techassistance or contact Erik Johnston at 202/942-4246 or ejohnston@naco.org.)

5 Star vs. Coastal Counties		
	Five Star Restoration Program	Coastal Counties Restoration Initiative
		
Grant Award	\$10,000 average	\$25,000-\$100,000
History	Over 400 projects since 1997	New pilot program
Primary Funder	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Community-based Restoration Program (NOAA's CRP)
Who is eligible?	County applicants and partnerships throughout the U.S.	NACo coastal member counties and their partners
What type of projects are eligible?	Wetland and stream bank restoration projects (including coastal and fresh water habitat projects)	Only marine habitat restoration projects that improve habitat for NOAA trust resources, including marine, estuarine and anadromous fish habitat
Application Deadline	March 10, 2006	Feb. 24, 2006
Web sites	Visit www.naco.org/techassistance and click on "water quality"	Visit www.naco.org/techassistance and click on "water quality"

Battle over telecom legislation still far from over

■ VIDEO from page 1

by Sen. John Ensign (R-Nev.) and S. 1349, the Video Choice Act of 2005, was introduced by Sen. Gordon Smith (R-Ore.) earlier this year. Both bills would eliminate the local franchise process. Rep. Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.) introduced a companion bill (H.R. 3146) in the House of Representatives.

Before the recess, the bipartisan staff of the House Energy and Commerce Committee were working on a third "staff draft" of telecommunications legislation, which at this writing would still eliminate local franchising of video services. This draft is expected to be introduced immediately upon the return of Congress from its holiday recess in late January.

The battle is far from over, and it appears the Senate will be taking on the telecommunications rewrite in January as the Senate Commerce Committee begins an aggressive series of hearings with video franchising at the top of their list.

NACo THANKS

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www.naco.org/retirement

PROFILES

In Service...



Robert Cope

County Commissioner
Lemhi County, Idaho

Vice chair
Environment, Energy and Land
Use Steering Committee

Number of years active in NACo: Five

Years in Public Service: Nine

Occupation: Veterinarian

Education: Yes

The hardest thing I've ever done: Put my pets to sleep.

Three people (living or dead) I'd invite to dinner: Mark Twain, Catherine the Great and Lao-Tse.

A dream I have is to: Visit my cousins in Australia.

You'd be surprised to learn that I: Was Kansas's Presidential Scholar for 1969.

The most adventurous thing I've ever done is: Marry my current wife.

My favorite way to relax is: '50s rock 'n roll and a glass of good bourbon.

I'm most proud of: My relationship with my community.

Every morning I read: My e-mail and the *Idaho Falls* newspaper.

My favorite meal is: Mountain oysters and Cajun-blackened prime rib.

My pet peeve is: Inconsiderate people.

My motto is: "When you find yourself on the side of the majority, it is time to repent." (Mark Twain) or "When you come to a fork in the road, take it!" (Yogi Berra)

The last book I read was: *The Bear and the Dragon*.

My favorite movie is: *The Graduate*.

My favorite music is: Classic Rock and Roll.

My favorite president is: Harry Truman.

Correction

In the Dec. 12 issue of *County News*, the Profile in Service for Ted Anderson incorrectly identified his affiliation with NACo. Anderson chairs NACo's Public Lands Steering Committee. We apologize for the error.



County News invites Letters to the Editor

If you have a compliment, complaint or different point of view, let us know.

Please include a phone number with your letter. Mail, fax or e-mail to: County News, NACo, 440 First St., N.W., Washington, DC 20001-2080; (202) 393-2630; cnews@naco.org.

NACo Board resolution reaffirms opposition to discrimination

The NACo Board of Directors, at its meeting Dec. 3 in San Diego County, Calif., adopted a resolution reaffirming its opposition to discrimination toward individuals with disabilities and supporting Hawaii counties that are working to prohibit organizations from discriminating against any individual while using county-owned and operated facilities.

The Board's resolution also encouraged other counties to consider adopting ordinances similar to the ones being considered by the Hawaii counties.

The resolution resulted from the case of a 10-year-old deaf boy who was separated from his interpreter during a PONY baseball game in Hawaii.

According to the *Honolulu Advertiser*, Justin Kapono Takioka, a member of Lihu'e All-Star Mustang Team from Kauai, had received coaches' instructions via sign language during his five years of PONY baseball. But his sign-language interpreter, his father, was required to remain outside the dugout during the 2005 Mustang Regional Tournament in Hilo in July.

For the tournament game in Hilo, three coaches were allowed in the dugout. A fourth adult—even an interpreter—is considered a fourth coach, which would not be permitted. Justin's father, Jimmy Kapono Takioka, a member of the Kauai County Council and the NACo Board, was required to sit outside the dugout, but in a position that let him commu-

nicate with his son. Still, there were complaints from other teams that the father was coaching rather than just passing on the coaches' statements, the *Honolulu Advertiser* reported.

The Kauai County Council has adopted a resolution directing its recreation agency to establish a policy requiring sports leagues and organizations utilizing the county's parts for their activities to adopt rules that ensure equal access to participants with disabilities. The City Council for the City and County of Honolulu passed a similar resolution.

The Board of Commissioners from Blue Earth County, Minn. adopted a resolution supporting the Hawaii counties using language similar to the NACo Board resolution.

NACo presents 2006 Acts of Caring

For the second year, NACo's 2006 Acts of Caring Awards will present cash awards to the volunteer programs that win the Legacy Award for Excellence and Innovation and the Youth Service Award. The winner of the Legacy Award will receive \$1,500; the Youth Service Award winner will receive \$1,000.

The Acts of Caring Awards recognize the top county volunteer programs in the country. The programs are honored for their community service and the legacy they provide for the future. This is the seventh year for this unique awards program.

In 2006, the awards will be presented during National County Government Week, April 23–29 in a ceremony on Capitol Hill. All winning programs will receive etched glass awards, and recognition from NACo and members of Congress.

Up to 18 programs will be recognized as examples of outstanding Acts of Caring. Based on county size, as many as three programs will be recognized in each of the following six categories: community improvement; criminal justice/emergency management; elderly services; health services/social services; libraries; and programs for children and youth. The types of programs that can be included in Community Improvement are arts and culture, historic preservation, housing, environmental programs, services to help animals, civic education and recreation and parks.

Awards will be presented in each of three population categories to ensure that large and small communities, and urban, suburban and rural areas all receive the recognition they deserve.

The Legacy Award is presented to

the program that most fully embodies the spirit of volunteerism by addressing a unique need. This award is given to the top program in the contest because it sets itself apart by providing unparalleled service in its community. It is selected from the entire field of Acts of Caring applicants.

The Youth Service Award is presented to the program that best identifies a critical need in the youth community and addresses it, in part, by engaging young people in service.

An "act of caring" is a community service provided by a county-sponsored volunteer program that enhances or preserves the quality of life. Winners will be selected by an independent panel of judges. Any county government that is a member of NACo with an active program that

meets the contest criteria is eligible to participate. A county program that won an Acts of Caring Award in the past two years is not eligible in 2004.

The deadline for entries is Friday, Jan. 27, 2006. Entries should be sent to NACo at 440 First St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20001. An award application is available online. Go to the NACo Web site, www.naco.org, and click on Awards.

The Acts of Caring is part of Counties Serve America, a NACo long-term project carried out in partnership with Freddie Mac. The project's goal is to raise public understanding and awareness about county government.

(For more information, contact Tom Goodman, NACo's public affairs director, at 202/942-422 or tgoodman@naco.org.)

County News

"The wisdom to know and the courage to defend the public interest"

President: Bill Hansell • Publisher: Larry Naake
Public Affairs Director: Tom Goodman • Executive Editor: Beverly Anne Schlotterbeck
Staff Writer: Dan Miller
Graphic Artist: Jack Hernandez • Editorial Assistant: Allison Mall

Advertising Staff:
Allison Mall: Job Market/Classifieds representative
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From the President's PDA



NACo's 2006 initiatives: increasing U.S. Communities sales, conference attendance, membership numbers



Bill Hansell
NACo President

By BILL HANSELL
NACo PRESIDENT

Each year the NACo Board of Directors, at its December meeting, adopts a strategic plan for the association that includes a list of major initiatives for the following year. The initiatives cover all aspects of the association's operations and serve as goals for the membership and staff to achieve.

The 2006 list is impressive. Here is what we want to accomplish:

- Achieve enactment of board-approved 2006 legislative priorities
- Conduct another Information Technology Summit during the Legislative Conference
- Produce a county research study with the National Center for the Study of Counties
- Add assets, counties and participants to the NACo Deferred Compensation program
- Achieve a 5.6 percent budget surplus to further increase reserves and prepare for the association's move to a new building
- Increase county membership to 2,035 and maintain a 96 percent retention rate
- Expand the Prescription Drug Discount Card Program to 225 counties
- Continue implementation of the strategic marketing plan and improve coordination of marketing activities and enhance design of NACo publications and materials
- Implement the 2008 Presidential Election Project
- Add two new products to U.S. Communities and increase annual sales to \$750 million and increase debt collection contracts to \$100 million
- Launch cost recovery/cost containment program
- Continue presidential initiatives to stop methamphetamine abuse and to promote the Court-Appointed Special Advocates program
- Continue preparations for the 2007 NACo headquarters building move
- Increase attendance at NACo conferences and sell more exhibitor booth space
- Increase participation in Advance Leadership Training programs by adding attendees and conducting ALT programs at three to five state association meetings and
- Launch presidential initiatives for President-elect Colleen Landkamer.

A great deal of work will be necessary to achieve these goals. But I am certain working together we will. NACo's 2006 goals are established to help you, your county, and most importantly the citizens we serve.

I welcome your ideas, suggestions and questions about our goals for 2006. We are going to have a productive new year!

NACo Board member dead at 89

O.V. Player, Jr., who served as the Sumter County, S.C. clerk of court for more than 30 years and helped modernize the state court system, died Tuesday, Nov. 29. He was 89.

Player served on NACo's Board of Directors in the South Carolina seat for 15 years, from 1989-2004. He is remembered as a force in South Carolina county politics and referred to as "the godfather" by county officials across the state.

In the 1970s, he used his role as president of the South Carolina Association of Counties (SCAC) to help lobby the state legislature to give county governments more local control. He also worked to organize the state Clerks of Court Association. Player was one of the first clerks of court to institute a drive-through window for paying fees at the family court level.

Born in Sumter on Jan. 20, 1916, he attended the University of South Carolina on a football scholarship,



O.V. Player, Jr.

and later served in the Army during World War II. He was married to the late Nancy Deas Player for 59 years, and was a lifelong member of First Presbyterian Church, where he was a deacon, an elder, clerk of the session and an elder emeritus.

Player held many leadership roles in his community. He was on the board of trustees for Sumter

School District 17 for 20 years, past president of the Sumter Lions Club, Crime Stoppers of Sumter County and the Red Cross Bloodmobile. He was inducted into the Sumter Sports Hall of Fame in 1992, for officiating high school and Atlantic Coast Conference Football for 20 years.

When he retired as clerk of court in 2003, Player received the Order of the Silver Crescent from Gov. Mark Sanford and was recognized by the South Carolina House of Representatives and the Senate for service to Sumter County. A courtroom in the Sumter County Courthouse is named The O.V. Player Jr. Courtroom.

Memorials may be made to the Tuomey Foundation, c/o the Diabetes Fund, 115 N. Sumter St., Sumter, SC 29150; to First Presbyterian Church, 9 W. Calhoun St., Sumter, SC 29150; or to Sumter High School Memorial Scholarship Fund (Athletics), 2580 McCray's Mill Road, Sumter, SC 29154.

Meth bill tacked onto Patriot Act

■ METH from page 1

"Unfortunately, there will always be people who decide to harm themselves by using and manufacturing dangerous drugs such as meth," said Gordon. "This bill takes an important step to protect innocent people whose lives are endangered by these illegal activities."

Combat Meth Epidemic Act

NACo may not have had a position in the fight over the reauthorization of the U.S.A. Patriot Act, but it did have a strong reason to see the bill passed—the Combat Meth Epidemic Act. Tacked onto the controversial measure, which was stymied in the Senate Dec. 15, the NACo-supported meth bill would restrict the availability of cold medicine containing pseudoephedrine.

While the meth bill's provisions are not controversial, the underlying patriot act bill faces an uncertain future. Sponsors of the legislation are continuing to push for freestanding meth legislation, and will be looking at a number of other bills that would broaden the range of tools to combat meth creation and use. NACo continues to support a comprehensive approach for dealing with the meth crisis.

The legislation contained in the Patriot Act measure would limit sales of pseudoephedrine to 3.6 grams per transaction and a monthly limit of nine grams. In addition, it would require that pseudoephedrine be sold from behind a counter or kept in a

locked cabinet and that purchasers would need to show a photo-ID and sign a logbook.

The bill would also place new regulations on international producers, exporters and importers of pseudoephedrine and authorize \$99

million for meth "Hot Spots" grants and \$20 million for drug-endangered children programs. The bill would not preempt tougher state restrictions on pseudoephedrine.

(Bev Schlotterbeck, executive editor, contributed to this story.)



Photo by Dan Miller

NACE Executive Director Anthony Giancola and Associate Legislative Director Marilina Sanz run NACo's annual holiday auction. NACo employees raised more than \$9,000 this year, which NACo boosted with a \$5,000 match, for the Parish and County Family Fund. Prior to the auction, NACo employees vote for the charity that will receive the auction's proceeds. This year, the hands-down winner was the County Parish and Family Fund. The annual holiday fundraising auction has been a tradition at NACo for more than 10 years, and has raised approximately \$100,000 over that time period to support local D.C.-area charities.

Letters to the Editor

Mobile, Ala. turns to help devastated Mississippi counties

As 2005 comes to a close, counties along the Gulf Coast are still reeling from the devastating blows of hurricanes Dennis, Katrina and Rita. The savagery of these hurricanes caused unimaginable structural devastation and deaths.

Though their powerful blows were constant, hitting the Gulf Coast in a way that many of us were not accustomed to, we are thankful that most of Mobile County, Ala. survived the worst of the hurricanes, and we are open for business.

Fortunately, Mobile County escaped the devastation from two of the hurricanes, but Hurricane Katrina's wrath dealt a blow that penetrated the core of such cities as Bayou La Batre and Dauphin Island, located in south Mobile County.

These cities, known nationally for their tourism and seafood industries, were in shambles in the aftermath of Katrina. Both cities, which sit on the shores of the Gulf of Mexico, were hurled into the national spotlight with visits from President George W. Bush, former presidents George Bush Sr., Bill Clinton, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, senior Federal Emergency Management officials and other

top Bush administration staffers.

The structural devastation was unprecedented, leaving hundreds of citizens homeless. But thankfully, there was no loss of life. Most of these citizens have now been placed in FEMA trailers. The hurricane may have taken away their homes, but their resilient spirits are as strong as ever.

In retrospect, the hurricanes of 2005 gave county commissioners and emergency management officials an accelerated course in preparation, and it confirmed our ability to function under tremendous pressure.

Once the Mobile County Commission stabilized the borders of our county and insured the needs of all affected citizens were being met, our focus turned to our Gulf Coast neighbors in Mississippi and Louisiana.

We realize that in order for the Gulf Coast to rebound after the hurricanes of 2005, it is imperative that we work as a team. When we come together as a region, it is a beginning. But when we roll up our sleeves to help our neighbors on the Gulf Coast, it is progress in action. By lending a helping hand and working together, we know the recovery efforts will be successful.



Commissioner Stephen D. Nodine
Mobile County, Ala.

The spirit of giving took a life of its own in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Industries stepped up to the plate with a zest and fury to help those areas affected by the hurricane.

With the help of Mobile County newest economic development recruit, aerospace giant EADS/Airbus, I was able to start relief efforts for our neighbors on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. EADS assistance allowed me to access five helicopters from their EuroCopter, which created

a ferry service that shipped nurses and medical supplies to Waveland, Miss., an area that suffered massive and deadly devastation from Hurricane Katrina.

Two Mobile-based partners, Providence Hospital and Victory Health-Care provided countless bandages and medical supplies, and the University of North Carolina set up a 100-bed medical clinic in Waveland. The clinic was up and running three days after the eye of Hurricane Katrina passed over the Mississippi town.

The Mobile County Commission also adopted a resolution that allowed its public works and public safety departments the freedom to lend equipment and law enforcement personnel to neighboring counties. We are committed to continuing this initiative until the Gulf Coast is rebuilt to an even bigger and better standard.

Hurricane Katrina destroyed homes, businesses, infrastructure and citizens' livelihood. It is going to take years for our neighboring

counties to rebound from the wrath of these hurricanes. Therefore, it is imperative for county governments throughout this nation to help in the long term recovery of hurricane affected areas. These areas need street sweepers, small dump trucks, front end loaders, technical support, traffic signals and any other equipment that can assist government in putting government back together again.

The Mississippi cities of Biloxi, Gulfport and Waveland, located in Harrison, Hancock and Waveland counties were devastated the most. These cities were thriving economic engines for the state. Since Hurricane Katrina, state, county and city governments have lost millions in revenues. They desperately need your help.

To help, please contact me at 251/574-2000 or the Governor's Commission on Recovery Rebuilding and Renewal at 610/624-0349.

Stephen D. Nodine
Commissioner
Mobile County, Ala.

Word Search

Animal Counties

M O R N Z G D R E B D R X C J Y H L R B E G
 C U Y D M H Y R E L O I I G A I L Y Z V F W
 N W S H L T S N N A S E U K U Y T O A C A V
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| BACON | CROW WING | MANATEE |
| BEAR LAKE | EAGLE | MUSSEL SHELL |
| BEAVER | ELK | OTTER TAIL |
| BEE | GARFIELD | SHARKEY |
| BLACK HAWK | LAMB | WOLFE |
| BUFFALO | LAVACA | |

Created by Dan Miller



Photo courtesy of Hillsborough County, Fla.

Hillsborough County, Fla.'s Department of Children's Services Athletic Center recently held a ribbon-cutting ceremony and lunch to celebrate an award of \$10,000 presented to Kids and Canines Instructor Jennifer Wise (top left) for her outstanding contributions in creating and maintaining the program. In the 18-month program, at-risk teens at the Dorothy Thomas School learn to train service dogs to assist individuals with disabilities. The program also teaches these students job readiness skills necessary to become productive citizens. At the ceremony, a graduate of the program spoke at the presentation and a recipient of one of the dogs spoke about how his guide dog has made his life better.

FINANCIAL SERVICES NEWS

NACo FSC Launches Cost Containment/Cost Recovery Program

NACo's Financial Services Center has launched a new Cost Containment/Cost Recovery Program in partnership with Dallas County, Texas who solicited providers that offered services to save counties money, reduce risk or liabilities, or help counties collect monies owed to them.

Most of the selected providers are contingency fee-based with no up-front costs, and counties benefit from increased revenues when cost recovery methods are used to collect overpayment for products or services.

Most counties throughout the country can use this nationally-solicited program without having to re-bid for the services themselves since Dallas County included participating public agency language in the request for proposals and the final awards.

The selected providers and description of services for the Cost Containment/Cost Recovery program are:

Correctional Risk Services provides local governments with medical claims management to ensure that appropriate fee schedules

and discounts have been applied to the costs for medical treatment of jail inmates. Correctional Risk Services can also audit medical provider billings to check for accuracy, duplication and medical necessity resulting in reduced costs for ongoing off-site treatment costs.

An Inmate Excess Medical Insurance Program protects counties against high medical costs on any one inmate through stop-loss insurance.

The FSC will focus initially on Alabama, Tennessee, Arkansas, Georgia and Kentucky for this program.

Cost Control Associates provides assistance to local government clients to help reduce energy and telecom costs by performing complete reviews of bills for possible errors that can be refunded to a local government.

Reviews in rate changes or services are also made to help reduce ongoing energy and telecom costs.

The FSC will focus initially on states in the northeast and mid-Atlantic regions of the country.

The law firm of **Dickstein, Shapiro, Morin & Oshinsky (DSMO)** offers a two-stage approach of his-

torical insurance review and asset recovery to offset environmental liabilities encountered by a local government.

During the first stage, DSMO reviews past and expected future costs for remediation; evaluates potential recovery from responsible parties; identifies insurance carriers and types of coverage; and assesses potential applicable laws to the environmental claims.

If a local government agrees to continue to the second stage, DSMO will develop settlement and litigation strategies to maximize insurance recovery; negotiate and settle with responsible insurance companies; and determine whether litigation is needed.

This program will focus on counties and cities with substantial and known environmental problems.

D-MED Corporation provides local governments with an automated means to qualify an applicant for court-appointed attorneys (indigent defense).

Proprietary software allows a local government to make an immediate determination as to whether an applicant meets the criteria established by the court to be given court-appointed legal counsel.

While this program is offered mainly for determining eligibility for court services, it can be adapted to include other county-funded programs including healthcare, school programs and other social services that are based on one's ability to pay.

For more information on these services, contact Jim Sawyer at jsawyer@naco.org or 202/661-8868.

Employee Relations, Inc. provides local governments with pre-employment background investigations, drug testing and an employee hotline services to help reduce liability for negligent hires or negligent retention of employees. Each of the three services is available on a stand-alone basis, or in conjunction with other services.

The FSC will work with insurance pools, risk managers and human resource directors to help manage the risks of hiring or retaining volunteers, drug abuse in the workplace, and hostile work place issues.

MAXIMUS presently provides contingency fee-based debt collection services through the FSC to local governments for any receivables that they cannot collect on their own.

Under the new program, Maximus continues to offer debt collection services, as well as a total of 25 additional services.

For more information on these services, contact Nancy Irish at nirish@naco.org or 202/661-8824.

What's In a Seal?

DeKalb County, Ill.

In 1981, then DeKalb County Sheriff Wilbur B. Scott proposed a design for a new county seal which depicted the wealth of DeKalb County's resources. The county board subsequently adopted this seal as the official county seal.

The center of the seal is divided into four sections with two outer rings surrounding the seal's center. The upper left quarter represents agriculture and the rural community, displaying the many contributions to the nation's agricultural needs. In the foreground of this quadrant stands a stalk of corn, representing the county's leading crop and a noted hybrid developed locally. Also depicted is a heifer steer, representing the county's beef industry. An old wind mill and red barn can be seen in the background along with the familiar blue silo, manufactured by one of the local industries. This section is a tribute to DeKalb County farmers.

The upper right quarter symbolizes DeKalb County's industries and communities. The county's factories, business community and employment opportunities are shown along with a train and a large truck, representing the large number of products distributed throughout the world. The communities' skyline includes the DeKalb County high-rise apartments, home of many of DeKalb's senior citizens, and several crosses representing the many diversified religious faiths. This section is a tribute to life in DeKalb County.

The lower left quarter is symbolic of DeKalb County's commitment to the nation's future through education. The foreground illustrates a scene from the past (the little red country schoolhouse) and on the horizon, Altgeld Hall, the "Castle" of Northern Illinois University. A diploma and graduation cap represents the thousands of students educated and able to make the decisions of the future. This section is dedicated to the educators, senior citizens and the youth.

The lower right quarter represents the numerous recreational facilities in DeKalb County that are available to its residents and visitors. The county's forest preserves, community and state parks offer swimming, boating, fishing, hunting, camping, hiking, picnicking, band concerts and magnificent fireworks displays, plus a variety of competitive sports.

Depicted in this scene is a lone fisherman doing battle with the famed "fighting tiger muskie" of Lake Shabbona, the largest fish in the county. At the bank of the lake a tree line is shown, portraying one of the county's numerous forest preserves. This section is dedicated to the value of the community's natural resources and quality of life.

At the bottom portion of the seal is a banner displaying the year 1837, which was the year DeKalb County was founded. (March 4, 1837).

In the narrow circle surrounding the four quarters are the words: Service, Pride, Integrity and Courage. These words are reflective of the commitment employees strive for in their service to the citizens of DeKalb County, Ill.



In Service to Counties

Diesel Technology Forum



Corporate Member

Location/HQ: Frederick, Md.

Primary Business: Non-profit educational association.

Name of NACo Representative: Allen Schaeffer, executive director; 301/668-7230, aschaeffer@dieselforum.org.

Why we joined NACo: The Diesel Technology Forum seeks to educate policymakers about the economic importance and environmental progress of clean diesel technology.

We joined NACo to begin to familiarize the organization with our availability as a resource for information about diesel technology and the programs in place to improve air quality through upgrading existing diesel engines.

What we can do for counties: The Diesel Technology Forum seeks to be a resource for counties addressing challenging energy and environmental issues, and a potential partner on projects dealing with diesel issues. DTF also has a wealth of knowledge about funding sources for diesel retrofit projects.

NEWS FROM THE NATION'S COUNTIES



FLORIDA

PINELLAS COUNTY Tax Collector Diane Nelson will begin **online tax certificate sales** next summer.

Tax certificate sales allow the purchase of a property tax lien on real estate parcels whose owners have not paid their annual taxes. The process allows the county tax collector to collect virtually 100 percent of taxes levied and gives added time for the delinquent taxpayer to repay.

The tax certificate sale is conducted as a reverse auction, in that the investor who bids the lowest interest rate wins the right to buy the certificate. The intended outcome is to create as low a burden as possible for the delinquent taxpayer to eventually repay.

- Two semi-trucks loaded with "Gifts for the Gulf" left **SEMINOLE COUNTY** Dec. 13 to bring holiday cheer to the residents of Pass Christian, Miss.

Eighty percent of Pass Christian was destroyed by **Hurricane Katrina**. For the past several weeks, Seminole County Government, the seven cities, the Chamber of Commerce, Seminole County School Board and area church and business groups have been collecting toys and other items to help the city recover from the devastation.

INDIANA

A six-year journey to construct a new **animal shelter** in **JOHNSON COUNTY** took a big step when county commissioners agreed to buy a five-acre parcel of land for the facility.

The shelter is being funded by \$250,000 donation. The money was donated specifically for a new shelter.

"My concern about using taxpayer dollars would obviously be dispelled if we used private dollars to acquire the ground," Commissioner R.J. McConnell told *The Indianapolis Star*.

A special task force chose the new location, highlighting the opportunity to expand adoption services and possibly build a dog park.

IOWA

The lengthy ordeal in getting an ordinance toward the purchase of **beer kegs** in **STORY COUNTY** has just become longer.

The ordinance has been on the table since it was first read in February. It would require customers purchasing kegs to show photo identification and force stores to keep a record of the buyers and attach identification stickers to each keg.

Students at Iowa State University have become concerned with some of

the provisions and have indicated that many think that it could push some people determined to drink toward the come consumption of hard liquor.

"This is the longest (process) in the five years since I've been on the board," Supervisor Wayne Clinton said. "If you go back and look at the record, I don't think there's been one in county government that's taken this long."

KANSAS

SHAWNEE COUNTY commissioners may put together a citizens' task force to review the county's response to recent **emergencies** involving local flooding and relief efforts for the Gulf Coast in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. The task force would examine the responses and suggest ways to enhance its management of similar disasters.

Commissioner Ted Ensley told *The Capital-Journal* that the formation of the task force doesn't necessarily indicate any wrongdoing in either situation.

"This is not any criticism of what we have, but it certainly doesn't hurt to evaluate," Ensley told the paper.

MARYLAND

For the ninth season in a row, **MONTGOMERY COUNTY'S**

Brookside Gardens has celebrated the holiday season with a light show spectacle.

Using more than 650,000 individual lights, the show's creators have made exhibits such as a walk-through caterpillar, a Loch Ness Monster and geese in a sparkling pond. The show attracts more than 42,000 visitors each year.

While many light shows are drive-through, the Brookside Gardens show has participants walk along a half-mile course.

MICHIGAN

A report on a **mock terrorism attack** at five **MACOMB COUNTY** high schools found that poor communication between law enforcement personnel caused problems in their response.

According to the Associated Press, the drill, Sept. 22, involved a scenario where the schools were taken over by people with automatic weapons and explosives. The report states that at one point, communication among fire, police and emergency medical personnel became nearly impossible.

County officials plan to address the flaws.

MINNESOTA

While more and more local

governments are considering **smoking bans**, **HENNEPIN COUNTY** is considering scaling back its recently established ban.

Originally intended to limit second-hand smoke and improve public health, the county commission is considering an amendment to exempt traditional bars from the ban until at least July 2007.

Newly released statistics show that the ban has not hurt Hennepin's overall business, but some bars have been substantially hit, according to the *Star Tribune*. Meanwhile, taxable liquor sales across the county rose from \$113.8 million in the second quarter of last year to \$114 million during the same period this year.

NORTH CAROLINA

PITT COUNTY is the lead plaintiff in a class action lawsuit against **online hotel booking companies**.

The county's six percent hotel occupancy tax is charged on every hotel room booked within the county. Online booking companies contract with hotels for rooms at discounted rates, then rent the rooms at higher prices to online patrons.

However, the booking companies pay taxes on the reduced rate rooms, as

■ See **NEWS FROM** on page 15

AFFILIATE SPOTLIGHT

National Association of County Civil Attorneys

The National Association of County Civil Attorneys (NACCA) meets twice a year at NACo's Legislative and Annual Conferences. This organization, which is open to all county attorneys and other attorneys working in county government, provides an opportunity for interaction and education.

Led by its elected officials, the group creates an opportunity for attorneys to hear the latest issues facing counties in various regions of the country and to get up-to-date briefings on Supreme Court Cases that affect how county governments do their jobs. Notable speakers, including local law professors and practitioners, have addressed the group about these important cases.

Although NACCA has no full-time staff, it does have a listserv that its members use to stay in touch, pose questions and offer solutions.

As a means of quick communication, it allows members to respond

when other counties need legal help and to weigh in on various legislative issues facing NACo.

One of the primary goals of NACCA is to monitor the legal trends facing counties. In the last five years, members have been briefed on environmental cleanup issues, redistricting, eminent domain, tort reform and adult businesses. The association has also sponsored several workshops at NACo conferences on legal issues that are current and hot topics.

Each year, the Whip and Chair workshop, which discusses the right way to run a meeting, is a consistently well-attended program. At the most recent conference in Honolulu, the workshop on eminent domain, that NACCA sponsored, had a lively panel of participants including two local attorneys with opposing viewpoints.

In addition, NACCA provides a forum for healthy debate, and often

disagreement, among county attorneys over pending legal issues. In the recent past this has included lengthy discussions of the value of caps on tort liability, which included a discussion of sovereign immunity.

Lastly, NACCA is a valuable partner to NACo because of its quick ability to get county attorneys involved in issues when necessary. The affiliate members are always available for advice and consultation and frequently come to the aid of other member counties. A quick note on the listserv is all it takes to mobilize a national network of legal assistance.

(For additional information about NACCA, please contact Robert Spence, president-elect, in Tuscaloosa County, Ala. at rspence@hsmmb.com, or Thomas Finley, NACo Board Representative, in Marathon County, Wis. at tpfinley@mail.co.marathon.wi.us.)

ARKANSAS

The **BENTON COUNTY** jail will not be footing the bill for certain medical bills, now that it has adopted a new policy. The jail won't pay for **emergency medical treatment** on ailments existing prior to the inmate's incarceration.

Sheriff Keith Ferguson told the Associated Press that he doesn't think it's fair to ask taxpayers to pay for pre-existing illnesses.

Jeff Walker, a criminal justice professor at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, said that the policy could begin a nationwide trend. According to him, there is no state or federal law requiring counties to pay for inmate medical treatment.

The policy has encountered opposition from the Little Rock chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union.

CALIFORNIA

Supervisors in **ALAMEDA COUNTY** passed a resolution urging Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger to call for the withdrawal of California **National Guard troops** from Iraq, claiming that the deployment depletes the Guard's ability to respond to disasters at home.

"Recent conditions in the Gulf states affected by Hurricane Katrina have show that the federalization and the deployment of National Guard members has rendered the remaining guard force unable to provide critical services to the state during emergencies and/or major disasters," states the resolution, authored by Keith Carson, president of the county's board of supervisors.

According to *Inside Bay Area*, since the president is the only person who can order National Guard troops into foreign wars, the resolution calls on Schwarzenegger to ask the Pentagon, President Bush and Congress to take immediate steps toward withdrawal.

The county joins several cities, including Berkeley and Oakland, in passing similar resolutions.

COLORADO

Officials are blaming **methamphetamine** use for a nearly 5 percent jump in crime.

According to District Attorney Peter Hautzinger, the county had experienced very little violent crime until recently. In his 18 years as a prosecutor, he tells the Associated Press, this is the worst drug he has encountered.

RESEARCH NEWS

New Markets Tax Credits

Low-income communities in counties across America face many barriers to growth, economic development and revitalization. One major obstacle for these communities is the inability to attract businesses and spur investments for sustainable growth.

In December 2000, Congress did something to promote economic development and create job opportunities in low-income areas. The New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) was passed as part of the Community Renewal Tax Relief Act. The NMTC program was created and is administered by the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (CDFI) of the U.S. Department of Treasury; and its purpose was to spur private investment in low-income urban and rural communities.

The program was based on the notion that there are viable business opportunities in these targeted communities, and private investors would be more attracted to distressed areas if Congress provided an incentive.

Areas eligible for the tax credit are defined as a census tract with a poverty rate of at least 20 percent or with a median income of up to 80 percent of the metropolitan area or statewide median. The NMTC can also be used in target areas: a community within a census tract that may not meet the poverty or median income standard. However, investors undertaking certain kinds of projects in these designated communities may qualify for this credit against their federal taxes.

The program requires that investments be made through "Community Development Entities" (CDEs) in order for the investment to earn the tax credits. CDEs are corporations or partnerships, certified by the CDFI Fund, that provide capital to distressed communities. Tax credits are awarded to CDEs and they offer credits to investors who put forth the funds in exchange for stock or interest in the CDE.

During the first round, more than 300 CDEs applied for the credits. After certifying the qualified CDEs and conducting a competitive review process, the CDFI Fund made its first allocation of \$2.5 billion to a total of 66 CDEs. This first allocation was made in March 2003. Of these 66, 16 targeted a specific city or county, six

targeted more than one city or county, 17 conducted statewide programs and 27 worked in more than one state.

CDE examples

When Bristow, Okla. in Creek County lost 1,200 jobs because a factory closed, the NMTC program provided an incentive for a company to invest nearly \$15 million to build a new aircraft repair facility. In Hayward, Calif. (Alameda County), the tax credit helped the family-owned Mexican Tortilla Factory buy its own warehouse.

Rural areas will gain approximately \$509 million NMTC investments. The biggest allocation to date for rural communities was a \$54 allocation to the REI New Markets Investment, LLC which served communities in Oklahoma. The U.S.-Mexico border counties of Yuma, Ariz., San Diego and Imperial Calif. will receive nearly \$40 million credits that are targeted to rural areas.

To date, the fund has made 170 awards of credits worth \$8 billion.

In 2004, the St. Louis Development Corporation (SLDC) was awarded a NMTC allocation. The SLDC award will be used to start projects in eligible areas of the city of St. Louis and St. Louis County, Mo. and Madison, and St. Clair counties in Ill.

Adams County, Wis. was designated as a development zone by

the state and most of the areas in the county qualify for the NMTC program. The county is offering credits up to \$8,500 for businesses for filling full-time jobs by members residing in targeted areas and up to \$6,500 for jobs filled by Wisconsin residents. Other credits available include an environmental remediation credit of 50 percent for costs affected by environmental pollution.

For proponents of the program, the NMTC has been a success. The funds have been used to revitalize communities, redevelop distressed areas, downtown districts and enhance infrastructure facilities.

Increased commercial development and the influx of businesses vital to neighborhoods such as grocery stores and laundromats provide a vital resource for citizens. Funds are provided through direct lending means such as low-interest loans, gap financing and equity investments. For these businesses and communities, this means more jobs being created, more hiring opportunities for women and minorities, and increased wages based on the allocation amount.

For more information about the NMTC, please visit www.cdfifund.gov.

(Information for this Research News column was written by Christina Crayton, NACo research associate.)

Hunters find natural gas in Kingfisher County

NEWS FROM from page 14

opposed to the higher rate they charge customers. The lawsuit alleges that the online companies are improperly keeping the difference as income, according to the Associated Press.

The suit seeks payment of the difference, interest and penalties.

The hotel tax funds the county's convention center and visitor's bureau.

hours a day if it meant having Friday off. They love this new schedule," said Laten Boniol, the department's special projects supervisor.

The county began the new schedules in October in an effort to conserve fuel and save money. By not sending out mowers, graders and trucks out on Friday, the county expected to cut fuel use and bills by up to 20 percent. Bobby Waldrop, public works director, said that fuel savings have been closer to 15 percent.

The added by-product of this new routine is increased productivity. Waldrop estimates that his crew is completing 20 percent more work in four 10-hour days

VIRGINIA

The Virginia Association of Counties has collected \$223,000 in relief funds for victims of Hurricane Katrina. The money was donated to the Greater Richmond Chapter of the American Red Cross Dec. 7.

The Brunswick County Board of Supervisors initiated the fundraiser on Sept. 2 by committing to a \$25,000 donation and challenging other counties to match it.

Here is a breakdown of the donations by county: Brunswick County, \$25,000; Isle of Wight County, \$32,000; Louisa County, \$25,000; Loudoun County, \$25,000; Culpeper County, \$25,000; Sussex County, \$10,000; Greensville County, \$25,000; Accomack County, \$1,000; Lunenburg County, \$5,000; Dinwiddie County, \$25,000; and Stafford County \$25,000.

Many counties also donated in-kind services or made monetary donations directly to the American Red Cross or other charitable organizations. VACo estimates that counties have contributed more than \$67,000 in monetary donations. More than 175 county employees along with equipment were sent to the affected areas. This represents approximately \$650,000 in in-kind contributions, according to VACo.

(News From the Nation's Counties is compiled by Dan Miller, staff writer. If you have an item you would like featured, please send it to him at dmiller@naco.org.)

UTAH

SALT LAKE COUNTY will open the first of two **Day Reporting Centers (DRC)** designed to help combat the exploding population of non-violent offenders at the county jail. Billed as an alternative to incarceration, the DRCs benefits include reduced recidivism rates, lower cost supervision and the ability to let offenders work.

A DRC is a non-residential facility that provides services to offenders in a structured environment. The facility will initially serve 100 individuals with a projected growth to 250.

"Some 80 percent of those in our jail need mental health or substance abuse treatment," Mayor Peter Corroon said. "Right at the top of my to-do list has been pursuing alternatives to incarceration. A Day Reporting Center is a great first step."

OKLAHOMA

Officials at the state and local level are seeking the source of **natural gas geysers** that have been appearing in **KINGFISHER COUNTY**.

Hunters first noticed the leaks, some of which shot water and mud 10 feet in the air. Officials have warned local residents to take caution before drinking water and to check for gas first. Fire Chief John Crawford told the Associated Press that the threat of the gas igniting is unlikely, but there is a concern the gas could begin coming up through water-well lines.

He says sheriff's deputies were dispatched to inform residents of the possibility of gas coming through wells and water systems.

PENNSYLVANIA

Employees at **JONES COUNTY**'s public works department are raving about their new **work schedules**.

According to the *Centre Daily*, the employees now work 10-hour days, four days a week, giving them three-day weekends every week.

"I believe my guys would work 24

web watch

Watershed Funding Resources for Counties

The EPA's new Watershed Funding Web site contains numerous resources for local governments. Resources include links to sustainable funding planning tools, databases of funding opportunities as well as resources about grants, funding and fundraising available to improve watershed health. Visit the page at www.epa.gov/owow/funding.html.

Page Gives Flight Delay Information

Whether you're taking a flight yourself or picking someone up, the Department of Transportation's Flight Delay Information page provides information on which flights are delayed coming into airports. Visit the page at www.fly.faa.gov/flyfaa/usmap.jsp.

Department of Veterans Affairs Helps Locate Gravesites

The Department of Veterans Affairs maintains a locator for veterans' gravesites across the country. Simply visit the page (located at http://gravelocator.cem.va.gov/j2ee/servlet/NGL_v1) and enter the veteran's name. Advanced searches are available for more common names.

(Web Watch is compiled by Dan Miller, staff writer. If you have an item you would like featured, please e-mail it to him at dmiller@naco.org.)

THE H.R. DOCTOR IS IN

The Baggage Handlers

I'm sure you have shared the experience with me of preparing for a long trip. You pack either with great care days in advance or throw things into the nearest duffle bag at the last minute. Whatever style you may have, when you arrive at the airport, or cruise ship, you encounter the baggage handlers. They gracefully (usually, that is) take the baggage off your hands and take care of it for until it is ready to be picked at that the right place at the right time (again, usually, that is).

The handlers take what we bring to them and take on the weight, the bulk, and the risk of back strain or hernia which accompanies the hand off of our baggage. They relieve us of the care and the lugging around of all that we have packed, or over-packed. "Lugging" must be the origin of the word "luggage."

Most human resources staff members are similarly employed—spending considerable portions of their careers engaged in a related form of

baggage handling. Not a day goes by when employees or job applicants do not unload an array of personal items on the desk or at the feet of the HR professional, fully expecting or even demanding they be relieved of what they regard as excessive burdens.

This same is true of managers who may drop off packages in the form of poorly behaving employees, hoping to leave them for somebody else to deal with until they can be picked up like dry cleaning, when some magical process of transformation has been applied. In the world of the early 21st century, many job applicants and employees bring to the table expectations that developed, perhaps, early in their childhood centering around unrealistic expectations, entitlements and less willingness to accept personal responsibility for their own actions.

Every one of these folks and, in fact, everyone reading this article, as well as the person writing it, carries around "baggage." The baggage may include lead weights in the form of financial, family or health problems. They may feel weighted down by insecurity at work or, although they may not realize it, by their own bullying attitude toward others. They may seek actively to avoid work and responsibility or to shift the blame for any failures on anyone walking around in their work neighborhood, but especially their supervisors or their coworkers.

The continuing and negative effect of such baggage carriers in any workplace is damaging and wasteful. This is especially true of a public agency where the workers in a civil service or merit system often come wrapped in the body armor of a wide array of appeal rights and entitlements far beyond what is found in private sector "at will" employment.

All were created for very noble purposes, including insuring that employees are treated with respect and equity in workplace. Unfortunately, the baggage carrier represents a chronic challenge to managers who are often untrained, inexperienced and insecure in handling the issues presented by this type of person.

When confronted by the requests or the demands to take away other people's baggage, the managers often retreat, tolerate or "walk by" poor behavior or performance. An alternative strategy is to expect or demand that someone else assume responsibility for what the managers themselves should be doing. That someone may be their own supervisor, HR staff,



PHIL ROSENBERG
THE HR DOCTOR

begins with a vow to "not walk by" problems and to not let others hand off to you as a manager, or as a parent or spouse for that matter, all or even significant amounts of their own personal baggage. If we don't take a coaching and clear communication of expectations approach, we will all find ourselves no longer serving as elected or appointed officials. We will all become qualified to work as either adult day care providers or as airport baggage handlers

The HR Doctor hopes that you don't strain yourself carrying your own or other people's baggage!

Phil Rosenberg
The HR Doctor
www.hrdr.net

or even family members who may suffer because of the attitudes and frustrations brought home after work by the person unable to cope under the strain of excess baggage.

As with many things in life, including work life, the treatment

NACo ON THE MOVE

IN THE NEWS

- An article in *The Detroit News* mentioned NACo in an article about drug-testing kits. NACo First Vice President Eric Coleman was quoted in the story about the deadliness of methamphetamines.

NACo OFFICERS AND COUNTY OFFICIALS

- NACo Second Vice President **Don Stapley** spoke at the County Commissioners Association of Ohio Annual Winter Conference, Dec. 11-14, Columbus.

NACo STAFF

- **Ed Ferguson**, director of the county services department, attended the Midwestern Governors Association Methamphetamine Summit Dec. 13-15 in Marion County (Indianapolis), Ind. At the summit, speakers and panelists discussed strategies for dealing with various aspects of the meth problem, and NACo's surveys were cited in the program materials.
- **Kevin Neimond**, GIS specialist, participated in the Defense Installation Spatial Data Infrastructure (DISDI) Community of Interest Forum conducted by the Department of Defense, Dec. 15 in Arlington County, Va.
- **Assefa Checol** has been hired as NACo's new grants accountant. He previously worked for five years as staff accountant for a non-profit agency in Washington, D.C.
- **Tonya Williams** has been hired as an account technician in the accounting/finance department. Previously, she was a patient account representative for the department of pediatrics at Georgetown University Hospital and before that she worked at Howard University Physicians as a clinical accountant representative, each for four and a half years.

UPCOMING

- **Andrew Goldschmidt**, membership/marketing director, will be traveling to the Mississippi Association of Supervisor's Winter Conference in Hinds County (Jackson), Miss. Jan. 9-11, 2006. He will be speaking about the Prescription Drug Card Program and exhibiting on behalf of NACo membership recruitment and retention.

(On the Move is compiled by Dan Miller, staff writer, and Allison Mall, editorial assistant.)

Emily was abandoned by her mother.
So were her three sisters.

They live in four different foster homes

CASA VOLUNTEER STEPS IN HERE.

and will likely never see each other again.

A LOVING FAMILY ADOPTS THEM ALL.



Be The Difference.
Volunteer.
www.nationalcasa.org

JOB MARKET / CLASSIFIEDS

■ DIRECTOR OF LIBRARY SERVICES — DURHAM COUNTY, N.C.

Salary: DOQ.
 Durham County Government is seeking a highly qualified individual to provide administrative oversight of the county's regional library system. The Library Director supervises the development and execution of the departments \$7 million budget, capital development plans, and develops innovative services that anticipate the needs of the community while maintaining traditional library services. Requires a master's degree in library science and five years of experience in professional library work, including two years in a supervisory/administrative capacity.

For an application or additional

information about this position, please visit our Web site at www.co.durham.nc.us or call Durham County Human Resources at 919/560-7000. Women and minorities are strongly encouraged to apply.

■ DIRECTOR OF PARKS AND PLANNING — MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Salary: \$148,000, DOQ.
 The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, a bi-county agency that serves a dynamic and diverse population of nearly 2 million in two counties (Montgomery and Prince George's Counties) adjacent to Washington, D.C., seeks a visionary, strategic, and charismatic team and

mission-oriented leader to take on the challenging and exciting position of Director of the Montgomery County Department of Park and Planning. This is a high profile public position that deals with numerous highly sensitive, political and controversial issues. Position is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Montgomery County Planning Board.

Outstanding interpersonal skills, comfort working in a highly educated and diverse community, knowledge of how to use technology to produce more efficient program results, experience in strong fiscal management, strategic planning and implementation, and land development are essential. \$130 million budget; staff of 900 in 15 divisions. 12 years experience, including 5 years at the executive level managing a comparable private or public sector program. Master's degree (JD also acceptable) in public administration, planning, recreation management/administration, business administration or related field required. Salary negotiable (current incumbent at \$148,000). Highly competitive benefits and retirement packages and take home car. The Commission is proud to be an equal opportunity employer. For additional information about the organization and position, visit www.mncppc.org and www.pargroupltd.com. Apply with complete resumé to: Robert A. Beezat, The PAR Group, 100 N. Waukegan Road, Suite 211, Lake Bluff, IL 60044. 847/234-0005, resume@pargroupltd.com, 847/234-8309 (fax).

■ FINANCE DIRECTOR — CITY OF CREEDMOOR, N.C.

Salary: DOQ.
 Fast growing, full-service Research Triangle municipality with a stable Council/Manager government. The Finance Director is a working position which reports to the City Manager and has overall responsibility for the city's financial and budgetary functions which include accounting, treasury, utility billing, payroll, human resources and health, worker's compensation and liability insurances. The Finance Department has four employees.

Must be technically strong in governmental finance and accounting, systems and technology, treasury, capital financing, grants administration, payroll, tax collection, governmental purchasing and fixed assets. Requires the equivalent of a bachelor's degree in accounting or related field (master's degree and CPA preferred) combined with measurable and successful local government finance and accounting experience.

If you meet these qualifications and want to be considered for this exceptional career opportunity, please mail, fax or e-mail your detailed confidential resume with current salary immediately to Robert E. Slavin, President, Slavin Management Consultants, 3040 Holcomb Bridge Road, Suite B-1, Norcross, GA 30071. 770/449-4656, slavin@bellsouth.net, 770/416-0848 (fax). Equal employment opportunity employer and recruiter.

■ FINANCE DIRECTOR — TOWN OF ORANGE, VA.

Salary: \$75,000, DOQ.
 New position in a growing community with a high quality of life. The Town of Orange, population 4,123, located in Virginia's Piedmont, is seeking its first Finance Director. The position, working with a highly experienced Town Manager, has a potential for significant professional growth and requires any combination of education and experience equivalent to graduation from an accredited college or university with major course work in accounting or related field and extensive experience in public or private finance administration. Designation as a CPA preferred, but not required. The ideal candidate should possess experience working in a growth oriented community or company with a wide range of duties in financial operations and management. Prior experience should include development and successful implementation of annual budgets, customer service programs, automated accounting systems, financial forecasting, capital improvement plans and financial policies. Candidates must be able to demonstrate a thorough knowledge of the operational, administrative and legal inherent in successful local government financial management. Excellent written and verbal communication skills a plus. The successful candidate will demonstrate outstanding interpersonal skills to build and maintain effective working relationships with the town staff and officials, other local governments and state agencies and members of the Orange community. Salary up to \$75,000 DOQ plus excellent benefits. Submit letter of application, detailed resume with salary history and work related references to: John A. Anzivino, Vice President or Roger M. Scott, Senior Vice President, Springsted Incorporated, 1206 Laskin Road, Suite 210, Virginia Beach, VA 23451. Fax 757/422-6617 or e-mail virginiabeach@springsted.com by Jan. 13, 2006. For further information visit www.springsted.com. Town of Orange is an EOE.

■ MANAGEMENT ANALYST III — FAIRFAX COUNTY, VA.

Salary: \$53,227 – \$70,970, DOQ.
 Fairfax Co. Dept of Housing and Community Development, Job #05-3072. Conducts senior professional-level work in data analysis, business process improvement, survey research and analysis, information and asset management, performance and outcome measurement, and policy analysis and planning. Analyzes county, state, and federal policies and regulations and prepares reports regarding the financial and program impact of regulations and policy changes. Monitors and reviews program performance data. Provides recommendations to improve program performance. Oversees data collection and research of housing vacancy rate, comparable rent, utility allowance, and program participation data. Provides professional-level planning, analytical

and technical support for senior agency management and various community and advisory groups and boards.

Minimum Qualifications: Any combination of education and experience equivalent to graduation from an accredited four-year college or university with a bachelor's degree in field related to public administration or economics; plus four years of professional work experience within the functional areas of public administration, economics or statistics including management analysis and quantitative analysis. Candidates with public human services management and private sector housing experience are encouraged to apply. To apply: online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/jobs. Please note the Job # (05-3072) for this announcement before you visit our Web site to apply. EEO/Reasonable Accommodation. TTY: 703/222-7314.

■ TOWN ENGINEER — TOWN OF ORANGE, VA.

Salary: \$75,000, DOQ.
 The Town of Orange, population 4,123, located in Virginia's Piedmont, an attractive community with a high quality of life is seeking a new Town Engineer. The position, under the direction of an experienced Town Manager, has potential for significant professional growth and requires a bachelor's degree in civil engineering. Professional Engineering (PE) certification and at least five years of municipal or private sector civil engineering experience preferred. Prior experience should include development and/or knowledge of infrastructure design, utility operation, planning and development, site plan and subdivision review, construction administration, storm water planning and plan review. Candidates must be able to demonstrate a thorough knowledge of civil engineering practices and apply them to the town's benefit in an environment typically found in a growing community. Excellent written and verbal communication skills a plus. The successful candidate will demonstrate outstanding interpersonal skills to build and maintain effective working relationships with the town staff and officials, the private sector, other local governments and state and federal agencies and members of the Orange community. Salary up to \$75,000 DOQ plus excellent benefits. Submit letter of application, detailed resume with salary history and work related references to: John A. Anzivino, Vice President or Roger M. Scott, Senior Vice President, Springsted Incorporated, 1206 Laskin Road, Suite 210, Virginia Beach, VA 23451. Fax 757/422-6617 or e-mail virginiabeach@springsted.com by Jan. 13, 2006. For further information visit www.springsted.com. The Town of Orange is an EOE.

(If you would like information about advertising your job openings in County News and County News Online, please contact Allison Mall at 200/942-4256 or amall@naco.org.)

**ORANGE COUNTY
HEALTH CARE
AGENCY**

**Director of Public Health/
County Health Officer**

*Salary range: \$106,080 to \$193,440
Plus excellent benefit package*

The Orange County Health Care Agency, located in a region known for its outstanding quality of life, is seeking a Director of Public Health/County Health Officer. The Director provides leadership and coordination for a staff of 951 employees and a FY05-06 budget of \$118.5 million. Public Health is a major service area of the Orange County Health Care Agency, and is responsible for a full range of public health systems and services in monitoring the incidence of disease and injury in the community and developing and applying preventative strategies to maintain and improve the health of Orange County citizens. The Director plays a critical role in the executive team of the Health Care Agency.

The ideal candidate will be a physician with significant experience in public health management with a broad vision for the future of public health services. This challenging position requires a leader, team player, and an excellent communicator who is a collaborator inside and outside the Agency.

To be considered for this exceptional career opportunity, submit your curriculum vitae/resume, three work-related references and current salary by **Friday, January 20, 2006** to:

CSAC
Human Resources Advisory Services
Attn: Christine Imit
241 Lathrop Way
Sacramento, CA 95815
916.263.1610 tel
916.961.7205 fax
resumes@cps.usa.gov email
www.cps.ca.gov/search

The Orange County Health Care Agency is an EEO employer.



NOTICES

■ Conference

The Joint Conference of the **National Council on the Aging (NCOA)** and the **American Society on Aging (ASA)** will be held March 16-19, 2006 at the Anaheim Marriott and Hilton Hotels in Orange County (Anaheim), Calif. In addition, there will be special pre-conference programs and seminars on March 15.

The conference will examine aging issues such as aging with HIV/AIDS, advances in Alzheimer's, lessons from the Terri Schiavo case, breakthroughs in brain fitness, midlife and older women in transition and Medicare's new prescription-drug benefit.

Register online at www.agingconference.org. For questions about NCOA, contact Scott Parkin at 202/479-6975 or scott.parkin@naco.org. For questions about ASA, contact Paul Kleyman at 415/974-9619 or paul@asaging.org.

(Notices is compiled by Allison Mall, editorial assistant. If you have an item for Notices, you can e-mail it to her at amall@naco.org or fax 202/393-2630.)

2006 Acts of Caring Awards



In 2006, the National Association of Counties (NACo) will recognize and promote volunteer programs through the Acts of Caring Awards, a national ceremony honoring community-based, county government initiatives that provide a legacy for the future of our country.

The Acts of Caring is part of Counties Serve America, a long-term project of the National Association of Counties in partnership with Freddie Mac. It is designed to raise public understanding and awareness about county government.

What is an Act of Caring?

An "act of caring" is a community service provided by a county-sponsored volunteer program that enhances or preserves the quality of life.

Who is Eligible to Participate?

Any county government that is a member of NACo with an active program that meets the following criteria is eligible to participate in the Acts of Caring Awards. A county program that won an Acts of Caring Award in the past three years is not eligible for an award in 2006.

Eligible Programs Must:

- Exist at least one calendar year prior to the application date
- Enlist community participation on a volunteer basis
- Include the participation of the county (officials and/or staff) in a significant and ongoing role
- Serve as a model program and be replicable
- Demonstrate measurable outcomes that benefit the community

Acts of Caring Awards

Up to 18 programs will be recognized and deemed examples of outstanding Acts of Caring. Based on county size, as many as three programs will be recognized in each of six categories, including: Community Improvement; Criminal Justice/Emergency Management; Elderly Services; Health/Social Services; Libraries; and Programs for Children & Youth.

The types of programs that can be included in Community Improvement are arts & culture, historic preservation, housing, environmental programs, services to help animals, civic education, and recreation and parks.

The Youth Service Award

The Youth Service Award is presented to the program that best identifies a critical need in the youth community and addresses it, in part, by engaging young people in service.

The Legacy Award for Excellence and Innovation

The top award, the Legacy Award for Excellence and Innovation, will be presented to the program that most fully embodies the spirit of volunteerism by addressing a unique need. This program sets itself apart by providing unparalleled service in its community. The Legacy Award winner is selected from all the entries submitted in the contest.

Cash Awards

Cash awards will be presented to the volunteer programs that receive the Youth Service Award and the Legacy Award for Excellence and Innovation. The Youth Service Award winner will receive \$1,000; the Legacy Award winner will receive \$1,500.

Population Categories

Awards may be presented in each of three population categories to ensure that large and small communities and urban and rural areas all receive the recognition they deserve.

Category	Population
1	500,000 and above
2	100,000 - 500,000
3	100,000 and below

Application Deadline

The deadline for the 2006 program is Jan. 27, 2006. No applications will be accepted or considered after this date. Faxed or e-mailed copies will not be accepted.

Acknowledgment of Receipt

To ensure receipt, please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope with each submission.

Program Judging

Winners will be selected by an independent panel of judges. These individuals will determine award recipients based on the quality of the application, program category and population category.

Announcement of Awards

All Acts of Caring honorees will be recognized at a national ceremony that will be held on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. during National County Government Week in April 2006. Additionally, they will be recognized in *County News*, on the NACo Web site and in all national media releases and promotions.

How to Apply

Applicants should submit two copies of the completed application accompanied by an application form. Each should be typed, double-spaced and 12-point font or larger. Completed applications should not exceed 1,000 words or six typewritten pages (excluding the application form). All seven questions on the application form should be answered. Please note that no application materials will be returned. Supplementary materials will not be considered in judging.

**For More Information, contact
Tom Goodman,
NACo Public Affairs Director,
at tgoodman@naco.org
or 202/942-4222.**



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