

## Trump signs five-year farm bill

by NACo Legislative Staff

Months of negotiations between the House and Senate ended Dec. 20 when President Trump signed a five-year farm bill reauthorization.

The spending bill, worth \$867 billion, will help support local economies and provide critical investments in rural and underserved communities by funding programs ranging from nutrition assistance to broadband expansion and aid in fighting the opioid epidemic.

Throughout the process, NACo helped draft bill text and amendments to preserve and promote key county priorities. Specifically, the final package creates a new Rural Innovation Stronger Economy (RISE)

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**Members of NACo's Large Urban County Caucus (LUCC), NACo Board members and NACo staff gather Dec. 6 at the Midway Museum in San Diego County during the LUCC Symposium and NACo Fall Board Meeting. See story, page 5. Photo by Hugh Clarke**

## On the border: County officials talk pluses, minuses

by Mary Ann Barton  
editor

Known for its juicy red grapefruit grown in fertile valleys, a juke box museum and good eating at places like Jethro's Barbecue, Hidalgo County stretches more than 1,500 square miles across southern Texas, abutting the Rio Grande along the Mexican border.

It's also a county at center stage, as the federal government shutdown that began last month continues over disagreements on funding for a wall along the U.S.-Mexican border.

County officials in communities along the border say their jobs can be challenging when it comes to immigration. Regional

economic uncertainty, shelter overcrowding in some places and fears of potential public health crises are just a few of the thorny realities that pop up on a regular basis in the news.

"There's a misconception out there that crime here is similar to what Mexico is experiencing and that is totally not true," said Hidalgo County Judge Richard Cortez, who was sworn into office last week to preside over the commissioners court and previously served as mayor of McAllen. The FBI ranked McAllen, the largest city in Hidalgo County, #18 among Texas cities when it comes to violent crime.

San Diego County Supervisor

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## NACo Board approves legislative priorities

by Charlie Ban  
senior writer

The NACo Board of Directors adopted seven legislative priorities for 2019 and established a new subcommittee for parks at its fall meeting Dec. 7-8 in San Diego County, Calif.

The Environment, Energy and Land Use Steering Committee will now include a subcommittee for parks, open space and trails. NACo President Greg Cox, who proposed the addition, said it would have no fiscal impact on NACo's operations.

"Park open space and trails are something all of us look at as an integral part of our communities," Cox said. "They're promoting healthy living, pro-

moting people getting out and exercising. They certainly have economic benefits. I think this is the sort of thing we should focus on as a national organization, particularly as funding sources become available."

The year's legislative priorities are not dramatic changes for NACo, with most reflecting the association's long-term mission. The priorities include:

**The Farm Bill** - NACo supports full funding for all Farm Bill titles.

**Broadband Deployment** - NACo urges Congress and federal agencies to recognize counties as co-regulators, providers and partners in extend-

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## Board adopts priorities for 2019

From PRIORITIES page 1

ing telecommunications and broadband technology. Federal policymakers should support the local decision-making and accountability of local officials and oppose any actions that would preempt or limit the zoning or siting authority of local governments.

**A more effective definition of Waters of the U.S.** - NACo calls on Congress and the administration to develop and implement a new, more practical Waters of the U.S. definition in consultation and collaboration with state and local governments.

**Infrastructure** - NACo supports ensuring any federal infrastructure package reflects county priorities, including allocating more federal seed capital and matching funds for locally-owned infrastructure, increasing local decision-making authority and flexibility and streamlining and shortening the federal permitting process while still requiring robust public par-

ticipation and environmental stewardship

**PILT and SRS** - NACo supports restoring full mandatory funding for the Payments in Lieu of Taxes program and extending the Secure Rural Schools program until the federal government implements a sustainable, long-term forest management program with adequate revenue sharing for forest counties and schools.

**Mental health, substance abuse treatment and criminal justice reform** - NACo supports new policies and approaches that would enhance the ability of county officials and partners to prevent and treat mental health and substance abuse disorders in the community and within the criminal justice system.

**Economic mobility and opportunity** - NACo supports federal investments and policies that help advance and leverage regional and local strategies focused on serving those most in need, including those addressing the root causes of poverty. **CN**

## Border counties see economic benefits

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Kristin Gaspar agrees. "Border counties are often associated with violence and high crime, however, law enforcement in San Diego County has been very strong and collaborative, maintaining a high standard for public safety throughout our region," she said. "San Diego was recently acknowledged for having one of the lowest crime rates in the country for a city its size."

One of the good things about being a border town is seeing an economic boost in the local economy, at least in Hidalgo County. "Because we are on the border, the nationals from Mexico, with a proper visa, can shop and enjoy the American lifestyle," Cruz said. Some areas in Texas see a third of their sales tax revenues come from Mexican shoppers, he said. With higher sales taxes in Mexico, he noted, "a lot of the consumers prefer to shop over here."

"We all know the best dollar out there to a government is the dollar from a tourist, because we don't have to provide services to a tourist," he said.

The Rio South Texas Economic Council reported last month that Hidalgo County sales tax revenue was up by more than 8 percent compared to 2017. "Our friends across the border... continue to be our guests and visitors," Matt Ruszczak, the group's executive director told the *Rio Grande Guardian*. "They continue to enjoy shopping opportunities in our region."

"Relationships between local elected officials on both sides is good," Cortez emphasized. Legal ports of entry, he said, are crucial for the regional economy. "Mexico is the largest trading partner with Texas," he

said. "If we invest in legal ports of entry we at least have the financial resources to combat the bad things. More investment in infrastructure and personnel would be beneficial."

Gaspar echoes those sentiments. "We have forged many incredible relationships with our southern neighbors that have led to remarkable bi-national partnerships for government, businesses and education," she said.

"Our local leaders, along with the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, are very proactive in forging partnerships with our counterparts in Mexico and our region has become a national model for successful cross-border commerce."

"There are many companies on both sides of the border that benefit from the proximity," she noted.

### 'We need the migrants'

One of the biggest impacts to businesses in some counties is the use of the migrant population for certain jobs, said Pima County, Ariz. Supervisor Sharon Bronson. "Whether you live in Iowa or Arizona — if you own a farm, you use migrants to pick your crops, and in Arizona, we are very much dependent on migrants when it comes to agriculture, so we need the migrants and they are contributing to our economy. I can't emphasize enough how entwined our economies are, for those of us along the U.S.-Mexican border. Economies don't stop with international borders."

Another one of the ways a local economy benefits, she said, is when Mexican residents visit local hospitals for treatment, for example. "Those hospitals have

been working with their counterparts south of the border," she noted.

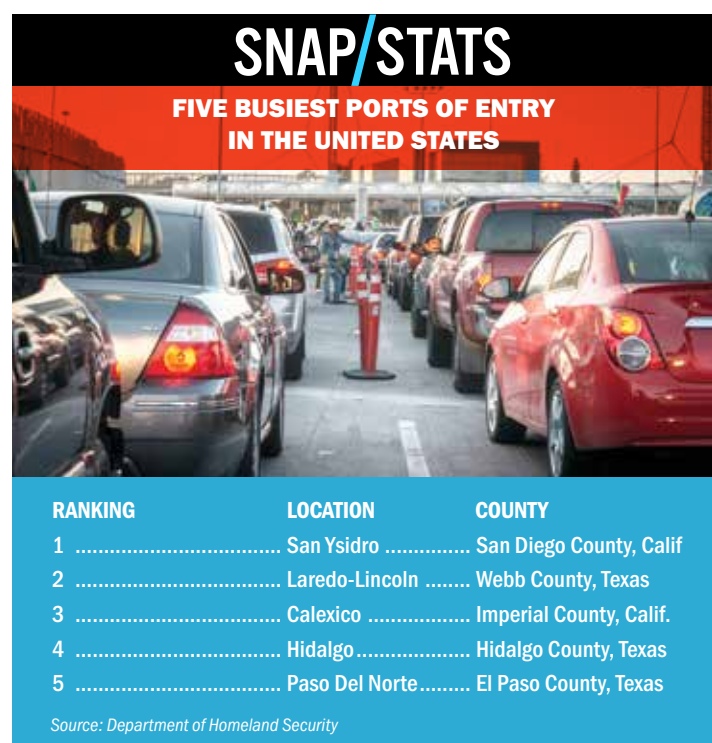
Pima County is one of four counties in Arizona that abut Mexico; the others are Yuma, Santa Cruz and Cochise. As a member of the Arizona Border Counties Coalition, Bronson and her counterparts in those counties would like to see expanded ports of entry and improving infrastructure at the border, she said.

Bronson, who expects to rotate soon out of her chairing duties on the Pima County Board of Supervisors, hopes to concentrate more heavily on border-related economic development. "Our economic strengths are in aerospace and defense, bio-technology, intermodal transportation and the medical aspect where we have hospitals working with each other across the border, so those are our opportunities," she said. "What we're seeing — particularly in aerospace and defense, is that a lot of the assembly is being done south of the border, in parts, and then they're shipped back here."

The county has also had to deal with the use of its police force in handling border patrol duties, she said. "One of the challenges we have is there are a number of grants related to immigration and we have 3,500-plus custom and border patrol. We need more emphasis on customs than border patrol. Why are our law enforcement officers in Pima County — why are we being asked to do the federal job and not being compensated?"

"These grants are not transparent or cost-effective for us," she said, "because we're not fully reimbursed, we have to pass

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# Farm Bill standoff centered on work requirements for SNAP eligibility

From FARM BILL page 1

grant program, reinstates the Undersecretary for Rural Development position in the Department of Agriculture and codifies the interagency Council on Rural Community Innovation and Economic Development.

The nutrition provision, which accounted for roughly 75 percent of spending, preserved the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as food stamps). Cuts to this program could have resulted in more than two million individuals losing some benefits.

The House and Senate's standoff on the bill centered on the House bill's work requirements for SNAP eligibility, which didn't make the final version of the bill.

The House farm bill would have required states to implement stricter work requirements on those ages 49–59 who receive SNAP. States would have also been required to impose work requirements on parents with children ages 6–12, among other changes. The Senate's bill did not include major changes to SNAP program eligibility or work requirements for SNAP recipients. In June 2018, NACo submitted a letter to Senate leadership supporting their development of a bipartisan farm bill that rejected stricter work requirements and reduced eligibility for SNAP recipients.

The final bill does include several SNAP changes. The National Accuracy Clearinghouse now prevents individuals from receiving food stamp benefits in multiple states. The bill also eliminated an awards program that gave states and counties up to \$48 million a year in federal funding for high performances related to program access and payment accuracy. The projected savings from these changes will be reinvested into food banks and other nutrition assistance programs.

Administratively, the bill also requires the Department of Agriculture to reestablish the position of Under Secretary for Rural Development as a perma-



nent, mandatory position that is not subject to any administrative reorganizations. In 2017, the Trump administration replaced the rural development undersecretary with a “special assistant to the secretary” — a position which does not require Senate confirmation and was not held directly accountable to Congress for their office, scope and mission.

The bill excluded several provisions that could have adversely impacted county governments, including one that would have prevented local governments from enforcing local food product regulations, language to prevent states and local governments from implementing pesticide permit programs and verbiage that would have made some counties ineligible for broadband funding under USDA's Rural Utilities Service programs.

## Rural Development

Additional provisions include language that would allow counties with regional jails to exclude incarcerated individuals from population caps for funding eligibility under USDA Rural Development programs and a provision that allows counties to use USDA broadband loans and grants for middle-mile projects, which is prohibited under current law.

That appealed to Wise County, Texas Judge J.D. Clark, past chairman of NACo's Rural Action Caucus, whose county commissioned a broadband infrastructure study and found getting the fiber close to population centers, the “middle mile,” lacked funding and prior law prohibited counties from using USDA broadband loans and grants for middle-mile projects. The new farm bill changes that.

“We noticed some shortcomings, some issues for us in that expansion,” he said. “There was room for improvement. We're very excited about opportunities (the farm bill) will create for rural communities everywhere to access those middle mile programs and hopefully improve broadband across the country.”

The opioid epidemic, which has devastated lives of rural Americans, will be addressed with a 20 percent set-aside of financial assistance for telemedicine projects aimed at addressing the opioid crisis.

“We are pleased to see Congress dedicate significant resources to help counties combat the opioid epidemic through creative telemedicine platforms that are often necessary to provide increased access in rural counties and address the stigma associated with treatment for substance use disorders,” said Palm Beach County, Fla.

Commissioner Melissa McInlay, NACo Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee chair.

The farm bill funds a variety of additional key provisions of importance to counties.

## Rural Development programs

- Increases annual authorizations for the Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program to \$82 million a year from \$75 million a year.
- Expands the federal resources for broadband investments to include grants, in addition to the loan and loan guarantee programs already available.
- Creates a federal advisory committee that is required to work with state, local, tribal and territorial governments, telecommunications companies, utilities, trade associations, philanthropic entities, policy experts and other interested parties to identify, assess and determine possible actions relating to barriers and opportunities for broadband deployment in rural areas.
- Allows counties with regional jails to exclude incarcerated individuals from population caps for funding eligibility under USDA Rural Development programs.
- Creates a federal interagency council to coordinate the development of policy recommen-

dations, maximize the impact of federal investment on rural communities, promote economic prosperity and quality of life in rural communities and use innovation to resolve local and regional challenges faced by rural communities.

- Expands the Strategic Economic and Community Development program to allow the Secretary of Agriculture to prioritize funding for projects that support the implementation of a strategic community development plan that encompasses two or more jurisdictions.
- Doubles the size of allowable grant awards to \$200,000, but cuts the authorization in half to \$15 million each year.
- Creates a new RISE grant program, which would help counties strengthen local economies through job accelerator partnerships with the private sector and institutions of higher education.
- Authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to make loans or loan guarantees available to communities for cybersecurity and grid security improvements.

## Conservation programs

- Maintains the current authorization level of the Small Wa-

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# Farm Bill expands Good Neighbor Authority, adds forestry measures

## From FARM BILL page 3

tershed Rehabilitation Program, which assists communities with rehabilitating watershed dams, at \$85 million through FY 2023

- Increases the acreage limit of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) to 27 million by FY 2023. CRP provides annual rental payments to producers to place crops on highly erodible and environmentally sensitive land and with long-term resources-conserving plantings.

- Establishes a new Grassland Conservation Initiative within the Conservation Stewardship Program. The bill requires the USDA to establish this initiative beginning in FY 2019. CSP provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers wishing to maintain and improve their existing conservation systems and adopt additional conservation activities to address priority resource concerns.

- Streamlines the operation of the RCPP to increase program adoption by eligible partners and producers. RCPP furthers conservation, restoration and sustainability efforts on regional or watershed scales, and encourages partners to cooperate with producers in meeting or avoiding regulatory requirements and implementing projects.

## Forestry programming

- Reauthorizes Good Neighbor Authority and expands it to allow counties and tribes to enter into agreements with the U.S. Forest Service to assist in forest restoration activities. The bill ensures that any payments made by the county to the secretary under a good neighbor agreement are not considered to be funds received from National Forest System land or Bureau of Land Management land, ensuring counties continue to receive their fair share of revenues from forest management activities.

- Reduces the mandatory minimum size of USDA Resource Advisory Committees (RAC) to nine from 15 and reduce the minimum number of

members that must be “representative of community interests,” previously five, to three. The bill also creates a pilot program under which regional foresters, as designated by the secretary, may approve RAC appointments in certain areas.

- Establishes new categorical exclusions for critical forest

management activities. The bill would create new exclusions of up to 4,500 acres for certain forest management activities for the purpose of protecting, restoring or improving habitat for the greater sage-grouse or mule deer.

- Authorizes \$20 million per year through FY 2023 for

cross-boundary hazardous fuel projects. The package also authorizes grants to state foresters to support hazardous fuels reduction projects that include both federal and non-federal land and authorizes the Secretary to use other related authorities relating to cooperation and technical assistance – including

good neighbor authority – to fund and conduct projects. Further, the bill requires state foresters to consult with non-federal land owners for all projects conducted on non-federal land. The hazardous fuel reduction on federal land program is reauthorized at \$660 million per year through FY 2023. **CN**

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STRONGER COUNTIES. STRONGER AMERICA.

# LUCC members discuss top challenges

by **Charlie Ban and  
Mary Ann Barton**  
senior writers

More than 200 county officials from 93 counties gathered recently in San Diego County for the 2018 Large Urban County Caucus (LUCC) Symposium.

Through conversations on issues including public health, youth violence and technology, and tours of San Diego County's Live Well Center and 2-1-1 Center, Symposium attendees were able to get a close-up look at how urban counties connect residents to vital services and productive opportunities. San Diego County Supervisor Greg Cox is making "Connecting the Unconnected" his top priority as president of NACO.

## Border security

San Diego County includes San Ysidro, the busiest U.S. border crossing. Outside of that port of entry, the landscape along the United States and Mexico has changed dramatically in the last 26 years. On a mobile tour, LUCC Symposium attendees saw the past and future of the international boundary, which was, up until the 1990s, imaginary. Now, much of the line dividing the two countries is lined with a variety of fences in the midst of a significant upgrade.

"The border was merely a suggestion," U.S. Border Patrol officer Tekae Michael said of the line in the '90s and before.

In the 1990s, the U.S. Border Patrol placed large opaque helicopter landing mats as a barrier to automobiles crossing, but that was not much of a deterrent to aspiring border crossers, either north or south. The mats were opaque, so border patrol agents couldn't see who or what was on the other side, and they were both easily climbable and could be tunneled under.

Now, eight prototypes manufactured by six contractors are being looked at for much of the border. They will stretch between 18 and 30 feet above ground, a distance Michael said



**211 San Diego Executive Vice President William York (left) leads county officials on tour of 211 facility.** Photo by Hugh Clarke

was tall enough to deter climbing, and they extend six feet below the ground to prevent tunnels.

They are built of a combination of cement, rebar and steel, with razor wire atop some and rounded tops that help prevent climbing on others. Most resemble a fence more than a wall.

Michael pointed to patched holes in an existing fence where people had cut through.

"We know it won't be 100 percent effective, but it will slow people down enough to give agents a chance to apprehend them," she said.

The fences won't be necessary along the entire border, Michael said. Natural boundaries prevent crossings in some areas. Of the 24 county officials on the tour, only one hailed from a state that shares a border with Mexico.

## The 411 on 211 San Diego

At a large building in San Diego County, rows of desks in cubicles are lined up on a second floor where operators are taking phone calls from residents in need of everything from affordable housing to their next meal.

County leaders visiting the center, which connects residents to non-profit and county human services programs, had questions about funding, how the center got started and how it operates.

"We used to have one of those 10-digit numbers that no one ever remembered," said Cox as

he welcomed county officials to the center, which has been in existence for more than a dozen years. "We got tremendous buy-in from the non-profit community." The organization has connections to more than 6,000 community resources in the areas of health, wellness, housing, utilities, military and veterans' services, food assistance, disaster support and community data.

"We all have a lot of vulnerable people in our communities and I think the greatest service we can provide as a county is plugging them into the services they need that is going to help establish them to become self-supportive and self-sufficient," Cox said.

Cox made sure to highlight another benefit of 211: It helps take the load off 911 calls, especially during disasters. During an emergency, it's helpful if a message to call 211 is added to reverse 911 calls to keep 911 lines open for true emergencies.

The nonprofit organization was started with county funding in 2005. In addition to county support, 211 San Diego now also receives fees from service providers such as First 5 San Diego and San Diego Gas & Electric to help cover its costs.

County officials spent several hours at the center and were welcomed and led on tours by Bill York, executive vice president, Meg Storer, vice president of government and community relations and Paul Redfern, chief finance officer and COO

of 211 San Diego.

"We believe 211 is a starting and entry point to a service delivery system," York said. "Often times, people don't know what they're asking for, they don't know it exists. Our job is to help them navigate."

There are about 248 centers across the country, he noted. "In some places, 211 is at risk" due to dwindling funding and lack of community support is threatening some of those centers, he said. "We're on a mission to make sure that people know about 211 and its potential."

For more information about the center, visit [www.211SanDiego.org](http://www.211SanDiego.org).

## Keeping your cool during a health crisis

Calmness is key to navigating a public health crisis. But just try telling that to the public.

In two recent urban disease outbreaks, county officials had to balance informing residents while not inflaming their fears.

Dallas County, Texas Judge Clay Jenkins said he experienced it personally in 2014, when a man was quarantined after contracting the Ebola virus, which killed thousands of people in West Africa over two years. Dallas County accounted for the only fatality in the United States.

Jenkins tried to be transparent, giving daily press conferences every morning at 7 a.m. "You can't control what's happening but you can control

when you go on TV," he said. "I told them the good, the bad, the ugly and the unknown."

"There was so much fear involved," Jenkins said. "Police were afraid of moving the family." He ended up meeting with them and helping them move, all without protective clothing.

What he did not account for was the website Breitbart incorrectly reporting that Jenkins and his family, including his elementary school-aged daughter, had contracted the disease. But even through that, he tried to keep an even keel.

Last year, San Diego County dealt with a Hepatitis A outbreak that spread rapidly throughout the homeless community, both in the city of San Diego and in the canyons.

Vaccination was the best line of defense, but while Health and Human Services Director Nick Macchione wanted to inoculate people at risk, he also wanted to keep messaging focused at that population.

"If we declared a state of emergency, we would have the 'worried well' rushing out to be vaccinated, and they'd take resources from people who were most likely to come in contact with the virus," he said.

The county deployed foot teams of nurses, social service providers and law enforcement officers to go out and administer vaccinations to homeless people who had not been vaccinated.

Jenkins resisted calls to declare an emergency in Dallas County, which would have invalidated contracts for months that were already signed for events. Part of his calmness was born from the county's experience with a West Nile outbreak in 2012 that killed 20 people, he noted.

"West Nile was a blessing in disguise because we already knew the CDC teams," he said. "We put the band back together."

Jenkins was also fortunate to have consensus from the var-

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## Disconnected youth look for love, compassion

From Lucc page 5

ious governments involved in the Ebola response. He became the public face of the local government response to the situation.

"It helps when your partners ask you to take lead," he said. "There's no struggle at the top."

### Curbing youth violence

Curbing youth violence was one of the topmost issues discussed at the Lucc Symposium. For many young people, joining a gang "is like the family that they don't have," said Suffolk County, N.Y. Sheriff Errol Toulon, especially if a "father is incarcerated, the mother is working two jobs and they're being raised with their siblings by their grandparents."

"They're losing their way through social media, intimidation and a lack of a home environment," he said. "These

young kids don't have guidance."

Toulon was part of a panel discussion, moderated by Lucc Chair Larry Johnson, a commissioner from DeKalb County, Ga., Thursday morning on Curbing Youth Violence Through Connections to Opportunity.

"The good news is, we know what works to stem youth violence, and there's evidence to back that up," said panelist Sandra McBrayer, CEO of The Children's Initiative, based in San Diego. The organization "works to bring 'the village' together to raise all children and youth in San Diego County."

McBrayer said it's important to not "front-end our detention facilities" and prevention and intervention efforts" and they not just "lock them up and throw away the key."

Former gang member Hugo Gonzalez, a program alum of Homeboy Industries, also

spoke to Naco members.

"I'm so grateful for being here," said Gonzalez, who went to prison at age 16 for more than 18 years.

"If I learned anything in prison, is that we forget logical things. What is really happening? Instead of just jobs...we have disconnected youth."

"What they're looking for is love, compassion and assurance," he said. "The issues are so deep."

Toulon noted that his jail conducts a psycho-social screening process and that some of his officers are trained as counselors.

McBrayer noted that it's important to build a relationship with those who are incarcerated and call them by their names.

"We have to look at each other as human beings," Gonzalez said. "Let's focus on the root problems. Ask 'Why?' It's only then that we'll truly understand and find solutions." **CN**

## 'The challenges must be addressed'

From BORDER page 2

that along to our taxpayers when it's essentially a federal responsibility."

There are about 300 border agents working in and around Luna County, N.M., said Luna County Commissioner John Sweetser. Known for its farms yielding green and red chili peppers, it sits just over the border from Mexico. About two-thirds of the population in the county are Hispanic. A chili pepper processing plant employs about 900 people during harvest season.

Living in a county on the border can lead to some interesting arrangements. "We have a school here, where kids come over from the town of Palomas in Mexico," Sweetser said. "The school system sends buses that pick them up, several hundred of them, to go to school in the United States. They're actually U.S. citizens; they were born here, but their parents live in Mexico

and so they get educated here."

San Diego County has also created education opportunities, Gaspar said. San Diego Unified School District collaborated with the Mexican consulate to create educational programs that benefit tens of thousands of children from both countries.

The San Ysidro Port of Entry there is the largest land border crossing, between San Diego and Tijuana. "Many of the challenges we face ... must be addressed with the cooperation and support from our state and federal governments," she said.

"Being able to share information between jurisdictions is extremely important to make our region stronger."

In Luna County, the immigration issue is on a smaller scale, but still presents challenges, Sweetser said. "Living close to the border, it's personal sometimes. If you live back East or away from the border, you're not getting the whole picture." **CN**



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# Counties can help build the case for investing in early childhood programs

by Tracy Steffek

Last year, the cost of center-based infant care exceeded one-year's tuition and fees at a four-year public college in 28 states and the District of Columbia with the average cost of care exceeding 27 percent of the median household income for single working parents.

Child care is simply out of reach for many families. American workforce participation in child care fell to 62.7 percent in May 2017, its lowest rate since the late 1970s, according to a report released in June 2017 by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation, outlining the business case for high-quality child care.

More than 70 percent of non-working poor adults with children under the age of 5 revealed they were not working because they were home caring for their children, according to a survey conducted in 2016 by the American Enterprise Institute.

Investments in high-quality child care not only provide incentive for parents to remain in the workforce and help alleviate the effects of poverty, but also help to contribute to the development of a future workforce. Research conducted by Dr. James Heckman, Nobel laureate and professor at the University of Chicago, demonstrates a 13 percent return on investment for high-quality early childhood education. And yet, only 3 percent of education spending in 2016 was directed toward early childhood.

While over the past few years there has been an increased focus on the importance of school readiness and the value of pre-kindergarten programs for 3- and 4-year old children, funding for comprehensive services before age 3 have traditionally been patched together from a variety of sources.

Programs and services that support access to affordable high-quality child care, universal home visiting and timely developmental screenings are imperative in creating a continuum of supports that help to build a strong foundation for children.

This crucial time in a child's development helps to set the stage for all future learning, behavior and health.

County leaders can play a key role in facilitating ROI conversations with the community to not only gain their buy-in, but also build a strong economic and business case for investing in high-quality early childhood programs and services.

Here are a few ways that counties can help build this case with influencers like policymakers, local businesses, voters and parents:

- **Tailoring messages to your audience.** Different audiences are stakeholders with their own lens on the issue. Make sure your message resonates with their primary interest.
- **Leading with a universal message.** These messages should aim to gain buy-in from the majority up front and emphasize the big picture — instilling how early childhood programs and services contribute to a prosperous nation, add value to a thriving community and prepare the next generation of workers.
- **Talking about child development.** Not everyone is an early childhood expert, so share the brain science and explain how a child's relationships and surrounding environment affect their development. Make connections to how specific policies and programs help to strengthen families and make a positive impact on a child's development.
- **Talking about return on investment.** Investments raise productivity and support the future economy. Use both na-



tional and local data to make your case. For example, Los Angeles County cited a report by the Advance Project to bring attention to the limited availability of child care slots for infants and toddlers in their community. Local storytelling can also be a powerful tool because it evokes emotion and empathy. The Cradle to Career Alliance in Boone County, Mo., recently held a symposium and released their 2018 Kindergarten Readiness Community Status report that included quotes from parent interviews.


- **Ending with a call to action.** A call to action does not always have to involve funding. Your request may be for technological innovation, community volunteerism, advocating for a policy change or supporting early childhood programs through social corporate responsibility programs. Providing your audience with concrete ways

they can contribute to your initiative will help to increase engagement. The team at Ready for School, Ready for Life in Guilford County, N.C., outlined specific ways businesses and residents could support young children such as donating books so newborns could receive a book when leaving the hospital and implementing family-friendly policies and practices based on employee and customer needs.

County leaders and community-based advocates are key allies for children and building political will and engagement around early childhood investments. Last year, NACo partnered with the National Collaborative for Infants and Toddlers, funded by the Pritzker Children's Initiative, to bring together national partners, early childhood leaders, policymakers and practitioners inside and outside of state and local government to create and strengthen prom-

ising policies and programs to ensure healthy development at age three.

Because counties exercise key functions and often play a critical role in the lives of their youngest residents, NACo will soon be releasing a resolution template and launching peer learning networks for rural, mid-size/suburban and large/urban counties. Together, these resources will provide additional support counties in their prioritization of local early childhood investments and exploration of opportunities for making a measurable impact for children from prenatal to age three.

If you would like to learn more about these resources and how you can be a champion for infants and toddlers, please contact Tracy Steffek at [tsteffek@naco.org](mailto:tsteffek@naco.org). 

*Tracy Steffek is a program manager in NACo's County Solutions and Innovation department.*



# Congress reauthorizes Second Chance Act

by Brett Mattson

Congress has passed a major criminal justice overhaul bill and sent it to President Trump, who has indicated he will sign it.

The First Step Act includes a reauthorization of the Second Chance Act of 2007, which would extend funding for local reentry programs through 2023.

Since 2009, more than one out of three Second Chance Act awards have gone directly to county governments who have received \$95 million

over the past nine years. These grants provide financial assistance for programs such as employment training, mentoring, substance abuse, mental health treatment and other family-based services to assist formerly incarcerated individuals as they reenter society.

The reauthorization of Second Chance also includes changes to address inadequacies in the program. These include:

- Requiring the Department of Justice to make every effort to ensure equitable geo-

graphic distribution of grants while considering the needs of underserved populations, including rural and tribal communities,

- Expanding Career Training Grants outside of technical career training and employment to include all careers, and
- Subsidizing employment and career training programs to formerly incarcerated individuals. **CN**

*Mattson is a legislative assistant at NACo.*

# New WOTUS rule out for review

by Julie Ufner

With hopes to provide a clear, understandable and implementable definition of “Waters of the United States” (WOTUS) that clarifies federal authority under the Clean Water Act, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Army Corps) released a new proposed WOTUS definition Dec. 11 to replace the 2015 rule issued under the Obama Administration.

In addition to accepting public comments, EPA and the Army Corps will hold an informational webcast Jan. 10 and will play host to a listening session Jan. 23 in Wyandotte County, Kan. (Kansas City).

The announcement comes a little over a year after President Trump signed an executive order directing the EPA to withdraw and rewrite the controversial 2015 rule. EPA will accept public comments for 60 days once the definition is officially published in the Federal Register.

The new proposed definition creates six categories of regulated waters and includes 11 exemptions. The six categories of WOTUS include:

1. traditional navigable waters
2. tributaries
3. certain ditches
4. certain lakes and ponds
5. impoundments
6. adjacent wetlands

The proposed rule specifies

that if water does not meet one of the six listed categories, it will not be considered a WOTUS and clarifies that certain other waters will also no longer be considered a WOTUS, such as ditches, features that are only wet during rainfall events, groundwater, stormwater control features, wastewater recycling infrastructure built in uplands, converted cropland and waste treatment systems.

NACo is currently in the process of developing a comprehensive analysis of the new proposed definition. **CN**

*Ufner is an associate legislative director at NACo; Zach George, legislative assistant, contributed to this article.*

## PROFILES IN SERVICE

**JIM ZWETZIG**

**Board Member**  
County Commissioner  
Morgan County, Colo.



**ZWETZIG**

**Number of years involved in NACo:** Three

**Years in public service:** Six in county government and eight in city government.

**Occupation:** Real Estate

**The hardest thing I've ever done is:** Clean up an abandoned hog facility and build a house.

**Three people (living or dead) I'd invite to dinner**

**are:** Former state Justice Gregory Hobbs, Bob Hope and John Wooden.

**The most adventurous thing I've ever done is:** Ride

a subway in a major city without knowing how to get to where I wanted to go.

**My favorite ways to relax**

**are to:** Walk listening to music, warm up in a spa or drink a beer (in any order).

**I'm most proud of:** Serving.

**Every morning I read:** My emails.

**My favorite meal is:** Any meal with my wife, family and friends.

**My pet peeve is:** People who say “all” elected officials are no good.

**My motto is:** “If at first you don't succeed, skydiving is not for you.”

**The last book I read was:**

*The Last Water Hole in the West* by Daniel Tyler.

**My favorite movie is:** *The Passion of the Christ*

**My favorite music is:** Diverse — it depends on my mood or what I am doing.

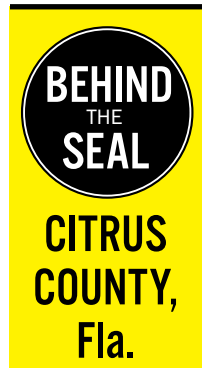
**My favorite U.S. president is:** Ronald Reagan

**My county is a member**

**of NACo thanks to:** The combined “force” of counties to control legislation, the ability to share proven methods and the knowledge available through NACo staff.

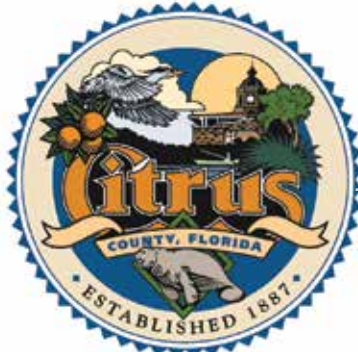
**You'd be surprised to learn that I:**

*Was a volunteer firefighter (my favorite “job”).*



**C**itrus County was formed in 1887 and was named for the county's citrus groves. The Citrus County Tourist Development Council, in 2003, was looking to define a tourism marketing identity for the county, the Manatee Capital of the World, and wanted to bring all of its unique resources together in a descriptive logo. The logo pictured, which is now the official county seal, is what the marketing firm of Gold and Associates created, with input from citizen stakeholders.

The Board of County Commissioners liked the logo so much that they adopted it as the official seal for Citrus County at their regular meeting on March 11, 2003, adding the dark blue coloring and the words “Established in 1887.”



Citrus County is known for its historic courthouse where the Elvis Presley movie “Follow that Dream” was filmed.

Also pictured are its springs, lakes and Gulf waters, and namesake citrus groves. With a commitment to preserving the natural environment, it makes the county's quality of life second to none.

Most importantly, it's the only place in the world you can swim with the manatees.



## the HR DOCTOR

With Phil Rosenberg

*Phil Rosenberg*

# Standing Out in Your Field



I write this while standing in an open 5-acre field in an agricultural area of central Florida. It is miles and miles from the nearest store, gas station or even fast food place. It really doesn't matter why I find myself at this location, but for the curious reader, I will soon be doing a conference presentation nearby at an astronomy gathering. I will be speaking, or so the program states, about the incredible new instrument which sits in my observatory at home, why it's different than conventional telescopes, and how it can take amazing photos. However, my real purpose is to talk about astronomy as a tool for inspiration, especially for kids.

A majority of people in the world can no longer see the Milky Way from where they live. Whatever you may think about the political debate about whether climate change is real or "fake news," it is immensely sad that the incredible sight of our very own galaxy is now out of reach of so many people, due mostly to civilization's "progress" which has given us light and air pollution.

Through most of human (and pre-human) history, the sky has been the fundamental source for inspiration, fear, mythology, religion and just plain majesty. It provides the tool by which parents, relatives and friends can sit around a fire and point out what look like patterns in the sky. This in turn leads to stories attempting to find meaning in those patterns or individual objects like a bright planet. The sky provides impetus for the curiosity — a way station leading to knowledge, invention and realizations that asking and answering profound ques-

tions, ironically, leads to more profound questions.

Take away that hugely important human capacity — blinded with pollution — and we take away a driver of our own development and perhaps ultimately our own survival as a species. I'm preparing to describe to a group of astronomers how small — and relatively inexpensive — instruments readily available can be the catalyst in every school in the country to inspire kids to continue asking questions, sitting in wonder and appreciating how very terribly tiny we are as individuals, as communities, as nations and as a planet when compared with the immensity of the universe.

The wonders of deep-sky objects, even with incredible telescopes and other instruments, are generally not seen "live and in person" by people other than by watching occasional brief TV program segments carefully sandwiched between drug, lawyer and car commercials. Taking away something like the incredible night sky or

being able to stand out in an open field and wonder about what our land use decisions may produce on that field in the future as it gets developed, reduces the possibilities for a child to get excited about the natural world. As a child growing up in a less-polluted time, or a public servant wondering about meeting the next organizational or personal challenge, I always found very valuable inspiration in using thoughts of natural wonders to help me develop solutions to problems and the opportunities for solutions.

An open field, therefore, can really be a source of inspiration and even hope and beauty. This is especially true if it's in the middle of a peaceful agricultural area where the main sounds rather than horn honking might be those of insects or an occasional bird call or cow mooing. It's a great place to relax, revitalize and then return to the challenges of day-to-day living, especially urban living, with a renewed energy and sense of what could be accomplished.

Throughout my career, nearly all of which has been in local government, I have worked hard at deliberate mindful activities to help keep a broad perspective in the face of a great many problems which seem to take up time and energy in your executive office or county administration building. That really long agenda of the next county commission meeting awaits you or a schedule full of meetings, memos or decisions. These become far less likely to harm your physical and emotional health over time when you add in occasional thoughts about nature's beauty.

Those thoughts help me realize that much of what confronts or frustrates us in the daily conduct of our bureaucratic lives really amounts to counting paper clips. Most of our problems amount to tactical annoyances more than strategic changes. Adding in thoughts of what inspires me to imagine and dream helps me count more paper clips, count them faster and move on to the much greater fun of

helping in the development of the careers of colleagues or introducing dynamic and more enjoyable long-term changes. Adding imagination to your daily routine creates a life and a career of greater joy and passion.

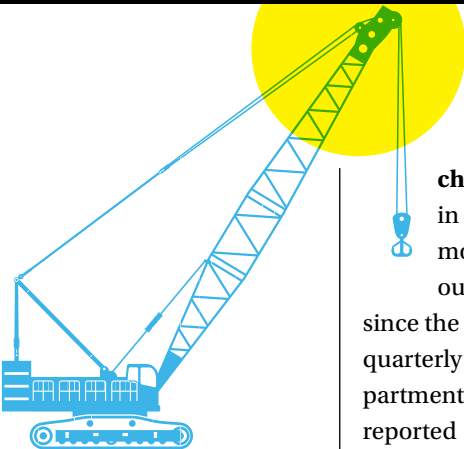
I have encountered many public employees and students whom I have taught over the years who project an unfortunate sadness in not knowing what they want to be when they grow up — even if they are already middle-aged or older. They reflect and are unfortunately all too able to share with others their sense of personal misery.

Inspiration is a noteworthy treatment to dissipate the sense of arrogance or despair we can find in such people. To test this hypothesis, try taking your kids, grandkids, neighbor kids — any kids — to a place where they can go to see Saturn, the Andromeda Galaxy or the Orion nebula through a quality telescope. Watch and hear how they will all say

See *INSPIRE* page 12



# NEWS FROM ACROSS THE NATION



## INDIANA

### WAYNE COUNTY's syringe exchange program

took in more needles last month than it handed out for the first time since the program started. In a quarterly report to the state department of health, the county reported it saw 4,249 syringes turned in from July to September and 3,959 handed out, *USA Today* reported. Nine counties in the state are authorized to run needle exchange programs, which began two years ago in an attempt to deal with elevated numbers of hepatitis C and HIV, diseases that can be spread through the sharing of needles. "The second goal of this syringe exchange is to extend a non-threatening means of entering into treatment and recovery to those who are suffering from addiction," Commissioner Mary Anne Butters said.

## MARYLAND

• **ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY** recently announced it was ending its contract with the

federal government to screen detainees for **immigration status**. The county, with a population of more than 500,000, was the largest in Maryland with such a contract, WBAL-TV reported. "Our county detention staff should be focusing on local law enforcement

responsibilities rather than furthering controversial federal immigration policy," said County Executive Stuart Pittman. "We have a criminal justice system and we have to respect that. I think it's an insult to our criminal justice system to suggest that we need (Immi-

gration and Customs Enforcement) to tell us how and when to deal with our criminals."

Pittman noted the expense of county employees doing work that ICE employees used to do. He said the county paid 12 employees while they received training for a month. "We found that it cost us," he said. "We were having to pay our people to do the work of ICE, and now ICE will do that work." Separately, Pittman said the county will continue an agreement with ICE to hold up to 130 male detainees who are 18 or older in a medium- to low-security detention center.

The county receives \$118 a day per detainee, which added up to about \$4 million last year. He said the money will be used for public safety, with a portion of it used for legal representation for detainees.

## MISSOURI

A **pre-trial program** is saving dollars in **COLE COUNTY**, the *News Tribune* reported.



Photo courtesy of Gila County

## ARIZONA

Dozens of underprivileged children received bicycles over the holidays thanks to a **GILA COUNTY** program still going strong after 15 years. **Bicycles rescued from landfills** and donated by the public are refurbished by Department of Corrections inmates hired by the county to rebuild the bikes. Replacement parts are bought by the recycling and landfill department and the county health department kicks in free safety helmets. "It's heartwarming — it really is," said Sharon Winters, who manages the county recycling and landfill department. "Not just for the kids and their families. Inmates tell us that being able to give back to children in the community is so meaningful for them, especially for inmates who won't see their families while they're incarcerated over the holiday season."



## MARYLAND

• County rescue crews are used to the unexpected. That's what fire and rescue personnel were in for recently in **HOWARD COUNTY**, where they **rescued a llama** from floodwaters, radio station WTOP reported. After a long weekend of rain hit the area, crews were called to help the llama from a flooded field near the Patuxent River. Crews assisted the owner by using a line tied to the animal's harness to lead it to safety.



Through the program's first three years, the county has seen a 71 percent success rate with the majority of participants completing probation and parole. The daily cost of holding a prisoner is \$70.78; keeping a person in a pre-trial program costs \$4.35 per day. A pre-trial coordinator screens those who are unable to make bond for more than three days. Supervision services include call-ins, drug-testing, monitoring of violations and verification of residency and employment.

## NEVADA

Concerns that the needs of medical marijuana patients are being ignored have prompted the **CLARK COUNTY** Commission to indefinitely delay licensing for **recreation-only** dispensaries. Nine business owners had pending recreational licenses. Existing dispensaries serve both recreational and medical users, who receive a 10 percent discount on sales and can buy specified medicinal products, *The Las Vegas Sun* reported. While the moratorium is indefinite, three new county commissioners will be seated for the next meeting Jan. 7.

## NEW YORK

**ERIE COUNTY** smokers have fewer places to light up after the county Legislature voted to **prohibit smoking** with anyone under age 18 in a car or near bus shelters. That goes for e-cigarettes too. Pharmacies and other healthcare institutions are barred from selling tobacco products and have until the end of February to remove them from their shelves, WKBW News reported. **ROCKLAND COUNTY** has also banned smoking in cars with kids.

## OHIO

The **HAMILTON COUNTY** Board of Commissioners wants to shed some more light on county governance by meeting more after dark. After a decade of lunchtime meetings, the Board will **add a 6:30 p.m. meeting once a month** to allow citizens to attend after the workday, *The Cincinnati En-*



## MARYLAND

• For the first time ever, the **Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Board** elected all female corporate officers, including two county officials, for 2019. Pictured are (l-r): Sec.-Treasurer Kate Stewart, mayor of Takoma Park, Md., **LOUDOUN COUNTY, Va.** Board of Supervisors Chair Phyllis Randall (who will serve as a vice president), **PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY** Executive Angela Alsobrooks (who will serve as president) and D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser (who will also serve as a VP). The Council of Governments is a regional organization of area local governments surrounding the nation's capital collaborating on transportation, the environment, planning and housing and public safety and health.

quirer reported. The Board is also considering holding meetings away from the downtown courthouse on a rotating basis.

"We've heard that holding meetings during the workday can be an impediment to some residents who wish to participate in our meetings," Commissioner Denise Driehaus said in a statement. "So, once a month, we will hold a meeting in the evening to give those residents a chance to attend."

## OKLAHOMA

Although their road falls outside of public road construction standards, eight property owners have donated almost \$14,000 to **PAYNE COUNTY** to cover the cost of improvements. The county has agreed to **assume maintenance responsibility** once the roads have been repaired and improved. The families entered into an inter-local cooperation agreement with the county to help cover the cost of buying the materials and transporting them to the site. The county has made it a general practice over the past decade to refuse to take on responsibility for any new roads, according to *The Stillwater News Press*.

## OREGON

**JACKSON COUNTY's** search and rescue department is advising drivers to **ditch GPS directions** this winter. Why? Most of the road closures due to snow are outside of cellular phone range, making a call for help difficult or impossible.

"Jackson County is 2,800 square miles and there's prob-



ably 1,400 square miles of that not covered by cell service," said Deputy Ian Lance. "There's no data. There's nothing because there's literally nothing there."

Deputies told News 10 that they have responded to a number of calls involving people who followed mobile navigation systems and ended up stranded.

## PENNSYLVANIA

**ALLEGHENY COUNTY** has introduced a new **call center, website and smartphone app** designed to address residents' questions.

The website allows residents to track their requests and see frequently asked questions, and in the app they can submit photos and see requests near their location.

The call center staff handles questions and service requests for the public works, parks, property assessment and real estate offices, with plans to add more over time, with health and weights and measures next up, *The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* reported. Emergency requests

related to parks and public works will be forwarded to the relevant departments, while all other requests will be dealt with during business hours.

## TEXAS

**FORT BEND COUNTY** offered a drive-through service last month for residents paying their **property taxes**, *The Houston Chronicle* reported. "Instead of trying to find a parking spot and then come inside and wait for your number to be called, you can stay in your car and hand your payment to one of our staff," Patsy Schultz, the county tax assessor/collector, told the newspaper. The county, located about 35 miles southwest of Houston, set up two drop-off locations on two dates, with cones and directional signs to aid the traffic flow.

Staff stand by to accept payment, which must be in the form of a check or money order in an envelope with a return address clearly marked on the outside of the envelope; cash isn't accepted at the drop-offs. Residents can go online to print a receipt roughly five days later or the office will mail a receipt if residents request one.

## UTAH

A transportation bill passed recently by the Legislature has allowed the **UTAH COUNTY** Commission to **revive a 0.25 percent sales tax** that had been defeated by voters in 2015. The bill gave counties the option to put the tax increases on the ballot or enact them themselves. Utah County's tax

does not apply to food and is projected to generate \$22 million per year for transit and road projects, *The Deseret News* reported.

## WASHINGTON

The state Supreme Court ruled against a challenge to **KING COUNTY'S** \$232 million **youth jail and courthouse**. The court said End the Prison Industrial Complex failed to meet a 10-day deadline to file objections to ballot measures put to voters. The group sued the county over the property tax increase on the 2012 ballot measure that voters approved, generating \$210 million, *The Seattle Times* reported.

## WYOMING

A golf course **altered the banks of the Snake River**. **TETON COUNTY** says it has to go back to the way it was. The Snake River Sporting Club has been navigating "after-the-fact" permitting processes for building erosion and flood-control structures over several years without permission. County staff also identified a couple of inland projects as problems and the permits have been denied for all of those projects, the *Casper Star Tribune* reported. The club will also have to demolish a pickleball court built without a permit.

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

# ‘Adding imagination to your routine creates a career of joy’

From INSPIRE page 9

the same thing: “Wow!” Try to build on that by making more experiences of inspiration available to them.

The final thing I will speak about at this conference is what I am absolutely convinced I will discover as I walk into the room and stand in front of a group of very experienced and very smart astronomers. That is, I will see a group of mostly men in their 50s, 60s or older. Most will be homogenous in a world of diversity, and most


will be talking about paper clips, such as the size of the mirror on their equipment or how to find an extension cord to power cameras and mounts to be used later in the night. Even avid participants, all of whom likely had that “sight of Saturn” experience, probably as 10-year-olds, may lose sight over time of what it must have been like 10,000 years ago, with your family struggling for survival every day to sit around a fire and look up at a clear and wondrous sky.

My belief, as hobbyist,

philanthropist and as a career public administrator is that in addition to all that day-to-day activity in our short lives, we each have a duty to excite, inspire, and provoke others to dream and action to find joy, passion and fun in their own lives. To that end, I will also give away as a charitable fundraiser at this conference, copies of my latest children’s book “Evie, the Star Princess.” The protagonist bases her doctoral dissertation on creating a charitable foundation to put a robotic, computerized tele-

scope into 10,000 primarily elementary and middle schools around the country and then study the effects on children’s interest in science.

I will be announcing at this conference the Rosenberg family’s more modest effort to create “The One Hundred Telescope Project,” working with a not-for-profit educational foundation in my home area of central Florida, to do just what Evie, the Star Princess did, only on a smaller scale. I have many times seen very positive and consistent reaction when kids

(of all ages) first look through a telescope and shout out “Wow!” The real goal here is to provoke thousands of “wows” and encourage that sound to be followed up by enquiry, storytelling, mythology and more. I am convinced that those reactions will translate into great fun and perhaps the development of thousands of future scientists and inspired citizens. Want to help in the “One Hundred Telescope Project,” or start one in your own county? Just contact me at [philrosenberg@earthlink.net](mailto:philrosenberg@earthlink.net). 

CN

JOB MARKET

COUNTY ENGINEER

RINGGOLD COUNTY, IOWA

Salary: Negotiable

Application deadline: 01/31/2019

The Ringgold County Board of Supervisors is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Ringgold County Engineer. Position requires registration as Professional Engineer in the State of Iowa. Salary negotiable based on qualifications/experience. Accepting applications until position is filled.

HOW TO APPLY:

Forward application and resume to: Ringgold County Auditor 109 W. Madison Mount Ayer, IA 50854 (641) 464-3239 [awaske@ringgoldcounty.us](mailto:awaske@ringgoldcounty.us)

WORD SEARCH

WINNEBAGO COUNTY, WISC.

Created by: Mary Ann Barton

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

AIRPORT: Wittman Regional Airport is owned and operated by Winnebago County.

APPLETON: Situated on the Fox River, this city is part of three counties including Winnebago, Calumet and (mostly) Outagamie counties.

ART: The Paine Art Center and Gardens is housed in a historic estate with a mansion and gardens and includes public art galleries and botanic gardens on 3 acres.

BARONS: You'll find elaborate homes built by lumber barons in the "Gold Coast" neighborhood in Oshkosh.

BREWERS: The county is home to three breweries — Carlyle Brewing Company, Pig Minds Brewing Company and Rockford Brewing.

GERMAN: More than 50 percent of the county population is made up of residents with German ancestry.

LAKES: There are 11 lakes in the county including Lake Winnebago, Wisconsin's largest inland lake. Walleye fishing is thought to be some of the best in the country.

OSHKOSH: The county seat is named for Chief Oshkosh, leader of the Menominee American Indians from 1827 to 1858.

OVERALLS: OshKosh B'gosh overalls was founded in the county in 1895, originally as a small-town manufacturer of adult work clothing.

PLANES: The EAA AirVenture Oshkosh fly-in convention, one of the largest gathering of aviation enthusiasts, will celebrate its 50-year anniversary in 2019.

TRUCKS: The Oshkosh Corporation makes specialized trucks and employs 2,800.

SUPERVISORS: The county board of supervisors has 36 members.

UNIVERSITIES: The county is home to the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, the UW-Fox Valley and Fox Valley Technical College.

WINNEBAGO: The county name is derived from the historic Winnebago people, a federally recognized Native American tribe now known as the Ho-Chunk Nation.

ZOO: The county is home to the Menominee Park Zoo, located on 8 acres along Lake Winnebago.


ON THE MOVE

NACo OFFICERS


- First Vice President **Mary Ann Borgeson** spoke about the Live Healthy program and the NACo-MACo relationship at the Maryland Association of Counties' Winter Conference in Dorchester County (Cambridge) Jan. 2-4.

NACo STAFF


- Jay Kairam** is the new program innova-



Kairam



Burkart



Fontaine

nical work assignments aimed to educate county officials and fulfill the requirements of various grant agreements. Joe previously served as program analyst for Healthcare Ready.

- Kirsty Fontaine** will serve as health program manager, managing the quality, conduct and completion of project deliverables and ongoing relations with foundation partners and members. Prior to joining NACo, she served as senior program associate for the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute.
- Program Manager **Nassassia Walsh** moderated a roundtable discussion on the opioid epidemic at the Maryland Association of Counties Winter Conference Jan. 4 in Dorchester County (Cambridge) in Maryland.