Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff spoke at the annual National Council of County Association Executives meeting in Washington, D.C. See page 2.

Eight of Knox County, Tenn.’s 19 commissioners and four other elected officials must be replaced following a state Supreme Court decision upholding term limits. See page 5.
Chertoff stresses regional approach to homeland security

By Charles Taylor
Senior Staff Writer

Counties stand a better chance of receiving federal homeland security dollars if they act regionally rather than individually, U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff told state associations of counties at a recent meeting in Washington, D.C.

Jurisdictional lines won’t be “the driving factor” in how the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) assesses localities’ risks or capabilities, Chertoff said, referring to his agency’s process for prioritizing grant awards. “Increasingly, we are pushing — in our funding and policies — to a regionally based approach.”

“It doesn’t make sense to duplicate capabilities in every community,” Chertoff told members of the National Council of County Association Executives (NCCAE) at a Jan. 11 meeting of state association executives and presidents. “We’re not here to make sure political officials get checks that they can hold up and say, ‘I brought a check home to the community.’”

In addition to Chertoff, former U.S. Reps. Tim Penny (D-Minn.) and Bill Frenzel (R-Minn.), and national political expert Charlie Cook addressed attendees over the course of their three-day meeting.

Participants also heard reports from NACo President Colleen Landkamer and NACo Executive Director Larry Naake on current NACo activities and goals for 2007.

Regarding DHS grants, Chertoff said his agency has begun issuing its grant guidance earlier to “build its capability earlier to ‘build from the ground up.” Chertoff explained.

In remarks that also addressed immigration reforms, he noted that “counties are critical elements” in a partnership with DHS. “After his talk, he responded to audience questions about FEMA’s structure, immigration and other issues.

Chertoff reported on DHS’ three-pronged strategy for combating illegal immigration: border security, interior enforcement and developing a temporary worker program. Over the last year, he said there’s been “dramatic change” in enforcement against businesses that employ illegal immigrants — a three- or four-fold increase in the number of criminal cases brought against employers that willfully violate immigration laws.

He added that his agency wants to support localities by making more homeland security funds available experience, where if you guess wrong on part of that grant, the whole grant is denied,” Chertoff explained.

In remarks that also addressed immigration reforms, he noted that “counties are critical elements” in a partnership with DHS. “After his talk, he responded to audience questions about FEMA’s structure, immigration and other issues.

Chertoff reported on DHS’ three-pronged strategy for combating illegal immigration: border security, interior enforcement and developing a temporary worker program. Over the last year, he said there’s been “dramatic change” in enforcement against businesses that employ illegal immigrants — a three- or four-fold increase in the number of criminal cases brought against employers that willfully violate immigration laws.

He added that his agency wants to support localities by making more homeland security funds available for police and sheriffs departments in border states that want training in immigration enforcement.

Following his remarks, Chertoff took questions from the floor. Asked whether FEMA should be a stand-alone agency, he said under DHS, FEMA has broader capabilities and resources than before it became a part of his secretariat.

“The unification of FEMA into the department has been a major step forward,” he said, citing successful examples of his agency’s response to Hurricane Katrina. For instance, he said under DHS, FEMA has direct access to Coast Guard, Customs and border protection assets, including ships and aircraft.

He noted that DHS, through its Transportation Security Administration (TSA), was able to help fly storm victims from New Orleans to Houston — a more efficient solution than FEMA’s initial efforts to bus people to Texas.

“We stepped in at the department level … with TSA to get the airlift and build what we called an air bridge that allowed us to move people from the airport … on to other destinations.

“This is exactly the kind of thing that I think people want and expect the department to do that a stand-alone FEMA would not have had the capability to do,” he said.

Earlier in his prepared remarks, Chertoff asked NCCAE officials for their help in accomplishing DHS’ mission.

“Let’s recognize that when we get from the wholesale level of government in Washington back to the retail level … we really have to look to the retailers, the county and local officials, who are always going to be the first responders and the first protectors.

“We need your help and your partnership in all these areas,” he continued, “and I look forward to working with you and your colleagues in this coming year to achieve greater homeland security for everyone.”

NACo/Nationwide give high school seniors opportunity at $2,500 scholarships

For the second year, Nationwide and NACo have teamed up to encourage high school seniors to think about graduating early. The result is the NACo/Nationwide Scholarship.

Last year, Briana Rowe of Larimer County, Colo. and John Rod of Monmouth County, N.J., submitted their top 10 reasons why it’s important to save early for retirement. Every one of their reasons demonstrated sound thinking and taught the judges a few lessons along the way.

In 2007, two seniors with parents, grandparents or guardians who participate in the NACo 457 Deferred Compensation Plan will be awarded $2,500 each, based on their research on what it will take to achieve their goals for retirement.

This year, applicants are asked to find the amount of money they will need at retirement and then submit a brief personal statement that describes their goal to secure their financial future.

Why spur students who haven’t even started full-time work to think about retirement? Three reasons — by applying for the scholarship the students:

1. must consider the financial impact of their decisions about college and their career
2. begin to recognize the value of time — the power that enables compounding to deliver significant returns on investment long-term, even if there are intervening short-term declines in the investment market, and
3. can get ideas for how they can prepare for a financially successful future rather than just “setting it happen.”

As with the inaugural scholarship program, NACo and Nationwide have made applying for the scholarship easy. The application asks the student for their name, age, the amount of money they discovered they’ll need at retirement and what research they used to reach that conclusion. Entries must be postmarked no later than March 30.

The NACo/Nationwide Scholarship is just one of the services arising out of the 26-year partnership the company has had with NACo. As provider of the NACo deferred compensation program, Nationwide regularly reports to the NACo Deferred Compensation Advisory Committee on industry trends, updates statistics on the program and provides ongoing education on retirement issues.

Nationwide Retirement Solutions compensates NACo for NACo’s endorsement and license of its name and logo for use by Nationwide in connection with the NACo Deferred Compensation Plan and related products and services. NACo uses these funds to enhance programs and services for the benefit of its members.

For information about eligibility, judging criteria and notification process, go to www.naco.org/retirementscholarship.
Greetings Fellow NACo Members:

It’s hard to imagine that we are well into the month of January and that 2007 is in full swing. Before you know it, the Legislative Conference will be upon us.

Since the last edition of *County News*, your NACo Executive Committee spent time on Capitol Hill to meet with the offices of Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Majority Leader Steny Hoyer to discuss NACo legislative priorities. Both offices were extremely willing to work with NACo and were very supportive of enhancing relations to ensure that NACo’s voice will be heard this session in Congress. Also while on Capitol Hill, the Executive Committee was able to strengthen relationships with the new leadership.

State associations of counties presidents and the National Council of County Association Executives held meetings in Washington D.C. during the second week in January. A hot topic throughout the meetings and discussions was, “the impact a new Congress will have on counties.” Charles Cook from the *Cook Political Report* was a guest speaker who elaborated on this subject at the National Press Club. Earlier in the day, former Reps. Tim Penny (D-Minn.) and Bill Frenzel (R-Minn.) gave their perspectives on the new Congress. I think this is a topic we should all think about and apply to how we maintain or develop relationships with new leaders at home and at the state and federal level.

Photos shown in the column illustrate some highlights and noteworthy meetings from throughout the week in Washington with NCCAE, state presidents and the NACo Executive Committee.

I wish all of you a wonderful rest of January and look forward to the months ahead!

Colleen Landkamer
NACo President


NACo executive committee members discuss NACo priorities with House Committee on Agriculture Chair Collin Peterson (D-Minn.). Peterson hosted the discussion with executive committee members during their visits on Capitol Hill. Pictured are (l-r): Peterson; Colleen Landkamer, NACo president; Don Stapley, NACo first vice president; Eric Coleman, NACo president-elect; Valerie Brown, NACo second vice president; and Bill Hanzell, NACo past president.

**New DHS funds cover terrorism preparedness, prevention, response**

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) recently announced the availability of billions of dollars of federal aid to state and local governments, and other eligible applicants for terrorism preparedness, prevention and response. In total, DHS will award more than $2.1 billion in federal assistance to eligible applicants through its Infrastructure Protection Program (IPP) and Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) in 2007.

**Homeland Security Grant Program**

DHS’ Homeland Security Grant Program includes the State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP), Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Grant Program, the Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Grant Program (LETPP), the Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) and the Citizen Corps Grant Program (CCP). Together, these competitive grants fund a range of state and local preparedness activities, including assistance for planning, equipment purchases, equipment maintenance, training and exercises.

In 2007, $509 million is available for DHS’ SHSGP (a decrease of $19 million compared to last year), $747 million for UASI (an increase of $37 million), $363 million for LETPP (a decrease of $21 million), $32 million for MMRS (an increase of $3 million) and $14.5 million for CCP (a decrease of $5 million).

**Infrastructure Protection Program**

DHS’ Infrastructure Protection Program includes the Transit Security Grant Program (TSGP), Port Security Grant Program (PSGP), Intercity Bus Security Grant Program (IBSGP), Trucking Security Program (TSP) and the Buffer Zone Protection Program (BZPP).

Collectively, these competitive and risk-based grants are awarded to states targeted to selected critical infrastructure facilities in metropolitan communities.

$172 million is available for TSGP (an increase of $28.8 million compared to last year), $201 million for PSGP (an increase of $33 million), $11.6 million for IBSGP (an increase of $2.1 million), $11.6 million for TSP (an increase of $6.8 million) and $48.5 million for BZPP (a decrease of $24.4 million).

All funding decisions will be “risk-based” and state and local governments are encouraged to visit the DHS’ Web site for additional details, www.dhs.gov/odp/grants_programs.htm.

**You should know ...**

**EPA proposes fee increases for local governments**

In a move to provide incentives to states to move to a fee-based system under the Clean Water Act’s Section 106 programs, the federal government plans to shift another potential unfunded mandate to local governments.

In the Jan. A *Federal Register* published a draft rule that would shift “the financial burden” to those who use the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program. This essentially would lessen the federal government’s share of clean water funding while increasing the fees local governments would have to pay to the states that oversee NPDES permits.

According to the National League of Cities, the federal share for fiscal year 2008 for the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program was 75 percent 30 years ago. Today, based on numbers from the National Association of Clean Water Agencies, the federal share has fallen closer to 5 percent. Local utilities spend $63 billion annually on clean water infrastructure — second only to education in the level of local spending.

For more information, go to www.epa.gov/cgi-bin/paprintonly.cgi?orp wwww.epa.gov/owm/cwfinance/permitrule-fc.pdf or contact Julie Ufner, associate legislative director, 202/942-4269 or juufner@naco.org.
House enacts unfinished 9/11 Commission recommendations

By DALE A. HARRIS
ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

The House of Representatives recently approved a wide ranging 279-page bill (H.R. 1, Implementing the 9/11 Commission Recommendations Act) which enacts several of the September 11th Commission’s unfinished recommendations for preventing future terrorist attacks. H.R. 1 is one of the first measures enacted in the new Democrat-controlled Congress. It proposes a number of reforms designed to ensure that the nation is better prepared and protected from future terrorist threats.

Notably, the legislation resurrects the contentious issue of distributing key Department of Homeland Security (DHS) grants to state and local governments; creates a new interoperable communications grant program for state and local governments based on degree of threat; requires 100-percent screening of cargo transported on ships and planes; strengthens privacy and civil liberties oversight of executive branch programs; expands existing nuclear nonproliferation programs; and implements policy changes for improving U.S. diplomacy efforts.

The measure, adopted by a 290 to 128 vote, faces a likely contentious conference with the Senate, since several senators have already indicated their opposition to some of the bill’s provisions. Key obstacles to its final passage include finding the offsets to pay for several of the legislation’s provisions and lowering the minimum formula for DHS’ key grants to state and local governments.

A Senate bill introduced last year to adopt the commission’s proposals had a five-year price tag of $53 billion and, since 2002, there has been an ongoing tug-of-war between the House and the Senate over how future homeland security aid should be distributed to states and local governments. Over the past few years, Congress has gradually given DHS more control over funds it could allocate to states and local governments based on risk, but a minimum level remains for all.

H.R. 1 proposes to lower the minimum formula from 0.75 percent to 0.25 percent, or 0.45 percent for states with a foreign border. Remaining funds would be distributed to states strictly based on risk.

The White House has listed several objections to the bill as well. Specifically, the George W. Bush administration opposes provisions in the bill that would allow collective bargaining rights for Transportation Security Administration employees, and opposes mandates to screen 100 percent of all air and ship cargo coming into the U.S. However, the administration has not yet threatened a veto of the bill.

In the Senate, the Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs recently held a hearing on the 9/11 Commission’s recommendations and has begun to draft its own version of the legislation. A draft Senate version of the bill is anticipated within the next few weeks. NACo will continue to keep members updated on future developments to the legislation.

Congress passes minimum wage increase

By DARYL DANIEL
ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

The house-passed Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007 would increase the federal hourly minimum wage from $5.15 to $7.25 over the next two years. On the Senate side, the Finance Committee passed the House version of the federal hourly wage increase, but added its own twist by including $8.3 billion in small business tax breaks that House Democratic leaders oppose.

The George W. Bush administration supports including business-friendly provisions to any minimum wage legislation and to date has not threatened a veto if such provisions are not included. If enacted, the legislation would be the first increase of the federal minimum wage in more than 10 years.

While NACo did not take a position on the federal minimum wage increase, NACo policy supports workers earning a livable wage. Currently, 29 states and the District of Columbia have a minimum wage higher than the current federal level. Subsequently, a federal minimum wage increase may just be catching up to what many counties are already paying their employees.

However, in states like Louisiana and Virginia, where the state minimum wage is the federal level, such an increase will lead to higher costs for many counties. This impact would be more severe on rural counties with fewer resources. Dan Garrett, general counsel for the Police Jury Association of Louisiana, said that while the association acknowledges the benefits of a living wage, it has generally opposed state legislation to increase the minimum wage because it would pose an unfunded mandate.

Even without a state or federal mandate, local governments are able to impose an increase locally. Garrett also noted that a federal minimum wage increase not only affects county employees earning the minimum wage but can potentially further increase county costs because of the ripple effect — other county employees expecting an increase in pay as well. In some cases a county employee’s pay is based on a certain percentage above the federal minimum wage, therefore when the federal minimum wage increases county salaries also increase. Also, indirectly the federal minimum wage would potentially increase county costs for contracting services and projects.

Dorothea Farris
Pitkin County, Colo.
County Commissioner
NACo Board of Directors

Number of years active in NACo: 4–6. Member of Colorado Counties, Inc. and NACo since 1996

Years in public service: 29 (19 as member of Aspen Board of Education)

Occupation: county commissioner since 1996; before that — teacher, educator, board member

Education: 1957 Colorado University graduate — distributive education degree in English literature, geography, geology and education; graduate work since then

The hardest thing I’ve ever done: Put on a mask, put my face in the water and snorkel! Or, say goodbye to friends.

Three people (living or dead) I’d invite to dinner: Norman Cousins, for his knowledge and understanding of the literary world; John Muir, for his enthusiasm for life and his concern for preservation of wild things and wild places; Jeanette Rankin, for her political activism and her steadfast support of women’s rights and her actions for peace; President Jimmy Carter, for his commitment to Habitat for Humanity; Paul Newman, for his concern and commitment to the environment and for those less fortunate; and to all the young people of the world who have hopes and dreams and aspirations… There really are so many…

A dream I have is to: find the time to earn my graduate degree and join the Peace Corps.

You’d be surprised to learn that I: can tell a great deal about you, without knowing you, by reviewing and studying your handwriting.

My favorite movie is: old.

My favorite music is: any I can dance to.

My favorite president is: the one who is intelligent, well-read, well-traveled, educated and excited about life; one who is committed to preservation of this nation: its people, its places, its wildlife, its special qualities; one who is involved, is honest, caring, sincere; one who believes that we can feed and cloth and house and educate all people and that there can be peace in the world, and who will work toward those ends. When you find that person, let me know.

My motto is: ‘Breathe in, breathe out.’

The last book I read was: The Audacity of Hope by Barack Obama, An Inconvenient Truth, by Al Gore and our newly revised Pitkin County Land Use Code.

My favorite movie is: old.

My favorite music is: any I can dance to.

My favorite president is: the one who is intelligent, well-read, well-traveled, educated and excited about life; one who is committed to preservation of this nation: its people, its places, its wildlife, its special qualities; one who is involved, is honest, caring, sincere; one who believes that we can feed and cloth and house and educate all people and that there can be peace in the world, and who will work toward those ends. When you find that person, let me know.

County News, January 29, 2007
Knox County, Tenn. officials to be replaced following court ruling

By CHARLES TAYLOR

Senior Staff Writer

Eight of Knox County, Tenn.’s 19 commissioners and four other elected officials must be replaced following a state Supreme Court decision upholding term limits.

The Tennessee Supreme Court on Jan. 12 ruled that the county’s charter is valid, including a provision limiting county commissioners and four constitutional officers to two consecutive terms.

Voters in this East Tennessee county of 405,000 overwhelmingly approved term limits in 1994. However, because of lingering legal questions about the charter’s validity, term limits had never been enforced. Last year, five commissioners challenged the charter, in part, to clarify the issue.

The term-limited county commissioners had been re-elected to four-year terms last August; some of them have served on the commission for more than 20 years. The sheriff, trustee, register of deeds and county clerk also must be replaced.

“We’ve never had anything like this; it is just huge,” said Doug Doddard, executive director of the Tennessee County Commissioners Association.

Momentous though the Supreme Court decision was, officials say governance of the county hasn’t ‘missed a beat. “There’s no chaos,” said Knox County Commission Chairman Scott Moore.

County Mayor Mike Ragsdale added that while the court ruling has caused “a great deal of upheaval” among “political insiders,” government continues to function. “Our schools are open, our parks are alive and vibrant, senior centers are bustling with activity and government is going on as usual,” he said.

Some commissioners would like the voters to choose their successors in a special election. “These people were elected by a popular vote,” Moore said in a telephone interview, referring to his term-limited colleagues, “and four months later (voters are) being told the legislative body is going to appoint a replacement for them. They feel like their rights have been disenfranchised as a voter, but there’s no place to have a special election.”

State law mandates that the commissioners appoint the replacement of officeholders. Diane Jordan, one of the plaintiffs and a term-limited commissioner, favors that process, but said the high court’s timing could have been better.

“The state Supreme Court maybe should have given some timelines as to how things should happen, and maybe allow these county commissioners to serve out their terms, because we were elected by the people, even though there was a question mark … as to whether we were term-limited or not.”

The term-limited officials can remain in office until their successors are named, and the new appointees will serve until 2008, when they can stand for election. The board now must determine what process it will use to fill the vacancies, and when.

Among the methods being considered at press time was a plan that would replace the outgoing officials by Feb. 16. Appointments could be made as early as Jan. 31, according to a News Sentinel report.

Under that proposal, commissioners would hold meetings in their districts to determine potential candidates and gather citizen input. Countywide public forums would be held to receive residents’ input on the qualifications of candidates for the constitutional offices.

“The County Commission will be voting to fill those vacancies, and I hope they will move forward expediently in doing it,” Ragsdale said.

Background

Last April, Jordan and four of her commission colleagues took the charter challenge to county’s Chancery Court in what became Diane Jordan et al. v. Knox County et al. The suit was filed just days after a state appeals court ruled that the Tennessee Constitution prohibited Shelby County from imposing term limits on its commissioners (the state Supreme Court would eventually overturn that ruling).

The Knox County chancery judge declared in June that the Knox County Charter was “invalid, incomplete and ineffective” — in effect, nullifying the term-limits amendment that county voters approved in 1994. In July, attorneys for the county filed a motion asking the state Supreme Court to take the case.

At the time, Ragsdale said substantial problems would arise if the charter were invalidated, including: “expiration of numerous ordinances, employees’ pension plan, purchasing and procurement, codes administration, certain boards’ structures and the county’s bond rating,” according to county documents.
By Dan Miller

At the end of 2005, nearly 2.2 million inmates were held in state and federal prisons or in county and municipal jails, according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics. That’s the equivalent of one in every 136 U.S. residents.

At midyear 2005, the Bureau reported that 747,529 inmates were held in local jails, up from 713,990 at the same point in 2004. In Los Angeles County, the problem has gotten so bad that a U.S. district judge issued a temporary restraining order to end overcrowding in the county jail system’s central processing hub. The judge mandated the county develop a plan to improve conditions.

Nationwide, counties have come up with a variety of strategies to address the problem of jail overcrowding — ranging from diversion to inter-governmental cooperation to administrative streamlining.

Meaningful First Appearance program
Orange County, Fla., has addressed its jail overcrowding issue by implementing its Meaningful First Appearance program, a 2005 NACo Achievement Award winner. A product of the Orange County chairman’s Jail Oversight Commission, which studied ways to address systemic issues like jail overcrowding, the program successfully managed to decrease the jail’s average daily population from 4,100 to 3,413 by streamlining pre-trial judicial proceedings.

Changes to the county’s first appearance proceedings included:
• a permanent judge to conduct twice-daily first appearance hearings
• expanding the criteria for non-monetary pretrial releases, and
• expediting pretrial detention matters like arraignments and violation of probation hearings.

To accommodate these changes, a working courtroom was constructed in the adult booking facility, as were offices for the judge, state attorney, public defender and court clerk.

Prior to these changes, which went into effect in late 2003, first appearances were done once a day via remote video. County judges were on a weekly rotation schedule for the proceedings.

After the changes went into effect, the number of pleas taken at a first appearance increased from 8.1 per day to 14.3 per day. The average pre-sentence length of stay decreased from 10 days to 8 days and the number of inmates who obtained a pretrial release rose from 789 (12 months before the implementation) to 1,484 (12 months after the implementation).

Because the program defendants who pose a minimal risk to the community may be released before their trial, cases can be dealt with in a timely manner and judges are able to make more informed release and sentencing decisions, according to the county.

Work programs
Several counties have been able to substitute labor for jail time, resulting in more open beds and savings to taxpayers.

The Oneida County, N.Y. Offender Work Program swaps jail time for community service for eligible offenders. While working under direct job supervision, offenders perform tasks for municipalities and nonprofit agencies within the county. The tasks can range from painting, general maintenance, landscaping, masonry or other labor-intensive work.

For work to be eligible for offender labor, the requests must be approved by an 11-member board with members representing both government and private interests. Represented parties include labor unions, the county executive’s office, the sheriff’s office and the probation department.

Eligible offenders must face a sentence of 30 days or more in the Oneida County Correctional Facility, be a violator of non-supervised community service, released early from jail through the Conditional Release Commission or not otherwise involved in programming.

According to the county, the results of the program are plentiful and positive. In addition to reducing jail overcrowding, the labor saves taxpayers $90 each day worked, provides offenders with work skills and habits, and allows offenders the opportunity to maintain existing employment.

Benton County, Ark. Judge Gary Black is also developing a county worker pilot program that aims to allow nonviolent offenders to work specifically for the county instead of serving time.

According to The Morning News, 11 workers have started doing cleanups and custodial work for the county — one of whom was hired part-time after finishing her sentence.

Cash Bail by Credit Card
Cook County, Ill., has expedited the bail bonds process, thus relieving jail overcrowding, through the aptly named Cash Bail by Credit Card program.

Through the pilot program, a detainee, or a friend or family member, can pay bail bonds through all major credit cards.

Before it even passed the 100-day mark, the program had collected more than $1 million. After 100 days, the program had processed 535 credit card transactions and $2.7 million in cash bail.

Here’s what your student can do to apply for the Nationwide/NACo 2007 College Scholarship:

Determine the amount of money they will need at retirement and submit a brief personal statement that describes their goal to secure their financial future.

• Go online to naco.org/retirementscholarship to download a scholarship application. Please review the eligibility requirements, judging criteria and scholarship notification process before applying.

• Research how much money a high school senior today will need when they retire. (Be resourceful — use an online retirement tool or talk to a financial expert).

• Write a personal statement no more than 100 words that describes how they plan to set their own individual financial goals and secure a financial future.

• Include their name, age, the amount of money they discovered they’ll need at retirement and what research they used to find the estimated total amount of money.

• Submit both application and entry to the address listed below. The entry should be postmarked no later than March 30, 2007.

ATTN: Louie Watson
Nationwide Retirement Solutions
5900 Parkwood Place, PW-1-20
Dublin, OH 43016

Financially savvy teens

Your high school senior can win $2,500 for college

Does your teen know how much money they’ll need at their retirement? Nationwide Retirement Solutions and the National Association of Counties want high school seniors to look into the future and find out what they might need financially when they retire.

Nationwide/NACo 2007 College Scholarship

In recognition of their 26-year partnership of helping individuals invest for retirement, Nationwide will give two NACo college scholarships — each worth $2,500 — to high school seniors whose parents or grandparents participate in NACo’s 457 Deferred Compensation Plan. Nationwide and NACo are committed to helping you plan for your retirement as well as your family’s future.

NACo receives from Nationwide Retirement Solutions payment for NACo’s endorsement and license of its name and logo for use by Nationwide in connection with the NACo Deferred Compensation Plan and related products and services. These funds are used by NACo to enhance programs and services for the benefit of its members.

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Teaming up, diverting mentally ill ease overcrowding woes

■ OVERCROWDING from page 6

collected an average of $10,275 a day.

Cook County spends about $100 per day to incarcerate people and the county says that expediting the bail bonds process will reduce overcrowding and save on operating expenses.

“This program could lead to significant cost savings for the citizens of Cook County, while ensuring that public resources are utilized efficiently and effectively,” said Clerk of Court Dorothy Brown.

Pooling resources

In late 2005, Wisconsin’s Dane and Winnebago counties negotiated a cooperative, year-long contract for Winnebago County to house Dane County jail prisoners.

Under the agreement, Winnebago County would guarantee Dane County cells for at least 60 inmates a day at $46 per inmate. This includes all meals, medical costs, pharmaceuticals and access to all programs like crisis intervention, volunteer activities and social services.

According to Dane County Executive Kathleen Falk, the contract presented a value for her county’s taxpayers.

“The inmates will be in a well-run jail with the services they need. The per-day rate will generate significant savings over the rates we are paying at other county jails,” she said.

Winnebago County Executive Mark Harris said the arrangement would make good use of available capacity in the county’s jails.

“It will save jobs in this community and will contain costs for our taxpayers,” he said.

A recent story in the Spokesman-Review, indicated that Spokane County, Wash. and Kootenai County, Idaho were considering a similar arrangement with inmates from Kootenai being housed in Spokane.

Diversion programs

While some solutions to overcrowding involve creative administrative maneuvering, some diversion programs aim to circumvent the jail system altogether.

The city and county of San Francisco implemented a behavioral health court to connect criminal defendants who have serious mental illnesses to treatment services within the community, thereby decreasing recidivism and finding creative solutions to their criminal charges.

A collaborative effort between such parties as the Public Defender’s Office, Jail Psychiatric Services and the Probation Department, the health court does not require a plea as a condition of participation. It operates under the principle that criminal sanctions are neither effective nor appropriate when mental illness is a cause of a criminal act.

To be eligible for the program, defendants must have been diagnosed with a serious mental disorder, be amenable to treatment in the community health system and accept felony charges. In limited circumstances, defendants with developmental disabilities or mental retardation are also accepted.

Miami-Dade County is home to the 11th Judicial Circuit of Florida Criminal Mental Health Project (CMHP), which serves the mentally ill who have become involved, or are at risk of becoming involved, with the criminal justice system.

The county, home to the largest percentage of people with serious mental illnesses of any urban area in the nation, reports that less than 13 percent of its mentally ill receive treatment.

The CMHP includes several programs, such as:
- Pre-booking diversion: Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) officers, specially trained, uniformed patrol officers, respond to crisis calls pertaining to mental illness. As deemed necessary, individuals are sent to mental health receiving facilities for evaluation, treatment and referrals.
- Post-booking diversion: Within 24–48 hours of arriving at the jail, eligible defendants are diverted to mental health for treatment. The individuals are screened at the jail by correctional health staff.
- Court case management: Case managers facilitate discharge and aftercare planning for CMHP clients after they’ve been diverted to mental health facilities from jail.
- Comprehensive Care Program: A variety of programs include services in transition, housing, providing ID and entitlements.
- ALF Quality of Care Program: CMHP created an assisted living facility (ALF) referral program to improve the access to and quality of care received at local ALFs. Participating organizations have agreed to comply with the court’s standards and cover themselves of a monitoring system.

Why did the United Nations Procurement Service seek out NIGP’s Professional Consulting Services?

Unrivaled expertise.

When the United Nations Procurement Service needed to assess the results of a five-year plan to implement procurement reform, it turned to NIGP’s Professional Consulting Services for the insight and guidance it needed to properly measure its achievements and identify areas requiring fresh or continued attention.

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For more details about NIGP’s Professional Consulting Services and how to achieve your procurement agency’s development goals, contact us at 800-367-6447 x246.

nigp.org
**ALASKA**

A new fish hatchery is in the works thanks to rezoning by Fairbanks North Star Borough and a deal with the state of Alaska.

The state signed a long-term lease for the Ruth Burnett Sport Fish Hatchery, located south of the Chena River. The state hopes to begin construction on the $34-million project in 2007, and work is scheduled to be completed in late 2008, according to the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner.

Residents at a recent assembly meeting supported the plan. Former state senator Ralph Seekins said the hatchery would boost the greater Fairbanks area’s economy and provide for the state’s fishing needs.

“I’ve never seen a more community-wide supported project than this,” he told the News-Miner.

**ARIZONA**

The Graham County Board of Supervisors approved a $9,000 donation from the Arizona County Attorney and Sheriff’s Association to fund the Are You Okay Project, which strives to make sure homebound seniors are safe.

The volunteer-based program will make computer-generated calls to seniors who sign up. If no one answers the phone, a police officer will be sent to check on the individual.

Sheriff Frank Hughes began thinking about starting the program after the sheriff in Yuma County reported good results.

**CALIFORNIA**

A delay in public warning of a refinery fire has caused concern for officials in Contra Costa County.

The fire, which sent acrid smoke across the region, according to the Associated Press, started at a Chevron refinery. Lt. Jeff Hebel of the county’s Office of Emergency Services, pinpointed two factors that he said contributed to the delay: slow reaction from Chevron in calling his office and technical problems at the outside firm responsible for calling residents.

Chevron, which denies having a slow reaction time, conducted an air sample throughout the community and drew the preliminary conclusion that the local air quality was not adversely affected. Meanwhile, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District as well as the Contra Costa Health Services Hazardous Materials Programs are awaiting the results of their own tests, according to the AP.

**FLORIDA**

- Officials in Orange County have developed a long list of concerns about a deal between the city of Orlando and the Orlando Magic about a new $480-million arena.
- The five-page list sent to Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer includes questions about how the team will balance the city’s $50-million “up-front cash” pledge and about the National Basketball Association’s caveat-filled promise to cover cost overruns, according to the Orlando Sentinel.

The news follows a stand-off between Dyer and Orange County Mayor Rich Crotty, wherein Dyer delayed a vote on the arena deal under pressure from the county. The Magic, reports the Sentinel, support a delay so the county and city can work out their issues.

- A series of suspicious powder scares have heightened anxieties in two Florida counties.
- Five people who came in contact with Tellurium, a poisonous powder, had to be decontaminated by the Palm Beach County Hazardous Materials Unit on Jan. 11. The powder was found in the mailroom of the county’s courthouse.
- None of the people who touched the powder had an adverse reaction, West Palm Beach Fire Rescue Spokesman Phil Kaplan told the Sun-Sentinel.

An investigation is ongoing. That same afternoon, a suspicious powder was found in the Broward County Courthouse, although it was determined to be harmless.

The next day, another scare was reported at the Palm Beach County Courthouse, although it was again deemed a false alarm.

**GEORGIA**

The Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners approved the purchase of 11 land parcels for the first phase of the Sugarloaf Parkway Extension project. The purchase, totaling about $5.2 million, brings to 37 the number of parcels purchased or under contract.

The road aims to improve mobility in the central and eastern part of the county and provide relief to several congested roads.

The Sugarloaf Parkway extension exemplifies the Board’s push for an accelerated road construction program to bring faster relief to the county’s drivers,” said County Administrator Jock Connell.

The Board awarded a record $110 million in road construction projects in 2006. Construction is expected to begin by the end of 2007.

**NORTH CAROLINA**

Some residents of Lincoln County would become residents of Gaston County — and vice versa — after a recent survey outlined a more precise boundary between the two jurisdictions. However, county officials have decided to adjust the border to satisfy residents who want their homes to remain where they’ve been.

Commissioners from Lincoln and Gaston have agreed to disregard the straight line that now separates the two counties. Instead, they’ll look for ways to allow parcels with homes on them to remain in the county where their owners currently pay taxes and receive services. Sixty to 70 properties would be affected by the change.

**NORTH DAKOTA**

North Dakota’s 16 oil-producing counties want a larger share of the production taxes assessed in the state, the Minot Daily News reported.

The distribution formula for the current 5-percent tax insufficiently compensates counties for the industry’s impact on them, according to the North Dakota Association of Oil and Gas Producing Counties. The state levies the 5-percent production tax in lieu of property taxes. The distribution formula hasn’t changed since 1981.

“We just think it’s time,” said Vicky Steiner, the association’s executive director. “We have fallen behind, and it needs to be adjusted.”

The association is backing proposed state legislation, House Bill 1044, which would give the state’s “oil patch” counties a bigger share.

**OHIO**

- Warren and Hamilton counties, both badly in need of more jail space, are considering building regional detention centers.
- The Athens County, Ohio Convention and Visitors Bureau revealed a new look and “graphic identity” for its Web site, reported The Athens News.

The bureau’s executive director, Paige Alost, attributed the new direction to the bureau’s new staff and suggested that the Web site better convey the county’s unique flavor by means of a new county logo and a more comprehensive, user-friendly Web presence. Visit the site at www.athensohio.com.

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

**TENNESSEE**

Seventeen East Tennessee counties are taking a regional approach to reducing fraud and abuse targeting senior citizens.

Knox County Mayor Mike Ragsdale and District Attorney General Randy Nichols recently announced a Regional Senior Summit on Fraud and Abuse that will be held May 17 in Knoxville, the county seat.

“Senior citizens are one of the most vulnerable groups in our population, and they are frequently targeted by criminals,” Nichols said. The summit “will help our seniors and those who care for them by educating them about the breadth of elder abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation,” he added.

Participating counties include: Anderson, Blount, Campbell, Claiborne, Cocke, Grainger, Hamblen, Jefferson, Knox, Loudon, McMinn, Monroe, Morgan, Roane, Scott, Sevier and Union.

**TEXAS**

Following in the footsteps of several North Texas counties, Dallas County is developing a “sister” relationship with Taiwan. Officials from Taiwan’s Taoyuan County were in Dallas County recently to formalize a sister county agreement, according to the Dallas Morning News.

“Taoyuan County is one of the top producers in the high-tech industry in Taiwan,” said Eric Liliuan Chu, magistrate of Taoyuan County government. “And Dallas is also a leader in the high-tech field. I believe that this could be beneficial to both our counties,” Dallas County Judge Jim Foster said.
In 1999, Tulsa, Okla. created a program to assure that it was ready for any natural disaster. Its success prompted the National Weather Service (NWS) to adopt the concept. The result: a nationwide program called “StormReady,” designed to provide incentives for communities to conduct self-assessments and to better protect their citizens during any kind of severe weather.

The StormReady Program provides information to communities so that they have the communication and safety skills necessary to save lives and property. To become certified by the NWS as StormReady, communities need to meet a set of predetermined guidelines.

As of January 2007, there are 1,139 StormReady locations in the United States. Of these, 613 are counties and the remainder are communities, universities, tribal nations, military/government sites and commercial sites.

Most local emergency managers are aware of the information that is available to help them address hazardous material spills, search and rescue activities, and medical emergencies, but information about responding to hazardous weather situations has been sketchy.

In its StormReady Toolkit for Emergency Managers, which is available on its Web site, NWS has created a straightforward set of guidelines for communities to follow in order to achieve this special designation.

To be declared StormReady, a community must:
• establish a 24-hour warning point and emergency operations center
• have more than one way to receive severe weather warnings and forecasts, and to alert the public
• create a system that monitors weather conditions locally
• promote the importance of public readiness through community seminars, and
• develop a formal hazardous weather plan that includes training severe weather spotters and holding emergency exercises.

Once certified by this voluntary program, counties can display StormReady signs and let residents, business owners and all visitors know that the government is committed to safety.

The application is available online as part of the toolkit and once completed, can be submitted to the local NWS office. Upon receipt, a local board, established for this purpose, will review it and set up a site visit to the county.

Upon the satisfactory completion of the application and the site visit, a recommendation will be made to the NWS that a county be recognized. This process may take a few months.

Upon recognition, each county will receive a formal letter from the local NWS office director, two StormReady signs to be displayed on roads in the county, authorization to use the logo on governmental documents, information about how to notify the Insurance Services Organization (ISO) for possible insurance rate adjustments. In addition, each county is listed on the National Web site.

Each recognition lasts for three years, and counties are encouraged to renew at the end of that time.

Upon a review to ensure continuing maintenance of requirements, the designation will be renewed.

Application for this designation is free; however certain upgrades may need to be done locally. Many established emergency management programs incur little or no additional costs to receive the designation.

To view the StormReady Communities go to: www.stormready.noaa.gov/communities.htm.

(Research News was written by Jacqueline Byers, director of research.)

**Is Your County Storm Ready?**

**StormReady Benefits**

• Improves the timeliness and effectiveness of hazardous weather warnings for the public.
• Provides detailed and clear recommendations, which will help local emergency managers establish and improve effective hazardous weather operations.
• Helps local emergency managers justify the costs and purchases needed to support their hazardous weather-related program.
• Rewards local hazardous weather mitigation programs that have achieved a desired performance level.
• Provides a means of acquiring additional Community Rating System points from the National Flood Insurance Program.
• Encourages the enhancement of hazardous weather preparedness programs in jurisdictions surrounding StormReady communities and counties.

**What’s In a Seal?**

Henrico County, Va.

The Henrico County seal first appeared around 1942 or 1943 as a logo designed by county planning administrator W.B. Wilkins. It was first used on the cover of the Biennial Manager’s Report. The logo did not reappear in the manager’s report until 1955.

In 1957, Ruth Starke, a draftsman in the county engineer’s office, was asked to update the logo. She drew a new logo and a historical map of the county for a brochure entitled, “History of Virginia, See Henrico County.”

Starke’s adaptation was used intermittently with a revised Wilkins logo in annual reports until 1973. The revised Wilkins design was officially designated as the county seal in a resolution passed by the Board of Supervisors on Dec. 12, 1984. The seal was described as “a circle containing the right profile of Pocahontas, Indian corn and tobacco plants with the following words: City 1611, Shire 1634, Manager 1934, County of Henrico, Virginia.”

Pocahontas is a prominent figure in early American history. Her marriage to John Rolfe, who developed Virginia tobacco, bridged the gap between the English and Indian cultures.

The tobacco on the seal represents Rolfe’s new strain of tobacco, which gave the New World its first cash crop and brought prosperity to Henrico and Virginia. The Indian corn on the seal represents the nurturing soil of Henrico and the gift of corn the Indians gave to the early settlers.

Pocahontas remains on the Henrico County seal as a symbol of county government’s ongoing efforts to unify the diversity within this community, the ongoing process of drawing together varied resources to strengthen the whole. As Ruth Starke said in her 1957 brochure, “A pioneer spirit has always prevailed in Henrico County.”

**Financial Services News**

Get a Handle on Indigent Defense Spending

Spending for indigent defense services is growing at an alarming rate, and counties are looking for ways to gain additional control over this portion of their budgets. Because of legal time constraints and the level of staffing required to address this issue, counties have few options for validating defendants’ statements of indigence and their ability to pay for all, or a portion, of their legal defense. Consequently, counties often find themselves unnecessarily shoudering the financial burden for legal counsel.

In an effort to help counties control these costs, NACo worked with Dallas County, Texas in devising an RFP and later awarding a nationally bid contract that provided a better way for counties to determine whether a defendant qualified for a court-appointed attorney.

The Automated Indigent Screening System interfaces directly with a county’s court system, eliminating the need for duplicate entry of information. The indigent screening system captures relevant financial data and performs a credit history assessment. Using this information and specific business rules, a county can easily assess an individual’s ability to pay. The system removes subjectivity from the process and provides an accurate cost savings it would have achieved through the use of the automated system.

The Automated Indigent Screening System is free; however certain upgrades may need to be done locally. Many established indigent defense programs incur little or no additional costs to receive the designation.

To learn more about the automated indigent screening program, contact Jim Sawyer with NACo’s Financial Services Corporation at 202/661-8868 or by e-mail at jsawyer@naco.org.

(Research News was written by Jacqueline Byers, director of research.)

**Research News**

**RESEARCH NEWS**

**Is Your County Storm Ready?**

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(If you would like your county’s seal featured, please contact Allison Mall at amall@naco.org or 202/942-4256.)
Public outreach makes county’s recycling program a success

Model Programs... from the Nation’s Counties

By Charles Taylor
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Less has turned out to be more when it comes to Pierce County, Wash.’s curbside recycling program.

Under a new automated single-cart recycling program begun in 2005, the county stopped accepting glass bottles and jars. Yet, in the program’s first full year, other items set out at the curb increased 88 percent.

“A number of jurisdictions in Washington are now converting to this identical program,” said Steve Wamback, Pierce County’s solid waste administrator, “and most of them have run into strong opposition from folks about getting rid of the glass.”

However, in Pierce County, glass collections had fallen to less than two pounds per household and residents were clamoring for more automation.

At the same time, haulers no longer wanted the burden of collecting glass — there wasn’t a strong market for it, and it had been commingled with paper, broken glass could contaminate recyclable paper, lowering its value.

While Pierce’s program no longer picks up glass at the curb, residents can take it to drop-off sites around the county.

Wamback believes early public education helped defuse resistance to dropping glass from the curbside program, which has about 142,000 participants.

“We promoted the program heavily well before the program launched,” Wamback explained. “Two years before we actually had final program approval (from the County Council), we began a public outreach process.”

Previously, the county had a “three bins and a sack” curbside program: residents set out three 12-gallon plastic bins — one for glass, one for newspapers and one for cans. Mixed paper was placed in a paper sack next to the bins.

In the new program, residents received a 96-gallon cart to recycle paper, plastic bottles, aluminum and tin. Under the old program, waste haulers picked up the three bins by hand; the new program uses automated trucks to lift and empty the larger carts.

Wamback said the outreach process educated the public about potential changes, costs and benefits, and environmental tradeoffs of various recycling programs through newsletters, surveys, focus groups, public hearings and the Web. The effort cost the county $500,000 to $750,000, Wamback said, or a few dollars per household participating in the recycling program.

Local waste haulers and the paper industry also had input into the program — particularly about the consequences of keeping glass in the curbside program. “We were involved from the ground up,” said Keith Kovalenko, a district manager with Waste Connections, Inc., the parent company of several local waste haulers.

He added, “We were the ones that really pushed to have the glass not included in the bins” and moving to an automated system that would mean fewer injuries for his pick-up crews.

Removing glass from the curbside program also lowered the risk of recyclable paper being contaminated with glass shards, which can damage pulp processors’ equipment.

“Since we’ve gone to the fully automated system,” he said, “our injuries are really nullified. I’d say probably that we had one or two a month prior; now we have maybe one a year.” The lifting and physical demands of the prior method also led to frequent employee turnover, which, since the system was automated, has decreased by a factor of 10, Kovalenko said.

Pierce County began reevaluating its recycling program after adopting a new solid waste management plan in 2000. One of its recommendations was to see if recycling participation rates were still meeting targets — 90 percent of households and 40 pounds per household per month. Wamback said they found participation had dropped below 90 percent and recycling volume was about 25 pounds per household and falling. The county realized the program needed “a shot in the arm.”

The new program has been exactly that. Residents now do less pre-sorting and have the desired automation. During the program’s first full year, according to a county study:

• Overall recycling tonnage increased nearly 70 percent.
• Not counting glass, items set out at the curb increased 88 percent.
• Recycling households raised their average pounds per month to 44.35 pounds.
• Residents began to dispose of less recyclable material in their garbage, dropping their monthly average by almost 20 pounds, and
• Glass drop-sites captured approximately 63 percent of the glass that was previously collected when the three-bins system was in place.

The program also has tangible benefits for customers. Those who recycle get a commodity credit on their bi-monthly garbage bills, based on the fluctuation in market prices the haulers get for recyclables. Because the program resulted in increased tonnage and less contaminated recyclables, the haulers make more money.

Kovalenko explained, “The more money that we can make off the sale of the recyclables, the better the commodity credit that our customers receive for the recyclables that they put out at the curb. “The current credit is about $1.68 per month. Under the old program, it was about 28 cents per month.

The county also reaps value from the new program, Wamback said, “The more people recycle, the longer the local landfill capacity will last” — immediately becoming more difficult to site new landfills.

Word Search

‘ing’ Counties

| A | P | L | Y
| B | I | N | L | I | N | G
| C | R | O | W | W | I | N | G
| C | U | M | I | N | G
| F | L | E | M | I | N |
| G | O | O | D | I | N | G
| H | A | R | D | I | N | G
| L | Y | C | O | M | I | N |

Created by Allison Mall
An Exit Most Honorable

In a recently published article, The HR Doctor provided a step-by-step “owner’s manual” for the creation of a legacy succession plan. However, a key ingredient to succession is the appearance of a vacancy. This can be a new position or a vacancy arising from the departure of an employee.

Departures are primarily built around happy events. A person accepts another position in career advancement locally or across the country. A person reaches the point in their life when they decide to retire.

However, a vacancy can also be the result of tragic circumstances such as death or criminal conviction. It can also be the unfortunate outcome of disabilities that leave the employee unable to fulfill required duties and responsibilities. It can also result from being fired for failure of performance or behavior at work.

However, this is an article about a vacancy created by the extraordinary honorable departure of an extraordinary elected official.

Commissioner Marjorie Conlan of Broward County, Fla., recently sent a letter to all her colleagues with the stunning news that after many years of elective service, she will not run again. This followed a difficult and thoughtfully weighing of personal commitments against continued government service. It is a decision many of us make at some point in our careers. The best public servants, whether elected or appointed, leave behind echoes for many years throughout the organization. The echoes are reflections of their strength of character, their caring and their legacy of contributions.

In a recent letter, an anonymous saying we should all strive to “…live the kind of life that will lead other people to say that you stood for something wonderful.” That is the legacy of this elected official.

These are terribly difficult to make and very personal decisions to make, especially when the odds of your being overwhelmingly returned to office are very substantial. Marjorie Conlan’s own words can help in the difficulty of this decision for others.

“Public service is a rewarding experience. It is challenging, life changing, not always fun; but it is always rewarding. Some of those rewards are not fully appreciated until long after the experience has begun. From the moment that I entered public service and raised my right hand to take the oath of my office, I promised myself and my constituents that at any time that I felt unable to commit myself fully to the duties and responsibilities of this office that I would step aside.”

She later referred to Max Depree’s book, The Art of Leadership, in which he said that, “The first responsibility of a leader is to find reality. The last is to say thank you. In between, the leader is a servant.”

“It is not a simple thing to walk away from the days but I know my heart. An unknown author once penned ‘Blessed is the leader who seeks the best for those he serves.’ I know that this is the best for those who have given me the opportunity to serve over these years and I am truly blessed in my life.”

You are right Margie; you have blessed others by standing for something wonderful throughout your public service career. You have made a difference. You have left a positive legacy.

Is there anything more any of us could hope for in meeting our own commitments to our communities, to our families and to our lives?

Best wishes in your own very honorable exit.

Phil Rosenberg
The HR Doctor
www.hrdrnet

Wisconsin counties consider benefits of railroad upgrade

**NEWS FROM** from page 8

added, “We’re excited about the potential for the future relationships between Taoyuan County and Dallas in such areas as culture, trade and economics.” Dallas County has 2.3 million residents; nearly 1.9 million people live in Taoyuan County.

The North Texas cities with Taiwanese sisters are Dallas (Taipei), Plano (Hsin Chu), Carrollton (Yung Ho) and Addison (Pan’Chiao).

**Wisconsin counties consider benefits of railroad upgrade**

**Virginia**

In the event of a disaster, FAIRFAX COUNTY wants to make sure Fido and Fluffy aren’t forgotten. County officials are seeking a $200,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to come up with a better way to evacuate pets.

The request was prompted by memories of Hurricane Katrina’s aftermath, when some residents were unwilling to leave the area without their pets, the Associated Press reported.

“People drowned because they didn’t want to leave their animals,” said Michael Lucas, Fairfax’s chief animal control officer.

Last October, President George W. Bush signed into law the Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act, to provide guidance to governments in addressing pets’ needs in the wake of a natural disaster or other emergency.

**Wisconsin**

Feb. 13 is the date BARON COUNTY officials will find out if they have a partner in a plan to upgrade a 50-mile railroad corridor to the state’s best. The CHIPPEWA COUNTY is scheduled to vote on whether to accept its share of a nearly $13-million dollar state grant for the project, according to WEAU-TV.

Under the terms of the grant, each county must match 20 percent of the state money — $1.8 million for Barron and $1.4 million for Chippewa. The Barron County Board of Supervisors voted recently to accept the money. State economic development officials say the move would enable faster trains to use the rails, helping jump-start the local economy. Chippewa County Supervisor Paul Michels plans to support the project, according to WEAU, but said, “My main concern was that if we support this $1.4 million, that it’s self-sustaining after that infusion.”

Job Market / Classifieds

**DIRECTOR, ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

**BOULDER COUNTY, COLO**

Salary: $92,648 - $133,414, DOQ.

The Boulder County Commission is hiring a director of the administrative services department. This position is responsible for directing the administrative services department to lead the county’s internal service functions. The department includes architectural design and construction planning and management, finance, human resources, information technology, risk management and Youth Corps program, all of which are led by division managers reporting to the director. The administrative services department comprises over 200 employees, and administers an annual budget that exceeds $22 million. The director is responsible for developing and implementing the administrative services department’s operating policies and procedures; direct and coordinating division planning in compliance with the administrative services department’s goals and objectives; coordinating division fiscal operation, including budget, planning, expenditure and control functions, representing the county in matters relating to administrative services.

Qualifications:

The ideal candidate will hold a bachelor’s degree in public administration or business, or related field with a minimum of five years of professional management experience, or any equivalent combination of education and experience. Commitment to public service with an extensive knowledge of management principles and theories, and the proven ability to effectively motivate and reward employees is required. The ability to work effectively with other internal county departments, agencies, citizen groups and the public is expected. Job offer is contingent on passing a thorough background investigation. Must apply with application, cover letter and resume. Position deadline is Feb. 5. Apply to: Boulder County Human Resources, 2025 14th St., Boulder or P.O. Box 471, Boulder, CO 80306. Fax to 303/441-3494 or apply online at www.co.boulder.co.us EOE.

**DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT**

**ROCK COUNTY, WIS**

Salary: DOQ.

The Rock County Planning and Development Agency, Janesville, Wis., is currently accepting applications for the director of planning and development. As the director, you will be responsible for the overall activities of the department. Duties will include the preparation, development, and implementation of the County Development Plan, Economic Development Program, and the Community Development and Housing Program. Representing the Planning and Development Committee and the agency at public hearings, meetings, and conferences with other public and private organizations. Preparation of the annual budget. The successful candidate will have a master’s degree in planning, business administration, public administration, or related field, eight or more years of progressive responsible experience in planning, economic or community development. Equivalent combination of training and experience will be considered. Salary range: $71,552-$86,902 (2006 rates) DOQ, with excellent benefits, including Wisconsin Retirement (10.6 percent of salary) and fully paid health insurance. Promotion to professional level.

**TAX ADMINISTRATOR**

**GUILFORD COUNTY, N.C.**

Salary: $92,648 - $133,414, DOQ.

Guilford County (Greensboro), seeks a professional, motivated and knowledgeable person to administer the functions of the tax department. Requires graduation from an accredited four-year college or university in accounting and six years of experience in tax administration, including at least three years of supervisory or administrative experience. OR, demonstrated ability to perform assigned tasks. Must have thorough knowledge of tax codes, procedures, and practices used in appraising commercial, industrial, and residential property for tax purposes. Knowledge of modern administrative principles and methods. Ability to deal tactfully and courteously with the general public in adjusting complaints and explaining tax laws and procedures. Applicant must be certified by the N.C. Department of Revenue. Please visit our website, www.co.guilford.n c.us, to apply online or at 201 S Green St, Greensboro NC 336/641-4710. Salary negotiable. Excellent benefits. Position open until filled. EEO/AA.

**Job Market - Classified Rate Schedule**

| Line Rates: $7 per line, NACO member counties; $10 per line, others. |
| Display Classified: $50 per column inch, NACO member counties; $70 per column inch, others. |
| Billings: Invoices will be sent after publication. |
| Mail advertising copy to: Job Market, County News, 25 Massachusetts Ave., N.W. Washington, DC 20001. |
| FAX advertising copy to: Job Market, County News, 202/993-2630. |
| E-mail advertising copy to: edavis@naco.org |
| Be sure to include billing information along with copy. |
| Estimates given prior to publication are approximations only and do not necessarily reflect final cost. |

For more information, contact the Job Market representative at 202/942-4256.
Protection of the environment and wise use of our nation's natural resources are obligations shared by citizens, businesses and governments at all levels. America's counties are at the heart of these obligations. That is why the theme for this year's celebration of National County Government Week (NCGW), April 22-28, is “Protecting the Environment.”

This is an excellent opportunity for your county to highlight effective county programs and raise public awareness and understanding about the various services provided to the community. Plan your participation today.

For more information, contact Tom Goodman at 202/942-4250 or tgoodman@naco.org.