



Bexar County, Texas Commissioner Tommy Calvert discusses elected leaders' role in jail diversion programs. Photo by David Hatcox

# Stepping Up Summit gathers fifty counties to talk mental health and jails

**By Charlie Ban**  
senior staff writer

Susan Pamerleau wasn't breaking new ground, but she is digging deeper.

When she took over as Bexar County, Texas' sheriff almost four years ago, her already-full agenda became busier when she learned the extent of the jail population with mental illness.

Those inmates counted for 22 percent, their conditions were going untreated and typically contributed to longer stays.

"Frankly when I became the sheriff... I really didn't recognize the issue about mental illness," she told attendees at the Nation-

al Stepping Up Summit April 17-19 in Washington, D.C. "There were 450 people (with mental illness) who had been in and out of our jail six times.

"These are the kind of things that we as leaders need to bring to the forefront and to our public to let them know it is an issue and there are better ways of dealing with mental illness in our communities, as opposed to just putting them in jail."

That is indeed the kind of thing that county leaders have been pushing over the past year, an effort that culminated in the three-day summit, sponsored by NACo, the American Psychiatric Foundation and the Coun-

cil of State Governments Justice Center. Teams from 50 counties, out of more than 200 applicants, heard from experts in mental health services, criminal justice and administration on the local, state and federal levels, plus participants in the mental health system and their families.

Stepping Up is part of an overall effort to encourage counties to divert jail inmates with mental illness to settings where inmates' underlying conditions can be addressed.

That direction has stuck with Pamerleau and she has spread the word. She offered Sen. John

## California faces primary confusion

**By Charles Taylor**  
senior staff writer

For all of California's size and population, its presidential primary has rarely mattered much — coming so late in the year as it does, this year on June 7. By that time, it's usually pretty clear which candidates have enough delegates to clinch their party's nomination.

But, not so this year, the Golden State could actually be a decisive factor in the Republican race, in terms of which candidate has enough delegates to avoid a contested convention.

California county election officials expect to see surges in voting similar to what other states have witnessed. In the first three months of this year, some 600,000 individuals have registered to vote or updated their registration online, according to Alex Padilla, California's secretary of state.

That, however, may be the least of the problems that the state's 58 county election direc-



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# Rural counties tackle jail diversion at Summit

By **Charlie Ban**  
senior staff writer

Just because rural counties lack the population and density of their urban counterparts to conveniently provide mental health support services doesn't mean they can't address the needs of offenders. But they have to get creative.

In fact, according to Patrick Fleming, in some ways rural counties have an edge because less bureaucracy means they can get things done faster, it's easier to know all of the players and elected officials tend to stay in office longer, allowing for more continuous support for policies promoting mental health services. Fleming is the retired director of behavioral health services for Salt Lake County, Utah and also worked in two rural Michigan counties.

Where rural counties have to start on the programming side, he said, is to introduce pre-trial services on the front end.

"You've got to decide who needs to be in the jail," he said. "We can be spending \$75 a day to house someone who just needs to pay a fine.

"This is not about taking money away from the sheriff," he said. "It's a question of how do we start to work as a county system together."

Fleming stressed that buy-in from elected officials was crucial to supporting the work of county staff, such as Codington County, S.D. Welfare Director Susan Peterson. The pair spoke in a breakout session "Stepping Up in Rural Communities: Challenges and Opportunities."

Peterson saw both in Codington County when citizens



**Codington County, S.D. Welfare Director Susan Peterson describes how her rural county approached reducing its jail population. Otero County, N.M. Commissioner Susan Flores and Pat Fleming look on.** Photo by David Hathcox

rejected a bond issue that would have paid for a new jail. She said the limitations of the existing lockup forced the county administration's embrace of treating mentally ill offenders differently.

"If (the bond issue) hadn't failed, I don't think our commissioners would have signed onto Stepping Up," she said.

Her county's more than 27,000 residents make it the sixth most populous county in a largely rural state, which also has the sixth highest population density — 39.5 residents over the 688 square miles.

What she and Codington County cannot do is compare themselves to larger counties like Hennepin County, Minn.

"My strategic plan is one page, not 50," she said. "It's two items: reduce needs and leverage resources."

The answers, she said, involve reaching beyond her own county to a regional level and taking an approach that focuses on momentum.

"You change the wording," she said. "Instead of saying 'we can't do that,' you figure out what you can do and go from there. A little is better than nothing."

Fleming suggested finding nearby larger counties with which to partner to provide services that smaller rural counties cannot.

Ron Manderscheid, executive director of the National Association of County Behavioral Health & Developmental Disability Directors, said that most rural counties have not started any programming to divert mentally ill offenders. He suggested starting by identifying community organizations that counties can use as a resource.

Peterson has secured a single hotel room, which can be in high demand during hunting season, at which the county can house an offender in need.

"It wouldn't make sense to build an entire shelter, but we know we have this room," she said. "We know that binge

drinking is popular in South Dakota; it can be a co-occurring disorder, but if we can get them through 24 hours in a safe room, they can sober up and then address their problems."

Because the Codington County Sheriff's Office doesn't have the staff to spare people for a week of crisis intervention training, they accomplish it in one-day segments.

After considering other social service providers' operating hours, the jail stopped releasing inmates after 5 p.m., when nobody else can take them in.

And, she stressed, quantifying results so counties have statistics to show state and federal agencies — particularly if, as in South Dakota, the state manages mental health services.

Fleming said support from elected officials is crucial when seeking help outside of rural counties.

"You'll get your calls an-

*See RURAL page 11*



## SNAP/STATS

### 2014 EMPLOYMENT GROWTH TOP 5 LARGE COUNTIES

County	Growth
City and County of San Francisco .....	5.7
Travis County, Texas.....	5.7
Salt Lake County, Utah .....	4.7
Riverside County, Calif. ....	4.4
King County, Wash. ....	4.3

Source: County Business Patterns, U.S. Census Bureau

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**ADVERTISING STAFF**  
**Job Market/Classifieds representative**  
**National Accounts representative**  
Beverly Schlotterbeck  
(202) 393-6226  
FAX (202) 393-2630

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## County jails, often largest mental health providers

From SUMMIT page 1

Cornyn (R-Texas) a chance to meet the largest mental health provider in the country — the Los Angeles County Jail.

“That made a big impression on me because I did not realize our criminal justice system had become the provider, by default, of mental health services to the extent it does,” he said. “It brought the point home to me like nothing else.”

NACo President Sallie Clark put the challenge in perspective for attendees

“We’re not professionals in mental health issues,” she said. “We’re not professionals, necessarily, in law enforcement.

“For us, we want to make sure that we’re asking the right questions,” in framing the problem correctly and providing support for change where necessary.

“It’s hard to convince others it’s the right thing to do,” she said.

L.A. County District Jackie Lacey knows that.

“It hasn’t been an easy sell,” she said. As a district attorney, “You wake up every morning and you read the headlines and you pray the most recent person who was on probation who killed someone doesn’t have your name attached to them. That’s your fear,” she said. “The public has little tolerance for district attorneys who make mistakes, and you make a mistake by taking a risk.”

Lacey’s approach was to sell jail diversion to community groups first to generate public support for the new direction, which was funded by the Board of Supervisors in 2015 to the tune of \$120 million to create the Office of Diversion and Re-entry.

“I didn’t have a plan,” she said of the county’s changes. “I just knew what we were doing was wrong.”

University of Connecticut professor Robert Trestman stressed communication, consistency, confidentiality and quality assurance in the diversion process.

“Communication is where

everything breaks down,” he said. “We think we’re doing it, but in truth ...when you’re talking about everything from the paperwork, what’s written on the minimus, what guidance might have been provided and doesn’t get printed, what about the judicial marshals who are transporting people from the jail to the facility. Is there any kind of formal way that information is being documented and effectively being communicated, and then on and on from one shift to another?”

Confidentiality is also crucial to acceptance and participation.

“It doesn’t mean you need a suite with closed walls, but you do need sound confidentiality,” Trestman said of intake processes. “People need to feel comfortable enough to share intimate information with someone they just met while they’re

the process in his 2007 book *Crazy*.

Ray Lay, both a mental health counselor and a patient with dual mental and substance abuse disorders, cautioned attendees to be patient expecting people with mental illness to adjust to medication.

“It doesn’t take a matter of days,” he said. “It took me three years to figure out what worked for me.”

Cornyn cautioned against forcing a top-down approach to reforming judicial processes.

“It’s impossible, in my opinion, to try to initiate ideas on the national level and say we’ll do this for all 320 million Americans,” he said. “We can take successful levels at the local level and scale them up at the national level.”

For that matter, though many urban counties participated,



**Supervisor John Miller, Black Hawk County, Iowa, says leadership has been important in his state, where counties bear the burden of providing mental health services.** Photo by David Hathcox

distressed.”

Pete Early shared his bipolar son’s experience with the intake process and how it worked out positively.

When a hospital case manager asked him why he didn’t take his medication, “my son said, of all the psychiatrists he’s had, they’ve only bothered to learn his name and his symptoms.”

Early praised the Fairfax County, Va. police officer who had crisis intervention training and, when he picked up Early’s son walking naked down the street, exercised his discretion, did not handcuff him and drove him to the hospital while keeping him calm. Early chronicled

the Stepping Up Summit also made room for rural counties to discuss how they approach the problem of reducing the occur-

See SUMMIT page 11

### CORRECTIONS

Nadia Binderup’s surname was misspelled in the article “Employee-run charity helps fund nonprofits in San Diego County” in the April 4 edition of County News.

The Anne Arundel County, Md. Executive is Steve Schuh. His name was misspelled in the April 18 County News story “Joint opioid task force takes first steps.”

## PRESIDENT’S PERSPECTIVE

By Sallie Clark

# Counties Shine Light on Human Trafficking

Special thanks to all the counties that celebrated National County Government Month in April. It was exciting to see so many counties issue proclamations and host events highlighting the meaningful role county governments play in our residents’ lives every day.

Many communities, including my own, embraced this year’s theme, Safe and Secure Counties. In my home county, El Paso County, Colo., we hosted several events aligned with the theme, including a film screening and panel discussion on human trafficking, a serious, insidious problem many counties face.

We presented the film *Dreamcatcher*, a powerful and deeply personal movie, featuring stories of women caught in the dark world of Internet-based human trafficking. The human trafficking sex trade operates in the shadows, and it can be difficult to understand the prevalence of this horrific crime. Through the *Dreamcatcher* event, we brought the issue out of the shadows and into the forefront of our county’s consciousness.

Human trafficking exploits and preys on all types of people and crosses all neighborhood and cultural boundaries. In fact, a 2014 NACo survey

found that 86 percent of counties with populations greater than 250,000 and half of smaller counties consider sex trafficking to be a problem. And more than half of large counties have county programs focused on reducing and eliminating human trafficking.

NACo consistently supports federal anti-trafficking legislation and legislation that supports victims. At NACo’s Annual Conference

in Los Angeles County this July, we will continue to draw attention to the prevalence of human trafficking and steps counties can take to stop it.

The Next Generation NACo Community Service Project will partner with Saving Innocence, an organization devoted to ending child sex trafficking, to assemble “rescue backpacks” filled with essential items victims in the Los Angeles County area need like clothing and personal care products.

On the final day of the conference, Women of NACo will host a reception with Shared Hope International, an organization dedicated to ending sex trafficking through prevention, victim support and justice. Shared Hope International’s founder and president, former U.S. Rep. Linda Smith, will speak at the reception.

Los Angeles County, and particularly Supervisor Don Knabe, has long been a champion for local efforts against human trafficking. I encourage you to register to attend the NACo Annual Conference in Los Angeles County July 22-25, where you can join the dialogue about human trafficking and help develop strategies and policies to prevent it. Register today at [www.NACo.org/Annual](http://www.NACo.org/Annual).





# Senate committee puts major water resources bill on tap; includes funding for Flint, Mich.

The Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee, on April 28, approved reauthorization legislation for the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). WRDA bills authorize projects and policies for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers concerning navigation, flood control, hydropower, recreation, water supply and emergency management.

The legislation, often passed on a biennial basis, touches on several critical county interests such as ports, inland waterways, levees, vegetation, wetlands, watersheds, coastal restoration, safe drinking water and clean water infrastructure.

The committee used the proposed reauthorization to address the recent lead crisis in Flint, Mich. The bill includes money not just for Flint, but also for communities across the country dealing with aging and failing water infrastructure.

Congress last passed a WRDA bill, the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014, in June of 2014. That authorization is set to expire Sept. 30. By then, Congress must either extend WRRDA or pass another authorization. The EPW bill is the first step in that process.

Following are some key provisions from the bill.

**Army Corps Projects:** Would authorize \$9 billion for 25 new Army Corps (Corps) projects, including Los Angeles River restoration efforts, harbor work in Charleston, S.C., and flood protection projects in New Jersey and California.

It would also authorize the Corps to provide technical assistance to a non-federal project sponsor such as a county that is developing its own feasibility study. It would expand the existing authority of the Corps to accept funds from states and local governments to carry out all water resources projects not just flood control projects, and would allow the Corps to establish partnerships with



non-federal interests to address the backlog of maintenance at Corps projects.

**Safe Drinking Water:** Would amend the revolving loan program under the Safe Drinking Water Act to make “planning, design and associated pre-construction activities, replacement or rehabilitation of aging treatment, storage or distribution facilities and public water system security measures” as eligible for assistance.

The bill encourages states to prioritize sustainability and makes the implementation of source water protection plans an eligible use of assistance from a state revolving loan fund.

**Clean Water Infrastructure:** Would reauthorize a provision of the Clean Water Act (CWA), which authorizes \$1.8 billion for grants to address sewer overflows, sanitary sewer overflows and storm water discharges.

**Innovative Financing:** Would remove requirement that the public-private partnership program established by WRRDA 2014 be authorized by an appropriations bill.

The bill also clarifies the scope of projects eligible for assistance under the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation (WIFIA) program and authorizes the financing of fees if the applicant is a small community.

In addition to existing inno-

## SPEEDREAD

**\$9 billion would be authorized for 25 new Corps projects including Los Angeles River restoration efforts and harbor work in Charleston, S.C.**

**Would authorize \$1.4 billion in grants to help comply with drinking water regulations.**

vative financing options, the bill would establish a trust fund for water infrastructure that would be used for capitalization grants for the Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Funds.

**National Drought Resilience Guidelines:** Would direct the EPA, in conjunction with the secretaries of interior and agriculture, the director of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and other federal agency heads along with state and local governments to develop non-regulatory national drought resilience guidelines.

**Drinking Water Disaster Relief and Infrastructure Investments:** Would authorize emergency assistance for communities facing health hazards from the presence of lead or other contaminants in a public drinking water supply system.

Such assistance would include loans to repair and replace

private as well as public drinking water infrastructure. The EPA is also authorized to use WIFIA authority to make secured loans for emergency situations related to drinking water contaminants.

**Registry for Lead Exposure and Advisory Committee:** Would authorize the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to establish a voluntary lead exposure registry and authorizes an advisory committee, through the Centers for Disease Control, to review federal programs that address lead exposure and identify research needs, best practices and effective services.

**Funding for Certain Childhood Health Programs:** Would provide funding for the following authorized programs:

- \$10 million for the childhood lead poisoning prevention program
- \$10 million for HUD's Healthy Homes Initiative
- \$10 million for the Healthy Start Initiative

**Other Programs and Authorized Funding:** Would also establish and authorize a number of other programs that may provide funding for counties to address an array of water resources and infrastructure needs. Including:

- Rehabilitation of Existing Levees: Would authorize \$125 million for a pilot program for

the Corps to immediately address coastal levees that are subsiding.

- Rehabilitation of High-Hazard-Potential Dams: Would authorize \$530 million over 10 years for a Federal Emergency Management Agency program for the rehabilitation of high-hazard-potential dams.

- Safe Drinking Water Assistance for Small and Disadvantaged Communities: Would authorize a total of \$1.4 billion over five years for a grant program to assist small and disadvantaged communities comply with requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act.

- Reducing Lead in Drinking Water: Would authorize a total of \$300 million over five years for a grant program to assist with the replacement of lead service lines, testing, planning, corrosion control and education. (Note: Partial lead service line replacement would not be eligible under this program.)

- Lead Testing in School and Child Care Drinking Water: Would authorize a total of \$100 million for grants to carry out a voluntary school and child care lead testing program.

- Small and Medium Clean Water Treatment Works: Would authorize technical assistance grants to water treatment works that serve populations of up to 100,000. Grants for small treatment works (serving up to 10,000 population) would total \$75 million over a five-year period — FY17 through FY21. Grants for medium treatment works would be authorized at \$10 million per year for FY17 through FY21.

For an expanded version of this report, go to <http://bit.ly/1SvwCOB>.

For further information on the bill provided by the committee, go to <http://1.usa.gov/1Ujyqey>. **CN**

(Jessica Monahan, associate legislative director, contributed to this report.)



## County registrars see voting challenges ahead of primary

From PRIMARY page 1

tors face in this stranger-than-fiction primary cycle. Between now and May 23 — the voter registration deadline, and two weeks before primary day — counties will also be verifying millions of signatures on petitions for propositions that will appear on the November ballot.

Orange County Registrar of Voters Neal Kelley said a dozen potential statewide measures that are in circulation will be delivered to election officials' offices en masse — while they're in the midst of preparing for the June primary. That's because of a 2011 change in state law that moved all initiative and referendum measures, except for those written by the legislature, to the November general election in even-numbered years.

"The downside of that is that we mail out vote-by-mail ballots on May 9; the last-minute planning for the election goes all the way through Election Day, and then we're obviously processing ballots close to when those petitions hit (around May 20)," said Kelley, who is also president of the California Association of Clerks and Elections officials. "So it's the perfect storm, everything's coming in at the same time."

If that storm could be perfected even more, add to that confusion among the electorate about who they can vote for and a crowded slate for a U.S. Senate race.

There is so much variability in California from election to election that there's little wonder that voters can become confused, said Shasta County registrar Cathy Darling Allen.

Unlike the state's gubernatorial open primaries — where the top two vote-getters, regardless of party, advance to the November election — Allen said of the presidential primary, "This one election every four years, it's different, and [voters'] party affiliation matters. And so explaining that to folks — and explaining the why it's not our fault. We don't make the rules." The political

parties do.

"We spend a lot of time doing that, and it really is very time-consuming, and it doesn't make a lot of sense. This is not a logical, intuitive system that you can explain in 30 seconds or less."

Further complicating matters this year: 34 candidates are vying for the U.S. Senate seat being vacated by Barbara Boxer (D). Allen said that for many counties, it's possible that with so many candidates, ballots may have to list them in two columns — possibly leading voters to believe they can vote for more than one candidate (if they do, their vote won't count).

Her county will be able to present all the candidates in a single column on one page. "Other counties maybe don't have the flexibility within their voting systems to do that," she added. "So they're spending a lot of time and energy making sure folks understand how to mark their ballots so their votes will count."

In the meantime, the surge in voters, the overtime needed to plan and conduct an election while verifying signatures for propositions will inevitably add to county election costs.

Padilla, the secretary of state, has asked the California Legislature to find additional funds for counties. He wrote in a letter to Gov. Jerry Brown (D): "...elections officials will face higher than average costs.... Also counties must print additional ballots and ensure that polling places have adequate 'crossover ballots' on hand for those parties that conduct open primaries."

The Legislature is considering a \$16.2 million package to help the counties. Allen said this includes money to reimburse counties for its "activities around initiative petitions."

"We've seen in states across the country that there has been confusion over closed primaries and open primaries and modified primaries," Kelley said. "We're working hard as a group of registrars to get the word out to make sure voters are educated about their choices and what they can do on Election Day." **CN**

## Naturally Resilient Communities project gets White House nod

By Jack Morgan  
program manager

At the White House Water Summit in March, the Obama Administration counted a NACo partnership project, Naturally Resilient Communities (NRC), as among the national efforts to build a more sustainable water future.

A joint effort of NACo, The Nature Conservancy, the American Planning Association, the Association of State Floodplain Managers and Sasaki Associates, NRC aims to help communities rethink flood protection.

"Many of our communities — including my own — have seen the devastating effects of wildfires, flash floods and other natural disasters," said NACo President Sallie Clark. "Counties are on the front lines of emergency response and preparedness, and we're pursuing forward-thinking measures to mitigate risk and foster local resiliency. The Naturally Resilient Communities project helps us leverage natural and other resources to make our neighborhoods safer and more secure."

American communities have recently had ample reminders of nature's unpredictable fury. Extreme weather events have become the unfortunate norm for many counties across the nation. Since 2010, counties comprising 96 percent of the total U.S. population were affected by federally declared weather-related disasters, while average flood losses in the U.S. have increased steadily to nearly \$10 billion.

Often overlooked in mitigating risks from storms is the role that nature itself can play alongside traditional, manmade structures such as seawalls, dams and levees. For instance, riparian buffers, sand dunes and marshes can be used to help disperse floodwaters and absorb storm surges. Restoring and strengthening natural systems not only helps counties become more resilient by mitigating risks from extreme weather, but it also brings ad-

### SHOW AND TELL

Showcase your use of nature to reduce flooding's impact. Please submit any recommendations about your natural infrastructure best practices to Jack Morgan, NACo program manager, ([jmorgan@naco.org](mailto:jmorgan@naco.org)), by Monday, May 9.

ditional economic, health and social benefits, such as cleaner water, increased property values

and enhanced tourism and recreational opportunities.

Through the Naturally Resilient Communities project, NACo is currently working to identify and promote examples of nature-based solutions that counties have already used to increase both resiliency and quality of life. The examples will be compiled in a guide that will be available online and serve as a helpful tool to support counties in investing in nature-based solutions to address their flooding challenges. **CN**

## The 2016 NACo Resolutions Process Has Begun

In preparation for NACo's 2016 Conference and Exposition, July 22-25 in Los Angeles County/Long Beach, Calif., we invite NACo members to submit policy resolutions and platform changes to be considered at the conference.

The NACo resolutions process provides members with the ability to participate in national policy decisions affecting county governments by proposing changes to NACo's platform or policy resolutions that, if approved, will be added to the platform for one year.

Resolutions and platform changes submitted through this process will be considered during the Annual Conference by NACo's 10 policy steering committees, its Board of Directors and its membership.

### HOW TO SUBMIT AND FORMAT PLATFORM CHANGES AND RESOLUTIONS:

All resolutions and platform changes must be submitted electronically (preferably as a Word document) via email to [resolutions@naco.org](mailto:resolutions@naco.org) by June 22. Submissions MUST identify the title and issue area in the email subject line (i.e. CDBG Appropriations, Community and Economic Development).

### QUESTIONS:

Please contact NACo's Legislative Director Deborah Cox at [dcox@naco.org](mailto:dcox@naco.org) or the appropriate steering committee liaison with additional questions or concerns.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES  
  
**Los Angeles County**  
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## GUEST COLUMN

# Creating the healthiest nation one community at a time

**By Georges Benjamin, M.D.**  
executive director  
American Public Health  
Association

By now, you've probably heard of the newly launched Healthiest Cities & Counties Challenge, an effort to improve health in small and midsize cities, counties and tribes across the United States, with \$1.5 million in prizes up for grabs.

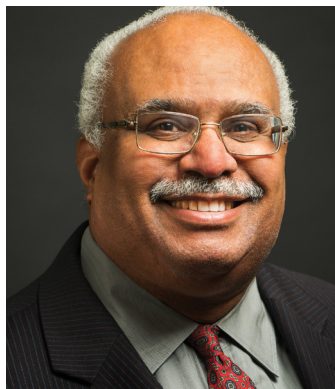
It's an incredibly exciting opportunity, with the potential to generate innovative new strategies that communities nationwide can use to promote better health and prosperity for all. At the same time, it's a daunting endeavor — the health threats facing Americans are plentiful, serious and complex.

But that's exactly what makes this challenge unique. While the ultimate goal is to improve health outcomes, Challenge participants will also be judged on their progress in developing the kinds of multi-sector partnerships critical to sustaining efforts long after the challenge ends. We want to help bring diverse stakeholders together to explore the roles that each sector can play in creating health-promoting opportuni-

ties and then leverage those roles toward creating healthier communities and people. Our hope is that cities, counties and tribes will come together and jumpstart an ongoing dialogue around a seemingly simple question: What makes a healthy community?

Today, in the United States, the greatest threats to health aren't infectious diseases such as measles and tuberculosis. Instead, the greatest threats we face today are chronic illnesses such as heart disease, diabetes and obesity — diseases that, for the most part, are entirely avoidable with the help of community-driven and prevention-focused actions that also address the social determinants of health.

To get a better sense of just how urgent the chronic disease problem is, consider that if current trends continue, one in every three U.S. adults will be living with diabetes by 2050. And diabetes already costs about \$116 billion in medical care every year. The latest numbers from the American Heart Asso-



**Benjamin**

ciation find that cardiovascular diseases and stroke are responsible for one in every three U.S. deaths, with direct and indirect costs totaling more than \$316 billion. In 2010, seven of the top 10 causes of death in the U.S. were attributable to chronic disease. These statistics are just the tip of the iceberg, and yet it's enough to realize that we can — and must — do better.

The Healthiest Cities & Counties Challenge doesn't focus specifically on chronic disease rates or on any specific disease or injury. Instead, the Challenge compels cities, counties and tribes to take a holistic and upstream view of health and zero in on improving the risk

factors and social determinants that lead to chronic disease, injury, disability and premature death. For instance, Challenge participants will be judged on criteria such as nutrition, physical activity, walkability, community safety, housing affordability and secondhand smoke exposure.

These metrics reflect a core tenet of the Challenge — that producing healthy people is a community affair that requires all sectors, from transportation to housing to business, to consider the health impacts of their decision-making.

Fortunately, the evidence is piling up that making relatively easy and low-cost community changes can have an impact. For instance, a recent study found that simply relocating a farmers' market to a space where it was more accessible by biking, walking and public transit significantly improved healthy food accessibility for low-income residents in a city struggling with food deserts.

This change — which had nothing to do with "health care" — can help encourage more physical activity, greater social cohesion, and create more equitable access to nutri-

tious foods for residents most at risk for diet-related chronic disease. And in addition to health benefits, the move increased the market's revenues by the millions. It's yet another example that what's good for our health is also good for our pocketbooks and our local economies.

Studies like this are a compelling example of how relatively low-cost, community-driven changes can have a powerful impact on people's lives and health. It's also a reminder that when we work together, listen to each other and elevate equity as a driving principle, we truly can make a positive difference.

The Healthiest Cities & Counties Challenge is an opportunity for communities across the country to begin and re-energize their health improvement efforts. I urge you to take a quick glance at the annual Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's County Health Rankings & Roadmaps, which offer data on many of the metrics included in the Challenge, and ask yourself: "How can we get better together?"

Visit [www.healthiestcities.org](http://www.healthiestcities.org) to learn more. Applications to take part in the Challenge are due May 31. **CN**



## With new guidance info, U.S. DOT continues to move forward with FAST Act implementation

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) continues to move forward with the implementation of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act. The FAST Act reauthorized federal surface transportation programs that support county-owned infrastructure such as the Surface Transportation Program.

Since its passage last December, DOT has issued a number

of guidance documents, fact sheets and presentations to ensure the public and transportation stakeholders have key information on FAST Act provisions.

Recently published guidance documents include a question and answer document on the sub-allocation of apportioned funds — a key funding mechanism for local decision-making, and guidance

on the implementation of the re-branded Surface Transportation Block Grant Program, previously known as the Surface Transportation Program.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) elaborates on several other implementation issues through its FAST Act Web portal at [www.fhwa.dot.gov/fastact](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/fastact). The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has a separate FAST Act

site that specifically addresses the new law's impact on transit programs at [www.transit.dot.gov/FAST](http://www.transit.dot.gov/FAST).

In addition to guidance documents, DOT has published notices for apportionment funding and other discretionary funding opportunities for FY16, including the Nationally Significant Freight and Highway Projects program known as FASTLANE grants. Fund-

ing opportunities are listed on both FHWA and FTA sites.

NACo continues to monitor the FAST Act's implementation process on behalf of counties and provide feedback and input to DOT and Congress. For further information on the FAST Act and its impact on county-owned infrastructure, contact Jessica Monahan, associate legislative director, [jmonahan@naco.org](mailto:jmonahan@naco.org). **CN**



# Counties spotlight 'safe and secure' roles during NCGM

This April, counties celebrated National County Government Month (NCGM). Counties across the country passed proclamations in recognition of NCGM, and many hosted community gatherings, open houses, Q&A sessions and other events fitting this year's "safe and secure" theme. These events generated dozens of news articles and media coverage in local outlets across the U.S. To view full news coverage and learn more about NCGM, go to [www.NACo.org/NCGM](http://www.NACo.org/NCGM), and on the map below, read about how six counties celebrated NCGM this year.

## Clark County, Nev.

hosted a virtual ride-along on Twitter with the fire department, highlighting the 2016 NCGM "safe and secure" theme.

## Nueces County, Texas

employees raised over \$4,000 to purchase hundreds of items, which they donated to three local nonprofits focused on helping underserved youth.

## Monongalia County, W.Va.

set up an essay-writing contest for local 8th graders. The winners shadowed the county commissioners and administrator for a day and led a commission meeting.

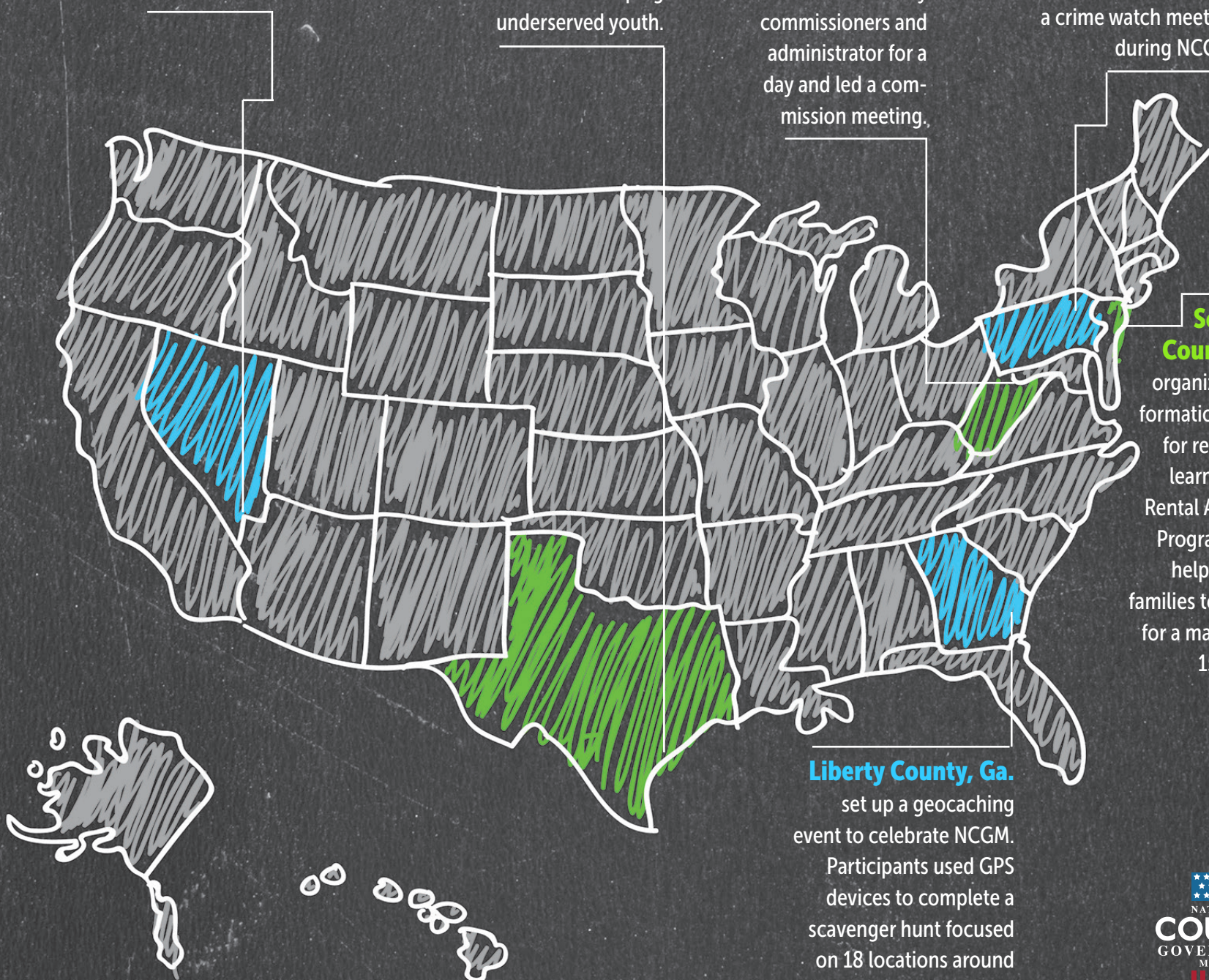
Reflecting this year's "safe and secure" theme, Luzerne County, Pa.'s District Attorney brought together officials from several offices to host a crime watch meeting during NCGM.

## Somerset County, N.J.

organized an information session for residents to learn about its Rental Assistance Program, which helps working families to pay rent for a maximum of 15 months.

## Liberty County, Ga.

set up a geocaching event to celebrate NCGM. Participants used GPS devices to complete a scavenger hunt focused on 18 locations around the county.







**LIGHTS,  
LEADERSHIP,  
ACTION!**

# **NACo's Annual Conference and Exposition**

**JULY 22-25, 2016**

Los Angeles County, Long Beach, Calif.

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[www.naco.org/Annual](http://www.naco.org/Annual)



# County keeps the goods moving

By Jack Morgan  
program manager

Alameda County, Calif. enjoys one of the most strategic trade locations in world and serves as a central hub for freight and goods movement throughout the San Francisco Bay Area and the surrounding Northern California “mega-region.” Much of the region relies heavily on the critical freight infrastructure in Alameda County to bring goods to and from national and international markets.

Goods movement is also extremely vital to the county's economy, with one-third of its employment coming from goods movement-dependent industries such as transportation and warehousing, manufacturing and construction.

A small group of county leaders were recently able to learn from and experience first-hand the goods movement efforts in Alameda County at the Keeping Counties Moving: Innovations in Freight Transportation Peer Exchange. NACo, with support from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), worked with Alameda County and the Alameda County Transportation Commission (ACTC), and the Port of Oakland to plan and host this two-day peer-learning event.

“It was deeply satisfying to share our accomplishments with the development of the first major county-wide and regional goods movement plans through this Peer Exchange experience,” said Alameda County Supervisor Scott Hagerty. “Expansion and innovations in goods movement infrastructure and technology are already underway in Alameda County, and we were so pleased to highlight this progress with our NACo visitors.”

Recognizing both the importance of freight movement to the county and anticipating larger freight flows in Northern California, ACTC organized the Bay Area Goods Movement



Pausing a moment from their harbor tour, participants at the Keeping Counties Moving: Innovations in Freight Transportation Peer Exchange, pose for the camera for the record. Photo by Jenna Moran

Collaborative as a two-year, planning process for the county and region to understand goods-movement needs and identify, prioritize and advocate for strategies to ensure that the county continues to prosper as a major freight and goods movement hub.

Through this process, ACTC partnered with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission to jointly produce the Alameda County Goods Movement Plan in February 2016, which lays out short- and long-term strategies for the county to improve infrastructure systems, promote innovative technology and improve overall quality of life.

At the NACo peer exchange, county officials heard from regional leaders about these efforts and participated in a lively discussion on regional and mega-regional goods movement planning efforts in the Alameda County region.

Other topics covered included global shipping trends, economic competitiveness, supply chains and logistics,

technological innovations and county connections to local, regional and global economies.

FHWA Administrator Gregory Nadeau was on hand to update the group about FHWA priorities and discuss freight and trade connection opportunities for counties. Attendees also toured the Port of Oakland — the fifth largest marine port in the nation and a vital component of the Alameda County goods-movement infrastructure system.

In conjunction with these efforts with FHWA in freight transportation, NACo has also recently released a publication, *Keeping Counties Moving: Freight Transportation as an Economic Engine*. Through four county case studies, this report describes how freight transportation investments can fuel local and regional economic development. **CN**

*Presentations and resources from the Keeping Counties Moving event can be found at <http://bit.ly/1WSSTYm>*

## ON THE MOVE .....➔

### NACo OFFICERS

President **Sallie Clark** spoke April 25 at the National Association of County Engineers Annual Conference in Pierce County (Tacoma), Wash.

was an executive general counsel with the North Carolina Association of Counties.

• NACo Executive Director

**Matt Chase** was a featured speaker at the Mid-South Mayors' Council's RegionSmart Conference, April 28, in Shelby County (Memphis), Tenn. The conference was the first of its kind and brought together local elected officials and business leaders to discuss region-wide problems.

• **Brian Knudsen**,

research analyst, presented NACo's County Explorer interactive map at the Professional Development Conference of the Development District Association of Appalachia in Buncombe County (Asheville), N.C., April 25.

### NACo STAFF

• **Sharon Russell**

is NACo's Financial Services Center's new senior program director. In this position, she will have oversight of the NACo-US Communities program including marketing, promotions, driving sales, and will serve as the primary liaison. Before joining NACo, Russell established, owned and managed Scudder Law firm in North Carolina. Prior to that, she



**Russell**



**Knudsen**



# Senate passes comprehensive energy bill

**By Julie Ufner**  
associate legislative director

After a several-month delay, the U.S. Senate passed the Energy Policy Modernization Act (S. 2012) April 20 by an 85-12 vote. The measure focuses heavily on renewable energy

deployment, energy efficiency improvements, building code upgrades and electrical grid security.

The bill's passage came after months of unsuccessful attempts by Democrats to address the water crisis in Flint, Mich. However, Democrats

dropped their objection to the measure after Senate leaders promised them another legislative vehicle to address Flint's needs.

Some key provisions:

- Promotes updated building codes — According to the Department of Energy (DOE), residential and commercial buildings use more than 40 percent of the nation's energy. S. 2012 would require the DOE secretary to encourage states, local governments and tribes to meet or exceed model building codes.

- Promotes residential energy efficiency upgrades — S. 2012 would require the Depart-

The brownfields program helps local communities redevelop and repurpose contaminated sites nationwide.

program helps local communities redevelop and repurpose contaminated sites nationwide.

- Promotes renewable energies — S. 2012 contains provisions to both bolster renewable

used to fund conservation, recreation, access and land acquisition projects at the federal, state and local level.

Based on preliminary discussions between Senate Energy and Natural Resources Chairwoman Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) and House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Fred Upton (R-Mich.), S. 2012 will likely be conferenced with the House's North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act of 2015 (H.R. 8) passed last December. Conference committee members are likely to face an uphill struggle in their efforts to reconcile the two bills

## PROFILES IN SERVICE

### LESLEY ROBINSON

Western Regional Representative  
Board of Directors  
Commission chair  
Phillips County, Mont.

**Number of years active in NACo:** 8

**Years in public service:** I've been a county commissioner for 11 years.

**Occupation:** county commissioner, cattle rancher

**The hardest thing I've ever done:** lost my dad to a heart attack when I was only 20 years old

**Three people (living or dead) I'd invite to dinner:** my mom and dad and President Ronald Reagan

**A dream I have is to:** I have experienced more things than I could have dreamed already.

**You'd be surprised to learn that I:** was appointed to the Montana Board of Dentistry by former Governor Judy Martz as a public at-large member.

**The most adventurous thing I've ever done is:** currently running as a Lt. Governor candidate for the state of Montana.



**My favorite way to relax is:** going for a walk on the ranch.

**I'm most proud of:** my husband Jim and I have been married for 30 years.

**Every morning I read:** *The Billings Gazette* and the *Great Falls Tribune*.

**My favorite meal is:** tender, juicy steak.

**My pet peeve is:** pessimists.

**My motto is:** I read this once and it stayed with me. "You only have one chance to make a first impression."

**The last book I read was:** currently reading *Sagebrush Rebel*.

**My favorite movie is:** *Sleepless in Seattle*.

**My favorite music is:** current country music.

**My county is a NACo member because:** to keep informed and involved in what is affecting our county.

**My favorite president is:** Ronald Reagan. He was the first president I voted for.



ment of Housing and Urban Development to issue updated underwriting and appraisal guidelines. This will allow homeowners to finance energy efficiency upgrades as part of their traditional mortgage.

- Continues weatherization and state energy programs — Weatherization and state energy programs provide money to the state, which then assists state local governments in energy efficiency planning processes and programs. S. 2012 reauthorizes both programs.

- Extends brownfields cleanup — S. 2012 reauthorizes the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's brownfields program through 2018. The brownfields

energy research and development for wind, solar, geothermal, biomass, geothermal and marine hydrokinetic energies and includes portions of the NACo-supported Public Lands Renewable Energy Development Act (PLREDA).

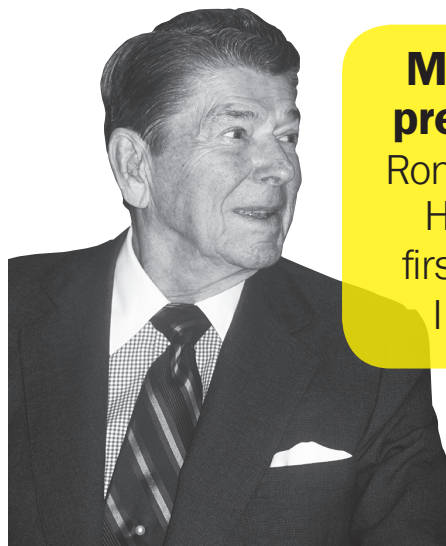
- Boosts energy workforce programs — S. 2012 contains various provisions aimed at increasing training and career development within the energy industry, and

- Permanently Reauthorizes Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) — S. 2012 includes language to permanently reauthorize the LWCF. Funded by a portion of offshore drilling royalties, the LWCF is

since both contain significant differences.

Inclusion of the LWCF in the Senate bill, and other provisions for land conservation, will set up a major battle with Western House members who oppose federal land acquisition. Meanwhile, the House bill includes provisions to streamline the permitting process for natural gas pipelines and allows pipeline siting on federal lands.

Last November, the White House issued a veto threat against H.R. 8 because it would "undermine already successful initiatives designed to modernize the Nation's energy infrastructure." **CN**





## BRIGHT IDEAS | MACOMB COUNTY, MICH.

# 'Vote-bot' Makes It Easy for Voting Age Teens to Register at School

**PROBLEM:** While most teens know they can vote at age 18, they often don't know how or where to register, or even that they need to.

**SOLUTION:** Make it easier for high school seniors to register to vote at school by using technology and a "telepresence" robot.

By Charles Taylor  
senior staff writer

Many high school students will turn 18 during their senior year, and by the time the November general election rolls around some will be away at college.

To make sure they're eligible to vote, each spring Macomb County Clerk Carmella Sabaugh's office does voter education outreach and registration at high schools.

Since 2014, instead of sending only a clerk's office staff person to the schools, a "Vote-bot" comes along to help with the job. It's what's known as a telepresence robot: a remote-controlled, wheeled device with a display that enables video chat and videoconferencing, among other options.

"My hope is that this technology will help get young people interested in voting," Sabaugh said. "More students visit the voter registration table with the robot than without."

In its first full year of use, 2014, the Vote-bot registered 576 students, according to Sabaugh's office. This year, invitations were sent to 31 high schools to gauge their interest



Crystal Brenner of the county clerk/registerar's office poses with the Vote-bot. Photo courtesy of Macomb County, Mich.

in a Vote-bot visit.

The robot comprises a motorized, self-balancing stand — similar to a Segway scooter — with a tablet computer attached. It runs customized software provided by the vendor and cost the clerk's office about \$2,000.

An elections department staff member is the face on the robot's screen and operates the robot — including steering — from the main county clerk's office over a Wi-Fi connection to an iPad.

The clerk's Elections Department does an annual voter registration drive each spring — this year, it's now through June — that also reaches out to all graduating seniors in the county's school districts. Sabaugh's office arranges to have the Vote-bot attend graduation preparation events, government classes or school assemblies.

One advantage for 18 year olds who will be going off to college is that if they register in person, at a county office or through the Vote-bot, they

are automatically eligible to vote absentee in their first election. That's a benefit not available to those who register by mail.

This isn't the clerk's first foray into cutting-edge technology. In 2012, Google honored Sabaugh as a "Government Transformer" for her office's embrace of technology. Last year, her office worked with Uber, the ride-hailing company, on a pilot program to provide free rides to the courthouse for jurors — at no cost to the county — a "first of its kind" partnership, according to the transportation network company.

Crystal Brenner, an administrative coordinator in the clerk's office, said the office is always on the lookout for "interesting technology," and that's how it became aware of telepresence robots. "The robot caught our eye as a possibly creative way to generate interest in voter registration."

Sabaugh's office believes it may be the first in the nation to use Vote-bots to register voters. More broadly, telepresence robots are being used in a variety of settings, such as in schools for remote learning, hospitals and museums.

The technology intelligence research firm Tractica predicts that 31,600 telepresence robots will be in use worldwide by 2020 — a nearly 50 percent increase over the most recent 4,200 in 2015. **CN**

*Bright Ideas features noteworthy and award-winning programs.*

## American Psychiatric Association launches new award at Summit

From SUMMIT page 3

rence of mental illness in jails despite lower population density (see page 2).

Pennsylvania Secretary of Corrections John Wetzel, who worked as a correctional officer in Franklin and Berks counties, said counties had to have clear plans for where offenders would go each step of the way, and make it clear who will benefit.

"If what you're doing, I can't draw a line to how it's going to benefit me, I'm not inclined to invest," he said.

Council of State Governments Director Michael Thompson sketched the future of the Stepping Up initiative, which may include providing technical assistance to counties that demonstrate potential for reducing the number of people with mental illness in their jails and designing and implementing state and local collaborations in selected jurisdictions.

CSG is considering holding an annual national summit of county teams and a diverse

group of stakeholders to advance comprehensive plans for system change and highlight promising practices and help counties track their progress.

During the summit, the American Psychiatric Association presented the inaugural American Psychiatric Excellence (APEX) Awards to House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), Sen. Al Franken (D-Minn.), Florida Sen. Miguel Díaz de la Portilla (R-Miami-Dade County), journalist Cokie Roberts and the television show *Orange Is the New Black*.

"The APEX event was a tremendous success," said APA President Renée Binder, M.D. "The compelling conversation between political commentator and emcee Cokie Roberts and the cast members of *Orange Is the New Black* raised awareness of the issue of the criminalization of people with mental illness. I truly believe those in attendance left with a better understanding of the problem and a willingness to go back to their home states and take action." **CN**

## Elected leaders key in quest to divert mentally ill from jails

From RURAL page 2

swered, your calls returned," he said. "Get to know your state and where your elected officials can work the pressure points, push a button and get people to respond to you."

But the staff can do a lot to inform elected officials.

"We take the approach that we don't ask for something outright, we ask what we should be doing," Peterson said.

On another panel, one made up of mid-sized and rural jail administrators, Pacific County, Wash. Chief Deputy Patrick Matlock remarked that he had to keep perspective on where mental-health services fit overall.

"It's my duty and my job to educate the sheriff about what

we're doing and how it's going to work, but a lot of times it's just a minor piece of his day," he said.

Both Fleming and Peterson cautioned against relying on foundation money, Fleming arguing that losing grants after they expire would leave county services in the lurch and Peterson saying limited staff is better spent elsewhere.

Counties starting to tackle the problem should keep in mind that success is incremental and tailor expectations accordingly.

"For someone who is spending 300 nights a year in jail, it's unrealistic to say he's going to be able to stay out completely, so maybe the goal is 250 nights in a year," she said. "That's a 50-night improvement. Fifty days of success." **CN**



MONEYMATTERS%

A Best Practice from the Government Finance Officers Association

To Keep Grants Administration on Target

Establish an Oversight Committee

State and local governments often receive significant grants from other governments and organizations to support their programs and activities. Often grants come with requirements that apply to operations, compliance, sub-recipient monitoring and reporting. Typically there are negative consequences for failing to meet these requirements, such as the need to return funds to the grantor. Likewise, a grant may result in a program that continues, or an

asset that must be maintained, well beyond the expiration of the grant.

Recommendation:

To help avoid these negative consequences or unanticipated burdens, the GFOA recommends that governments create both a grant administrative oversight policy (grant policy) and a grant administrative oversight committee (oversight committee) to ensure adherence to that policy.

A grant policy should: 1) require that certain steps be taken before applying for or accepting grants; and 2) address issues related to the ongoing operations of the grant. For example, rather than presuming that a grant will be renewed or continued, a grant policy should require that a grant-funded program or asset be evaluated before making a decision to renew or continue.

A centralized grant oversight committee should analyze grants before they are accepted, renewed or continued to determine whether acceptance, renewal or continuation would be appropriate. The GFOA recommends that a grant oversight committee be both interdisciplinary and permanent, and meet no less frequently than once each quarter. The composition of the oversight committee should be as follows:

1. Representatives on the committee should include at a minimum the chief financial officer (CFO), budget manager, assistant city, county or town manager, or equivalent; internal auditor, or equivalent; grants administrator or coordinator, and at least one department head (selection

can be done on a rotating basis after a minimum term is served).

2. In addition to the permanent members of the committee there should be flexibility to appoint subject-matter experts on an ad hoc basis to help address specialized situations. As an example, there may be a need to deliberate human resources or legal issues. Depending on the need for these ad hoc members they may only need to be included for a short period of time.

The GFOA recommends that the oversight committee be involved *before* applying for, accepting, renewing or continuing a grant to ensure that all of the following occur:

1. A department or agency that is seeking a new grant or renewing an existing grant notifies the committee of its intent, which prompts the committee to analyze all applicable grant requirements before a decision to accept or renew is made.

2. A department or agency seeking a grant describes to the committee how the grant is consistent with the government's mission, strategic priorities or adopted plans. The fact that the grant would provide additional funding for a department is not reason, of itself, to attempt to obtain the grant.

3. A department or agency seeking resources performs a cost or benefit analysis prior to grant application or acceptance. As necessary, the department should perform the analysis with assistance from those with special expertise (e.g., engineers). This analysis would also include costs that the government may incur at

the expiration or termination of the grant and costs that may be incurred because of requirements for the government to continue certain activities or programs after the grant expires or terminates.

4. Oversight responsibility (both departmental and individual) is assigned for any new or renewed programs or activities that result from the grant, including responsibility for the financial reporting required by the grant.

5. It is determined how the grant will be monitored, including the monitoring of any sub-recipients that may receive pass-through grants.

6. It is determined that proper resources will be available to support the grant (e.g., financial, human resource, information technology, etc.).

7. There is an evaluation of the potential need for the government to incur personnel costs after the term of the grant. Such costs could be for personnel that will terminate with the expiration or termination of the grant (e.g., severance, unemployment, etc.), or costs that the government may incur because of a need to retain employees for a specified period after the grant expires or terminates (e.g., a public safety grant that requires law enforcement personnel to remain employed for a specified period of time); and

8. There is an evaluation of the potential that the government will incur operating and maintenance costs for assets after the expiration of the grant. **CN**

Approved by GFOA's Executive Board, January 2015  
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WORD SEARCH

PASCO COUNTY, FLA.  
LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS FEATURED COUNTY IN 'BEHIND THE SEAL'  
Created By: Charles Taylor

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

- ANTIQUE SHOPS Numerous are located in Dade City

CLOTHING OPTIONAL County is home to several nudist parks and resorts, and clothing-optional communities

DADE CITY County seat

GULF OF MEXICO Forms county's western border

HERNANDO County from which Pasco was formed

NEW PORT RICHEY Largest city, population-wise (pop. 15,100)

ORLANDO City approx. 50 miles east of the county

PINELLAS County to the southwest
- PIONEER FLORIDA MUSEUM Museum and village highlighting life in the 1800s

SAMUEL PASCO Former U.S. senator and state legislator after whom county was named

SUNCOAST PARKWAY AKA State Road 589, runs north-south the length of the county

TAMPA Located about 30 miles to the south

TEN Number of sites on the National Register of Historic Places

TRILLACOOCHIE Unincorporated community in northeast Pasco County

ZEPHYRHILLS City (pop. 14,000) in the county





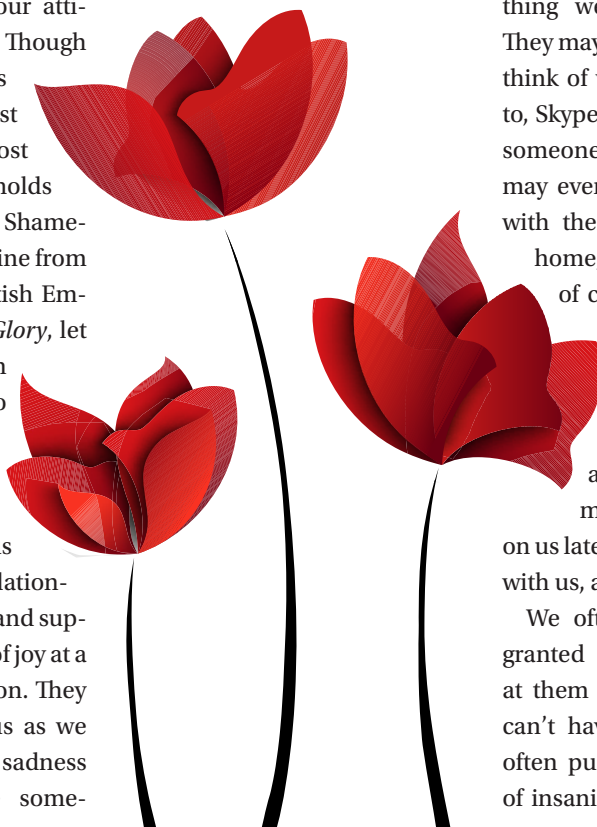
# Mother Remembered

Now that many of us have spent Earth Day and Arbor Day in total awe of the power and beauty of Mother Nature in shaping our existence, it is time to focus on the celebration of a much more personal shaper of each of us — our very own mothers. Every one of us was brought into the world by a mother. Reproductive sciences may be able to help with in-vitro fertilization or in screening for genetic diseases, but somewhere along the line, a mom (not to mention a dad) was very heavily involved in the process.

Mothers are amazing creatures. We owe our lives to them and in most cases the growth

and development of our attitudes and behaviors. Though family structure has changed especially fast in recent decades, most single-parent households are headed by moms. Shamelessly reinterpreting a line from the anthem of the British Empire, *Land of Hope & Glory*, let us consider “How can we extoll thee, we who are born of thee?”

Our mothers, perhaps even more than our dads, introduce us into the world of relationships. They nurture us and support us as we cry tears of joy at a wedding or a graduation. They hug us and comfort us as we cry tears of grief and sadness when we experience some-



thing we regard as terrible. They may be the first person we think of when we need to talk to, Skype to, email to, a trusted someone for advice or help. We may even return home to live with them after we have left home, as about 20 percent of children between ages 25 and 34 do in our country. In 1980, in case you are curious, that number was about 11 percent. They may also be dependent on us later in their lives and live with us, as about 4 percent do.

We often take mothers for granted or whine incessantly at them as children when we can’t have our way. We may often push them to the brink of insanity with our stubborn-

ness. Yet they are there for us. They change our diapers, sing our lullabies, wipe our noses, and see to our needs for food, learning and security.

They put up with our “terrible twos” even when that period of annoying behavior lasts well past a one-year period. We often do not appreciate all that they went through for us and how much our lives really represent an extension of their own hopes and dreams. That appreciation may not come until after they have passed away.

It is altogether fitting to create a holiday celebrating mothers, notwithstanding the urging of the greeting card companies. They fully deserve our applause and honor every day of the year. **CN**



**MAY 25–27, 2016**  
TETON COUNTY  
(JACKSON HOLE), WYOMING  
SNOW KING HOTEL & SNOW KING SPORTS  
AND EVENTS CENTER

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WORKSHOPS  
SUCH AS:

- Is Your County Prepared?  
Responding to Active Shooter Incidents*
- Creating Fire Adapted Communities*
- Strengthening Local Road Safety*

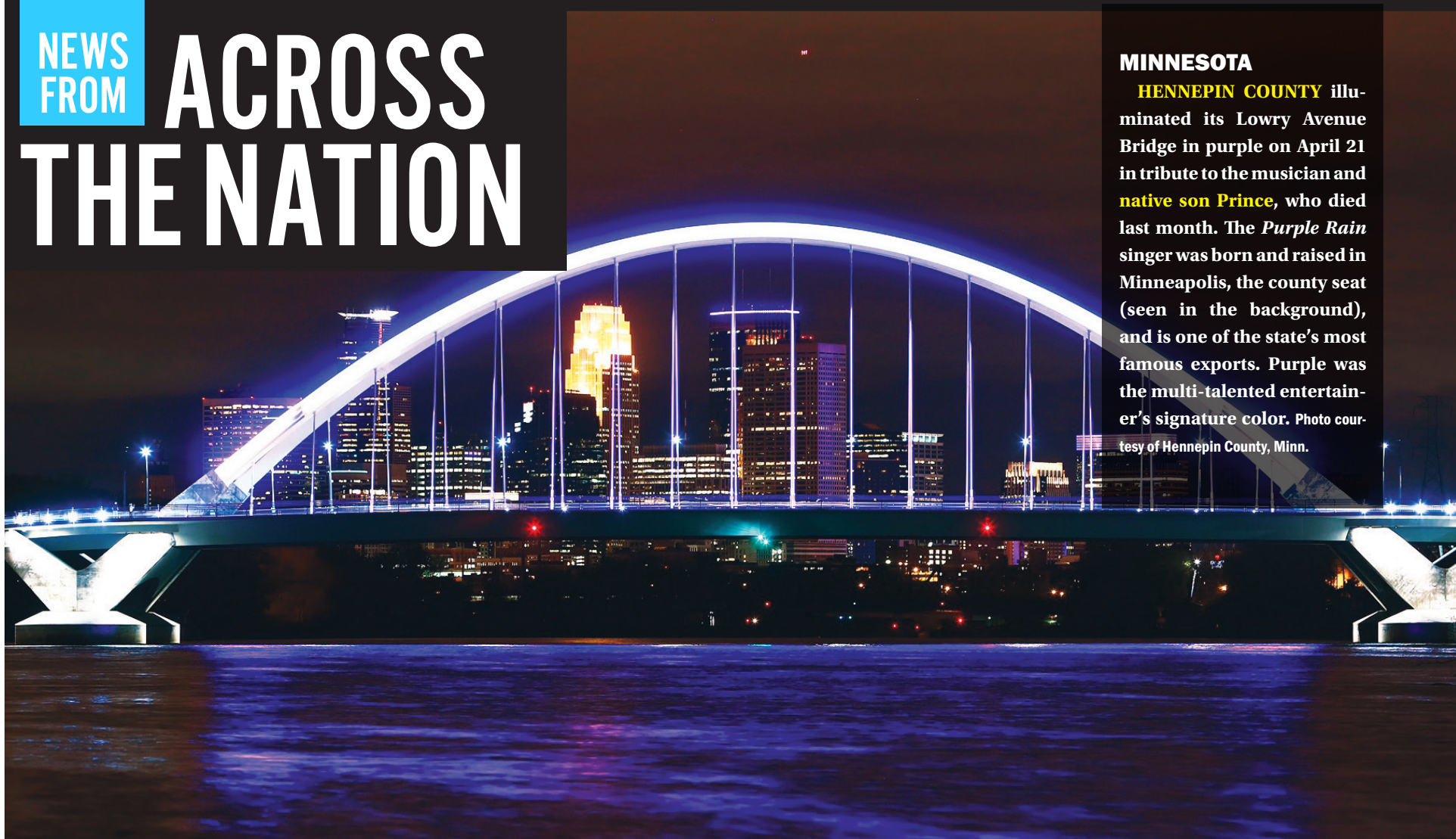
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A COMPLETE LIST AND REGISTER TODAY!



# NEWS FROM ACROSS THE NATION



## MINNESOTA

**HENNEPIN COUNTY** illuminated its Lowry Avenue Bridge in purple on April 21 in tribute to the musician and **native son Prince**, who died last month. The *Purple Rain* singer was born and raised in Minneapolis, the county seat (seen in the background), and is one of the state's most famous exports. Purple was the multi-talented entertainer's signature color. Photo courtesy of Hennepin County, Minn.

## ALASKA

Voters in **KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH** won't get the chance to decide whether **commercial marijuana operations** should be legal outside the borough's cities.

Borough Assembly President Blaine Gilman pulled a measure he sponsored to put the question to voters, saying it should be up to citizen petitioners to place the issue on the ballot, according to the *Peninsula Clarion*.

"I expect that there will be sufficient signatures and it will be an issue that is on the ballot in October," he said.

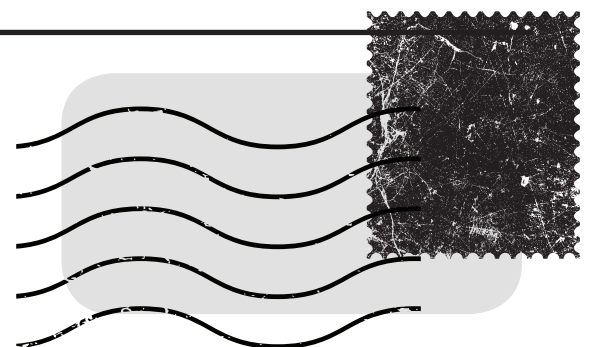


## ARIZONA

The phrase "you've got mail" likely generated some excitement for certain inmates at **MARICOPA COUNTY**'s 4th Avenue Jail.

Sheriff Joe Arpaio's office discovered that **methamphetamine sprayed onto legal papers** — and allowed to dry — was being mailed to inmates.

In a similar case from Washington state, prison officials told the *Columbian* that inmates consumed the drug by eating the paper, smoking it or soaking it in water, heating the extract and then inhaling the fumes.



## CALIFORNIA

**SAN DIEGO COUNTY**'S Housing Authority has approved using up to \$400,000 for an incentive program for **landlords who rent to homeless veterans**.

Landlords may apply for leasing bonuses, security deposit and utility assistance, damage claim reimbursements and more.

According to the county's 2015 homeless census, 15 percent of the region's homeless individuals served in the military.

## FLORIDA

The **HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY** Board of Commissioners has approved a \$40 million deal to keep the **New York Yankees' spring training** site in the Tampa area until 2046, the *Tampa Bay Times* reported.

The vote was unanimous.

According to the newspaper, \$13 million in tourism tax dollars will be committed to the renovation of George Steinbrenner Field, where the team plays exhibition games. The deal is still contingent on the state's matching that amount through a spring-training retention fund. The Yankees would pay \$13 million.

The deal still needs approval by Tampa's City Council, the county's aviation authority and Hillsborough Community College.

## GEORGIA

**CLAYTON COUNTY** voters will be able to **cast their ballots on Sundays** for the May primary and November general elections this year.

The Board of Commissioners

recently approved advance voting for May 15 and Oct. 30.

This is the second time the county has offered Sunday voting. In 2014, it joined Atlanta-area counties **DEKALB** and **FULTON**, and others, in allowing Sunday voting, news-daily.com reported.

## ILLINOIS

This month, **COOK COUNTY** commissioners are poised to consider creating a registry for **convicted animal abusers**. Commissioners John Fritchey and Luis Arroyo are advocating for it.

"We've seen time and time again that people who abuse animals not only tend to be repeat offenders, but when you see this kind of behavior, especially in younger individuals, it also leads to crimes against

other people as they get older," Fritchey told CBS Chicago.

Fines of up to \$5,000 would be imposed on known abusers who obtain a pet or on pet stores that sell to an abuser.

## INDIANA

Commissioners in **WAYNE** and **SCOTT counties** voted unanimously to seek the state's permission to start or continue **needle exchange programs**. It's part of an effort to slow the spread of the hepatitis C and HIV viruses from injection drug users into the general population.

Scott County wants to extend its existing program for another year. Wayne County's program has been in the planning stages

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since 2015, according to the Associated Press.

Last year under a new state law, the state department of health approved one-year needle exchange programs for Scott and three other counties: **FAYETTE, MADISON and MONROE.**

## NEW JERSEY

**MONMOUTH COUNTY** will maintain a voluntary county-wide **special needs registry** to share information about vulnerable citizens with police officers in different municipalities.

The county prosecutor's office, sheriff's office and county chiefs of police will keep track of the needs of an estimated 10 percent of county residents, totaling more than 60,000.

The confidential information is available for dispatchers to communicate to responding officers. Families who join the registry will also be given stickers for their cars and homes so that officers can spot the decals when they arrive at the scene, the *New Jersey Advance* reported.

## NEW MEXICO

**CURRY COUNTY's** jail expansion plans are on hold while **ROOSEVELT COUNTY** commissioners explore the possibility of a **four-county jail** along with **DE BACA and QUAY counties.**

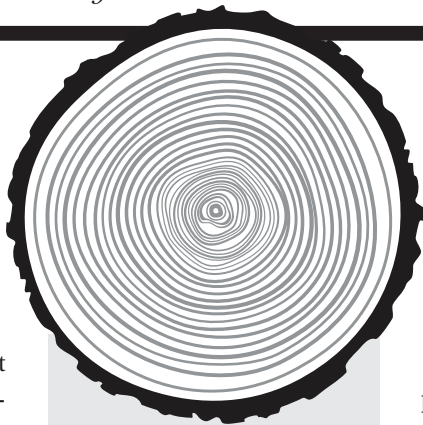
Both Curry and Roosevelt jails have been plagued with problems in recent years, including multiple escapes at each facility, the *Clovis News Journal* reported.

## NEW YORK

After the state required pay increases for district attorneys, smaller entrant New York counties are planning to demand that the state pay for them.

**CAYUGA, OSWEGO, MADISON and COURTLAND counties** are considering passing resolutions to that effect.

The raises are "causing a great deal of chaos right now," said Steve Acquario, executive director of the **NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES**, according to the *Syracuse Post-Standard*. "Local boards



## OREGON

**Revised logging plans** for western Oregon released by the Bureau of Land Management would increase the amount of timber harvest in forests but has not dissuaded 17 counties from their plans to sue to overturn the plans.

"We have no choice but to litigate, and we are on firm legal ground in doing so," **COLUMBIA COUNTY** Commissioner Tony Hyde said in a statement. "The BLM refused to even consider revenues for counties as an objective in developing its plan."

Hyde is president of the Association of O&C Counties, which is leading the lawsuit.

The current annual harvest level for those lands is 203 million board feet of timber, and the new plans increase the harvest to 278 million board feet. The association wants an annual harvest of 500 million board feet, *The Register-Guard* reported.

don't have the salary in the 2016 budget. It's hard to find that under property tax cap."

This is the first time in history that the state hasn't paid for raises that it required counties to give their district attorneys, Acquario said. It wouldn't cost the state much to reimburse the counties: \$1.5 million statewide, he added.

## TEXAS

The **MCLELLAN COUNTY** attorney is advocating for a policy that will deter "**intentionally abusive**" open records requests and allow counties to charge high-volume requesters

for staff time.

"There's an inherent flaw where government assumes that people are going to use the (public information) act responsibly and for proper purposes," Mike Dixon told the *Waco Tribune*. "All too often people use it as a means to inflict cost, inflict a lot of burden on governmental entities."

The government can charge for the cost of materials needed to make copies of records but generally not for staff time required to process requests. Dixon would like the county to take advantage of a provision in the Texas Public Information Act that allows a governmental body to establish a reasonable limit, not less than 36 hours in a 12-month period, on the amount of time personnel are required to spend producing public information for an individual. If requests go beyond a formally adopted limit, the requester can be required to pay for the costs to produce the public information, including staff time.

## VIRGINIA

**PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY** officials plan to change the way they **notify the public** of Board of Supervisors meetings.

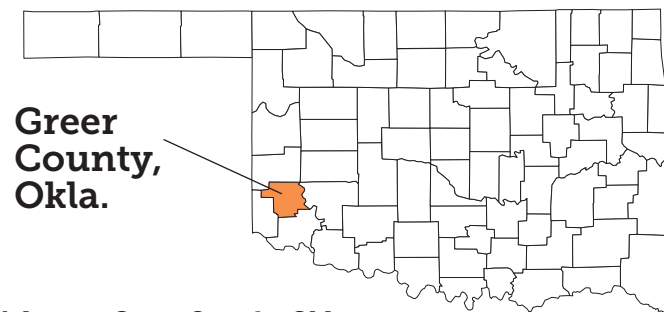
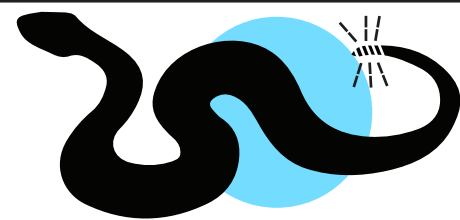
The change would include sending out a public meeting notice a week ahead of a board meeting — instead of the full meeting agenda — before sending out the agenda and board meeting packet a few days later, County Administrator Clarence Monday told the *Danville Register and Bee*.

Currently, late additions to the agenda cannot be added unless all board members are present at the meeting and they vote unanimously for the agenda change, he said.

Under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, the county is required to send out a public notice at least three business days before a meeting. **CN**

(News From the Across the Nation is compiled by Charles Taylor and Charlie Ban, senior staff writers. If you have an item for News From, please email [ctaylor@naco.org](mailto:ctaylor@naco.org) or [cban@naco.org](mailto:cban@naco.org).)

## GET TO KNOW...



## Greer County, Okla.

## Welcome, Greer County, Okla.

The county seat of Greer County — Mangum — **hosts an annual Rattlesnake Derby**, now in its 51st year, which just wrapped up May 1. The derby offers everything from carnival rides, a Miss Fang pageant and fashion show, a snake butchering demonstration as well as an opportunity to catch local rattlesnakes. It was featured in a 1998 *Sports Illustrated* article.



## PASCO COUNTY, FLORIDA

County Clerk and  
Comptroller's Office

Designed by: Paula O'Neil  
Introduced in: 2009

**W**hen Paula O'Neil was elected clerk of circuit court and Pasco County controller, one of her first acts was to create a seal to replace the office's use of the state of Florida's seal. Deputy clerks contributed with visual elements that would communicate what the clerk and comptroller's office did for Pasco County citizens.

Would you like to see your county's seal featured in Behind the Seal? Contact Charlie Ban at [cban@naco.org](mailto:cban@naco.org).

**Court System:** A drawing of the historic courthouse located in Dade City, the county seat, tops the middle of the seal, representing both the history of Pasco County and the clerk's role in the justice system.

**Recorder of Deeds:** In the bottom left of the interior of the seal, an ink well and scroll represent the recording duties of the clerk and comptroller.

**Comptroller:** The financial symbol displayed in the bottom right of the seal represents the comptroller functions of the clerk and comptroller. The symbol can also be found on the one dollar bill and contains the all-seeing eye and triangular glory, signifying the clerk and comptroller watching over the county's finances.



The seal includes the date of the county's founding — 1887 — out of Hernando County.

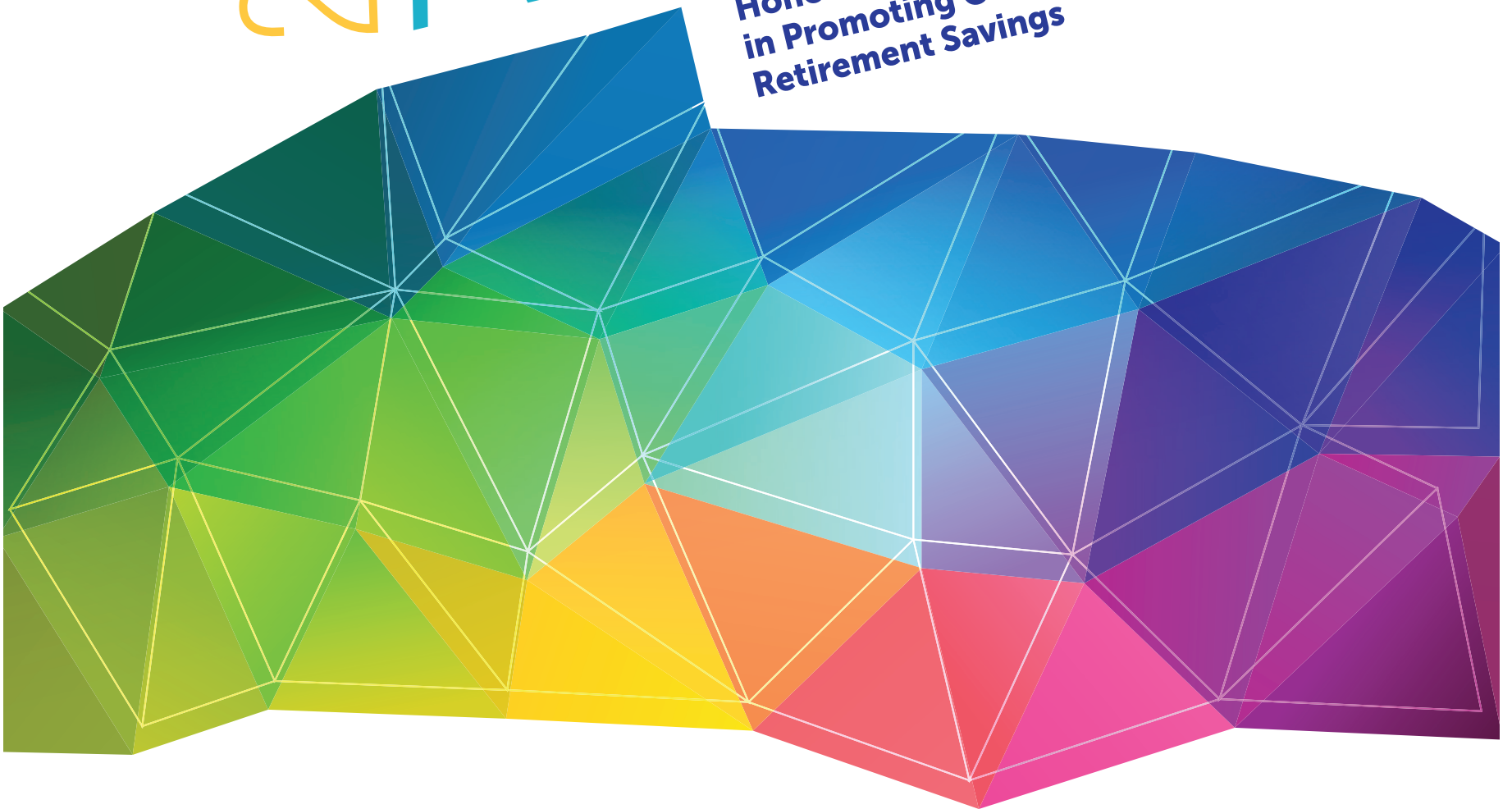
The red, white and blue motif represents the county's patriotism, commitment and inclusion in the United States.

In the outer, red circle, six stars represent the six municipalities in Pasco County: Dade City, New Port Richey, Port Richey, San Antonio, St. Leo and Zephyrhills.



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