



Supreme Court blocks citizenship question

by Lisa Soronen

Chief Justice Roberts joined his more liberal colleagues (Justices Ginsburg, Breyer, Sotomayor, and Kagan) concluding the reasons Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross gave for adding the citizenship question to the 2020 census were pretextual in violation of the Administrative Procedures Act (APA).

The Trump administration confirmed July 2 that it would not try further to include the question and the Commerce Department has instructed the printing contractor to begin work, various media outlets reported.

Since 1950, the decennial

See *CENSUS* page 13



Thousands of county officials will meet July 12-15 in Las Vegas/Clark County, Nev. for NACo's 84th Annual Conference & Exposition.

Clark County, Nev. hosts NACo's 84th Annual Conference

Nearly 3,000 county officials will descend on Clark County/Las Vegas, Nev. July 12-15 for NACo's 2019 Annual Conference & Exposition.

It's the largest yearly meeting of elected county officials, who will come together to shape the policy agenda heading into an election year and compare notes on how they work to realize their goals of fostering healthy, safe and vibrant counties across America.

Clark County is a study in the contrasts that make up the fabric of county government. Its population is among the 15th largest in the country and growing, but it is surrounded

by vast rural counties, most of which contain significant portions of federally managed land. The infrastructure and logistics necessary to keep the county running are impressive, and mobile workshops will give attendees an inside look at how it all works.

With jurisdiction over the world-famous Las Vegas Strip and covering an area the size of New Jersey, Clark County provides extensive regional services to more than 2.3 million citizens and more than 45.3 million visitors last year. Included are the nation's

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Looking back

EACH YEAR, COUNTY NEWS INTERVIEWS THE OUTGOING NACo PRESIDENT FOR A LOOK BACK ON THEIR TERM. SAN DIEGO COUNTY, CALIF. SUPERVISOR GREG COX OFFERS HIS REFLECTIONS HERE.

How would you describe your year as NACo president?

It's been exhilarating, eye-opening and very rewarding. I've been fortunate to serve as mayor of my hometown of Chula Vista, Calif., county supervisor for nearly 25 years, president of the League of California Cities and president of the California State Association of Counties. But nothing could have prepared me to serve as president of the National Association of Counties. As president, I had the honor and, quite frankly, the pressure of representing 3,069 counties in meetings at the White House, at countless state

association conferences and at NACo gatherings. It's a heavy responsibility but I enjoyed every minute of it.

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Greg Cox

San Diego County Supervisor Greg Cox looks back on his year as NACo president

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What was the most challenging part of your role?

The most challenging part was definitely the travel. I felt like a rock star on tour and waking up the next morning and wondering what city I was playing. It's hard for me to sleep on airplanes so the travel added a few gray hairs to my head.

What did you find most interesting or exciting?

Although it was a challenge, the travel provided me with a great opportunity to go across this incredible country of ours and get to meet so many different people and learn about

the many counties that make up America and the individual challenges they face. I've always believed counties offer the purest form of representative government because counties provide such a variety of services to people. Traveling to different counties allowed me to see the different ways local governments provide services and touch people's lives. To paraphrase an old saying, "When you've seen one county, you've seen one county."

What are you most proud of?

I launched my presidential initiative of "Connecting the Unconnected" because in my home county, I had seen how our local 2-1-1 call system had

connected San Diegans to different services and resources. So, I was incredibly proud to see the initiative take root and expand, whether it be through the creation of a statewide 2-1-1 in South Dakota or through the expansion of the system we have in other states, including California, where 2-1-1 covers 58 counties that total 39.6 million residents.

None of this would be possible without a healthy NACo. This year, we saw an all-time high of 2,407 NACo members at last count. That shows our support is strong.

What advice would you give your successor?

Invest in a sleep mask and a comfortable travel pillow for

those long airplane flights.


What's next for you?

I have 18 months left in my term as county supervisor and I have a long list of projects that I want to accomplish before I leave. I'm looking forward to crossing those items off my list and really just spending more time with my constituents.

Final thoughts?

Let me say, first, thank you to the NACo staff for helping to guide me through an incredibly busy year. I can only imagine how difficult it must be for the staff to start each year with a new president and get used to his or her personality and style. Let me also thank my staff back in San Diego, who did a tremen-


dous job keeping the office running and addressing the needs of constituents when I was on the road fulfilling my duties as NACo president.

Lastly, my sincere and heartfelt gratitude to all the county elected officials and employees who I met throughout my travels. County governments throughout our nation do a great job of serving their residents and helping them get back on their feet during emergencies and I am proud to call myself a NACo member! 


Hon. Greg Cox
NACo President

SNAP/STATS

HOW ARE TOURISTS SPENDING VACATION DOLLARS?



A BREAKDOWN OF DOMESTIC TRAVEL EXPENDITURES

EXPENDITURE	PERCENT
Food services.....	25%
Public transportation	20%
Lodging	20%
Auto transportation	18%
Recreation/amusement.....	11%
Retail.....	7%

Source: U.S. Travel Association

Viva Clark County!

by Katie Walpole

It's the entertainment capital of the world. It's home to some of the largest hotels in the world. It's famous for its majestic Red Rocks. It's home to 2.25 million residents who live, work, and play in one of the most fabulous places on the planet. And, for four days and nights, it will be the site of NACo's 84th Annual Conference starting July 12. Welcome to Clark County!

In addition to committee meetings, educational sessions and general sessions covering topics relating to county government, attendees, spouses, companions and children will have the opportunity to experience a wide array of activities in Clark County.

For lovers of the great outdoors, Lake Mead, Mt. Charles-

ton, Red Rock Canyon and the spectacular Valley of Fire are perfect sites for a visit. All within a short driving distance, you will be amazed at the majestic beauty of the earth.

Interested in checking out one of the industrial wonders of the world? Head over to the Hoover Dam to take the tour, buy some souvenirs and take some cool photos. For those

wishing to stay cool, visit an ice bar, experience the wonder and tragedy of the world's most famous ocean liner, the Titanic, or play a round of mini-golf at one of the themed courses.

Need to burn off some stress while in town? Check out Dig This Las Vegas, where you can play with a bulldozer or play ex-

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The Aviators baseball team play at the Las Vegas Ballpark.

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NACo



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Nearly 3,000 county officials to attend NACo conference

From CONFERENCE page 1

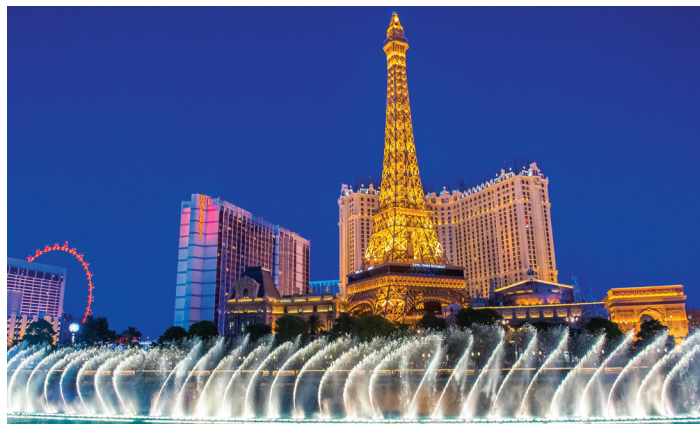
ninth-busiest airport, air quality compliance, social services and the state's largest public hospital, University Medical Center. The County also provides municipal services that are traditionally provided by cities to more than 1 million residents in the unincorporated area. Those include fire protection, roads and other public works, parks and recreation, and planning and development.

The famed Las Vegas Strip sits at the heart of Clark County featuring unparalleled attractions like dancing fountains, a replica of the renowned Eiffel Tower, an erupting volcano and some of the world's largest and most beautiful resorts. Millions of people visit annually to enjoy fine restaurants, shop a dazzling array of stores and relax at luxurious spas. Las Vegas boasts more than 147,000 hotel rooms and is

among the world's top convention destinations.

Keynote speakers at the NACo Annual Conference include Chris Pilkerton, acting administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration and Jeanette Betancourt, senior vice president for U.S. Social Impact at Sesame Workshop, the nonprofit organization behind Sesame Street. David Kwong, a crossword puzzle writer for *The New York Times*, will dazzle General Session audiences with illusions and Roy Spence, co-founder and CEO of the Purpose Institute, will beseech attendees to seize the opportunities in front of them and achieve their own potential.

Attendees will also select NACo's incoming second vice president July 15 — election credentials must be claimed by Sunday, July 14 at 1 p.m. This year, three candidates have announced their intention to run for the second vice



president slot (see pages 6-8). The election is preceded by votes on Sunday, July 14, on NACo's Policy Platform and resolutions.

Dozens of workshops will explore everything from the economic impact of outdoor recreation, using technology to break down barriers in the justice system, the ins and outs of working with the Army Corps of Engineers and much more. Attendees will have a chance to gather between meetings and workshops at a sunrise bike ride Saturday, July 13,

as well as at two celebratory events bookending the conference. The first official day of the conference, Friday, July 12, will be crowned with the Opening Reception at Drai's, which offers panoramic views of the Las Vegas strip from a rooftop venue at the Cromwell Hotel & Casino.

The conference's Closing Celebration will take place Monday, July 15 at Brooklyn Bowl, with attendees enjoying sounds from the Australian Bee Gees before they head home. **CN**

Experience Clark County

From ACTIVITIES page 2

cavator basketball. Want to experience what it was like when The Mob ran Las Vegas? Head to The Mob Museum to explore the real stories and actual events of Mob history while drinking some moonshine in the newly opened The Speakeasy.

Are peanuts, Cracker Jacks and rooting for the home team more your style? Check out the brand new Las Vegas Ballpark and root on the Aviators! Look for discount codes available on the 2019 NACo Conference website and app, as well as at the Clark County Hospitality Desk.

Whatever activity you choose in Clark County, you will be sure to have a great time! Get discounts here: <https://www.naco.org/articles/viva-clark-county#discounts>. **CN**

Katie Walpole is a senior management analyst for Clark County.

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of COUNTIES

2020 NACo
**ANNUAL
CONFERENCE
AND EXPOSITION**

ORANGE COUNTY/ORLANDO, FLORIDA | JULY 17-20

save the date

Road-weary commissioner travels to 2018 Annual Conference on a budget



by Jim Doherty

I was beginning to feel grounded, the rocking of the rhythm of the rails finally ebbing from my cross-country train ride to Washington, D.C. I had not fully absorbed the principles, nor the practical application of the County Leadership Institute, so I was a bit surprised when an email arrived from NACo, urging me to attend the 2018 Annual Conference and assist the first-time attendees as an ambassador.

I had to ask myself, could I make a difference? Could I deliver a value to Oregon and more importantly Morrow County on a national level?

I thought of my friend and mentor, state Sen. Bill Hansell, who was involved with NACo for 32 years, serving as president in 2005-2006. He left his mark and delivered services to Oregon and our neighboring county, Umatilla.

My fellow commissioners graciously offered to cover my local responsibilities for the week, so I was fast running out of excuses.

The die cast on my trip, I shifted my focus and began watching Timothy Ward's travel tip channel. If I was going

to make this voyage to NACo's Annual Conference, I was going to save as much money on this venture to Nashville as I could. That meant booking a seat and boarding the Greyhound bus! Along with saving hundreds of dollars, I surmised that no "artist" was discovered flying into Music City on a 747. Country songs are replete with the romantic notion of a busker, guitar on his back, strolling off the Greyhound bus and into our hearts.

With a modicum of trepidation, I watched "How to Survive a Cross-Country Greyhound Trip." Ward told viewers to sit as close as possible to the driver, don't sleep and don't venture into the restrooms on the bus or in the terminals. And for heaven's sake, do not speak or make eye contact with these gypsies, tramps and thieves.

Eager and undaunted, I stood at the front of the line at 2 a.m., in Stanfield, Ore. With riders already on the bus from Portland, I was still able to commandeer a survivable location, two seats back of the first of many callous conductors. These drivers left little doubt who was in charge. I learned quickly they played fast and loose with rules regarding requisite stops. They had little sympathy for those gripped by nicotine or commissioners in dire need of walking some kinks out. If they found a spot for a break, we had 15 minutes but it was best to be back in 10.

Some 10 hours into the trip, my angst was giving way to en-



Morrow County, Ore. Commissioner Jim Doherty speaks up.

nui and a wish that I had funded a flight.

With Twin Falls, Idaho shimmering in the distance, the big diesel engine commenced to knocking, then ceased to drone, and 50 passengers and the driver gave out a collective groan. We rolled to a stop on the shoulder... no engine, no air, and no less than 100 degrees out there. Shouts of murder, mayhem and muted panic ensued over the next three hours as we waited for a mechanic.

I'm no Ron Carlson, but I was able to convince our driver, that given the amount of oil and water soaking into the sand, his dog was dead. He made a call, and announced, "They are sending another bus out of Boise." Its hour-and-a-half ETA caused a scene that made the driver wish for a riot.

The travel guru had not prepared me for this! Only a dozen pizzas, delivered on the side of the road, quelled the uprising. Our shift in per-

spective as we sat in the meager shade consuming Canadian bacon, was just short of biblical.

Any thoughts of catching connecting buses was out the window, so I rolled into Nashville 61 hours later and a mere 15 minutes before my ambassador training. An hour into the meeting, I noticed that my fellow ambassadors were a little off-standish. I wasn't sure why until I realized I was in the same clothes that I had put on 2,166.9 miles before.

Those clothes ended up in a dumpster out in the back of a Cracker Barrel in Nashville.

The conference started off with a bang. I was at the first-time attendee breakfast meeting wearing my ambassador badge. I had 20 first-time attendees under my tutelage out of a record 570. I'd scarce begun my delivery when one of the newbies noted my own first-time attendee lanyard. This, in short, became the message: I and they alike could wade forth and do our level best, we need not shirk in the shadows. This

seemed to resonate as I watched my cohort routinely enter the fray throughout the week. With 3,000 seasoned statesmen and women in attendance, having your voice heard necessitated some moxie.

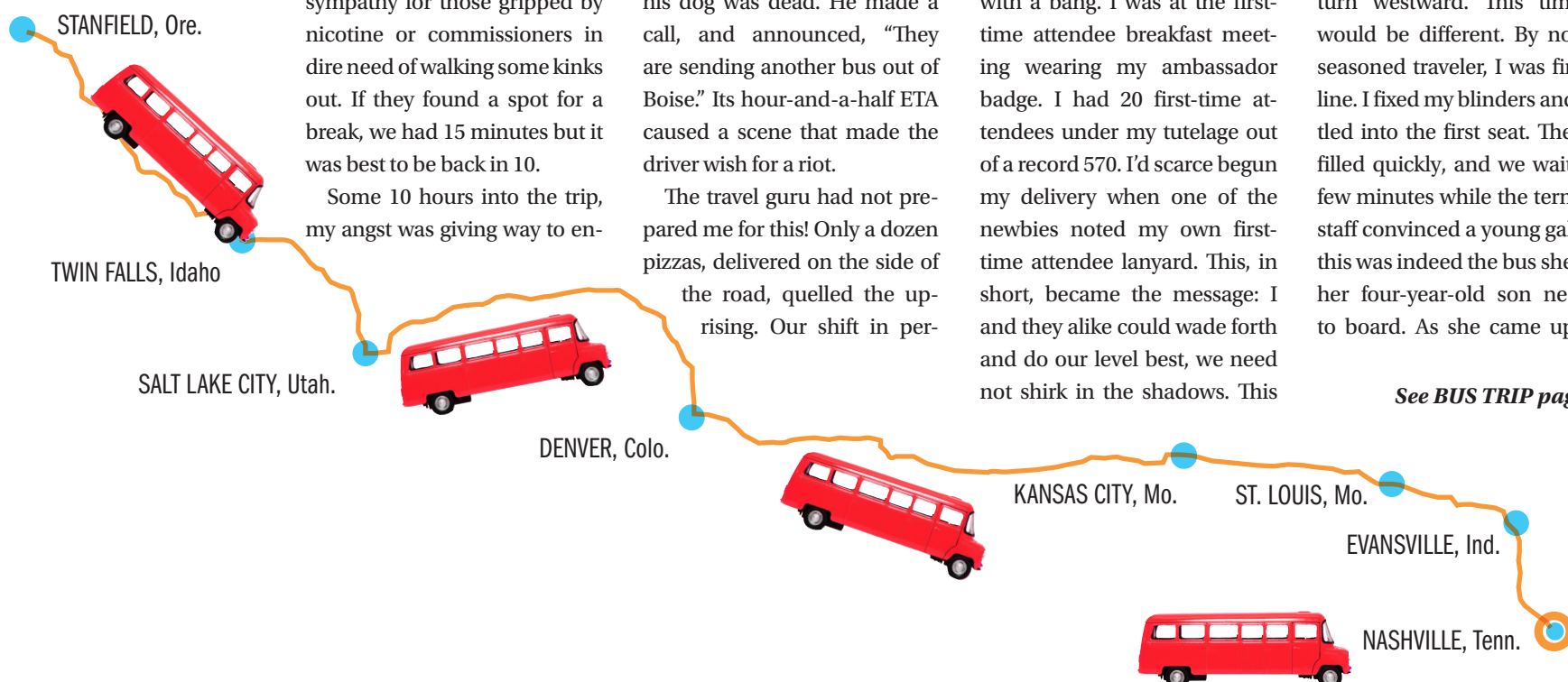
From morning till night, I tried to make a difference — from Ag and Rural Affairs, Health and Human Services, Public Lands and Public Safety to fighting for Veterans Choice initiatives. Near to my heart were meetings on the intrinsic knowledge that without arts and culture, we have no foundation. When and where it behooved us, I joined in the call to move federal legislation. When ill-conceived ideas reared their heads, I pushed back. When I was unsure about the proper stance, I listened and hoped to ask my constituents who were more affected.

It was not "all work and no play." Disappointed that my talents were not "discovered" on the road, I joined 17 other Oregon delegates at the Grand Ole Opry show.

There and back again

With my head filled with knowledge and advice from commissioners from across the country, I began my return westward. This time, it would be different. By now, a seasoned traveler, I was first in line. I fixed my blinders and settled into the first seat. The bus filled quickly, and we waited a few minutes while the terminal staff convinced a young gal that this was indeed the bus she and her four-year-old son needed to board. As she came up the

See BUS TRIP page 16



Weigh in on EPA, Army Corps' compensatory mitigation regulations

by Zach George

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Army Corps) held a "Pre-Proposal State and Local Government Outreach" meeting June 20 on their upcoming efforts to review and revise regulations — "Compensatory Mitigation for Losses of Aquatic Resources," also known as the Mitigation Rule.

Promulgated by the EPA and the Army Corps in 2008, the Mitigation Rule establishes standards and regulations for compensatory mitigation projects. Compensatory mitigation refers to the restoration, establishment, enhancement and/or preservation of wetlands, streams or other aquatic resources to offset unavoidable adverse impacts to these resources.

For example, counties undertaking infrastructure-related projects may be required to "mitigate" if the project impacts wetlands. If the project does not have enough available "wetlands" on site to mitigate, counties may be required to buy mitigation in-lieu fee credits through mitigation banks. For more information on these mechanisms, view EPA's fact sheet here: <https://bit.ly/2Xhvjgh>.

According to the agencies, this action is tied to the Trump Administration's Legislative Outline for Rebuilding Infrastructure in America, which outlines the administration's infrastructure priorities and principles.

Specifically, the administration calls on the removal of duplications in the review process for mitigation banking by eliminating the Inter Agency Review Team (IRT). IRT — which includes representatives from EPA, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries, the Natural

Resources Conservation Service and other federal, state and local agencies — is responsible for facilitating the establishment of mitigation banks and ILF program instruments.

Potential changes to compensatory mitigation regulations are relevant to local governments as they frequently undertake mitigation as part of road and bridge projects. With counties owning and managing 46 percent of the nation's road miles and 38 percent of the nation's bridges, counties are often required to mitigate against environmental impacts to receive federal permits.

During the consultation, EPA and Army Corps provided a detailed PowerPoint presentation (see it here: <https://bit.ly/2KQUU93>) which reviewed the current Mitigation Rule and outlined potential changes for consideration. The agencies are specifically looking for feedback on the following:

- Whether the Interagency Review Team (IRT) process

See MITIGATE page 20

EPA finalizes Affordable Clean Energy rule, replacing CPP

by Zach George

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released its final Affordable Clean Energy (ACE) rule June 19 to address greenhouse gas emissions, officially rescinding and replacing the Clean Power Plan (CPP) — a signature climate change rule issued under the Obama Administration in 2015 that was never implemented. (See the ACE rule here: <https://bit.ly/31JAPqC>.)

The new rule follows President Trump's March 2017 Executive Order on "Promoting Energy Independence and Economic Growth," which directed the EPA to review the CPP and either rescind or revise it.

Slated to go into effect August 19, ACE includes three separate rulemakings:

- First, the rule finalizes the repeal of CPP.
- Second, the rule establishes ACE, which sets emission guidelines for states to develop and submit plans to address greenhouse gas emissions from existing coal-fired power plants.
- Lastly, the rule finalizes regulations that provide direction to both the EPA and states on



implementing ACE.

ACE is a major shift from CPP's systemwide approach, which would have required nationwide greenhouse gas reduction requirements (CPP never went into effect after the U.S. Supreme Court voted to block the regulation in 2016).

The new rule directs states to develop individual plans to address greenhouse gas emissions from existing coal-fired power plants, but it does not set specific limits for emissions or targets on power plants.

States now have up to three years from the rule's effective date to draft state plans for EPA approval.

However, it is widely expected a lawsuit will be filed with the EPA to stop ACE from going

into effect, ultimately leading to a lengthy legal battle. Numerous groups have raised concerns that repealing CPP would roll back the progress the United States has made on reducing air pollution.

While NACo does not have policy on ACE or CPP, counties support federal policies and programs that provide assistance and mechanisms for counties along with other local and state governments to partner with federal and international entities in order to benefit economically from the global transition to a lower carbon economy. **EN**

Zach George is a legislative assistant in NACo's Government Affairs department.

ON THE MOVE

NACo OFFICERS

- First Vice President **Mary Ann Borgeson** spoke at the New Mexico Association of Counties' Annual Conference June 19-21 in Curry County.

NACo STAFF

- **Paul Terragno** has joined NACo Financial Services Corporation as managing director. Prior to joining NACo, Paul worked as vice president of business development and contract solutions at U.S. Communities. Before that, he worked as director of product management at U.S. Communities. Paul earned a bachelor's degree in Economics from the University of Maryland.
- **Rita Reynolds** has joined

NACo as the chief technology officer. She will be responsible for leading NACo's overall technology strategy, including oversight and management of internal IT as well as member-based technology solutions and program services for our nation's county government and strategic partners. She served as chief information officer and director of technology services for 20 years at the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania. She earned a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Messiah College and she also completed the Professional Development Academy in Cyber Security Leadership. Her start date was July 1.

- Associate Program Director **Rashida Brown** was recently chosen to be a part of the inaugural class of six policy fellows at the National Black Child Development Institute.
- Program Manager **Jack Morgan** participated in a workshop panel June 24 at the Association of Energy Services Professionals, Future-Proofing the Energy Industry Conference in Nashville-Davidson County, Tenn.
- Deputy Director of Government Affairs **Jack Peterson** spoke at the Midwest State Association Staff Retreat, held June 27-28 in Cook County, Ill.



Terragno



Reynolds



Meet the Candidates



NACo Second Vice President Candidate Platform

Ray Jeffers

Commisioner, Person County, N.C.



Jeffers

I respectfully ask for your vote to become your next NACo 2nd vice president. I appreciate all the ways NACo has made me a better commissioner and I have seen firsthand how counties become stronger when we unite, and I am eager to spread that message among county leaders across the country. I am seeking the position of 2nd vice president as a way to give back to our organization, unite our counties to find common solutions and energize and grow our membership.

I ran last year for NACo 2nd vice president and it was one of the greatest experiences of my life. I traveled all over the country to our NACo conferences. I met so many great people and heard about all the great things they are doing back home in their counties that we can share and replicate across the nation. I also heard their concerns and talked about how NACo could help them. Everyone I met over the last year inspired me to get back out there this year and I owe a special thanks to all my supporters, who encouraged

me to run again.

Currently serving my third term as county commissioner in Person County, North Carolina, I learned quickly how NACo could help me develop as a leader. I became involved in the organization as chair of NACo's Rural Action Caucus and continue to serve as a member of NACo's Board of Directors, now in my fifth term. NACo represents an important avenue for all county leaders to learn from one another.

Sharing best practices and creative strategies can help us build a prosperous future for our counties. If elected 2nd vice president, I will focus on tying together rural and urban areas through collaborative and innovative initiatives. Two areas of specific focus I will prioritize are increasing broadband access and strengthening our nation's agriculture industry.

Addressing key issues

My personal experiences as a rural commissioner and member of a multi-generational farming family inform

my perspectives on these issues. It's important to have an advocate who understands firsthand how these issues impact communities. This is what separates me from other candidates.

In Person County, North Carolina, we as county leaders worked with the private sector and other stakeholders to develop an innovative project to install 52 miles of fiber as part of a county-owned network that will connect most public facilities — such as county and city government buildings, public schools, volunteer fire departments, and more — to broadband.

I want to work with other counties that are seeking to expand broadband access to share and develop an inventory of best practices so we can help each other crack the nut on this complex issue. This is so important because the future is at stake for those communities without internet access.

Being from rural North Carolina and a local farmer, I know

the importance of agriculture to the local economy, the state and the nation. I know that when we take care of farmers it boosts the local economy and provides a critical community benefit — access to healthy, fresh food.

I want to help agriculture-producing rural counties join forces with urban counties to expand access to affordable and high-quality, fresh food. This is just one way that rural and urban counties can work together to address needs in our communities and improve health outcomes in all our counties. Healthy eating leads to healthy living and smart policies like this can also help reduce strains on county health services.

These issues are just a couple of ideas I wanted to share as you consider the choices for NACo 2nd vice president. Coming from a deep purple state with vibrant rural and urban communities and varied political views, I know that by working together we can achieve benefits for all. I'm eager to put my skills and experience to work for NACo to find common ground and discover new opportunities for collaboration among all our nation's counties.

Supporting each other

When I was first elected a county commissioner over 11 years ago, NACo served as an incredible resource for me.

Through my involvement with NACo, I built comradery with fellow county commissioners throughout the country and learned from their experiences. I also gained valuable insight from educational opportunities NACo provided, which allowed me to bring effective solutions back to my home county.

In North Carolina, we have taken the mantra that we are 100 counties but we are also one state. I took this approach as president of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners and it advanced our goals at the state legislature. As 2nd vice president of NACo, I intend to unite our members around a common purpose and work collaboratively toward solutions. Yes, we are 3,069 counties, parishes and boroughs, but we are one nation. And the more we can work together and understand each other's issues then we can move forward together as a nation.

I appreciate your consideration and invite you to read more about my background at www.rayfornaco.com and get in touch by emailing me at ray@rayfornaco.com. I would be honored to have your support and respectfully ask for your vote for NACo 2nd vice president.

Meet the Candidates

NACo Second Vice President Candidate Platform

Larry “LJ” Johnson

Commissioner, DeKalb County, Ga.



Johnson

With more than 17 years of government experience, I know what it takes to find solutions, navigate complicated government agencies and get things done.

“Making the Heart of America Stronger” is not just a slogan or words that I say, it is how I see NACo continuing to build upon the great foundation laid by the many outstanding leaders that have brought the association this far.

We, each of us, have a commitment to our respective communities to help them achieve and remain on the cutting edge of technological developments that can enhance service delivery in our counties.

We must strive to learn from each other and utilize best practices to further innovate economic development.

As your second vice president I will bring my public health knowledge, depth of experience, solid leadership, dedication and commitment to help continue to move NACo forward.

— Commissioner Larry “LJ” Johnson

We are at a pivotal point in NACo history where experience and leadership matter. I have served four terms and am now into my fifth term where I was re-elected with 81 percent of the vote.

What I have heard on the campaign trail is that we need to have someone who will not only be fair but someone who

will fight for all of us. My master’s degree in Public Health gives me an edge in bipartisan policy-making because of my experience in dealing with opioids, poverty and knowing how to bring rural, suburban and urban counties together that have been proactive in fighting for agriculture, PILT, SRS, transportation, health disparities, broadband connectivity and infrastructure improvements.

My platform includes world-class infrastructure, entrepreneurship and innovation and prevention.

World-class infrastructure

World-class infrastructure includes a comprehensive transportation network that incorporates regional transit and 21st-century technology. This also includes water supply issues which are at the forefront of many points of discussion amongst leaders around the country.

As an organization, we must focus our efforts on a global approach which includes crafting recommendations for congressional consideration for legislation that can serve to bridge the gaps that exist and not engender polarization.

This strategy also includes rebuilding our roads, shoring up and replacing bridges, establishing walking/biking trails, making our communities walkable through sidewalk installations and above all incorporating

ing rail. Rail is a direct path to sustainable, environmentally friendly communities.

Entrepreneurship and innovation

An innovative economy stresses entrepreneurship and innovation. In order to continue to grow our economy, we must educate our workforce and entrepreneurs to meet the needs of the 21st century. This economy must increase farming, manufacturing and technology driven jobs for our counties. Our counties must — economically — think globally, act regionally and plan locally. I will use my international relationships and resources to set up business fairs at our Legislative Conference so that we can interact with foreign countries who are interested in trading with our counties. This is a way to build strategic relationships that promote not only trade but other cultural opportunities. I will strengthen the partnership with NextGen so future voices are at the table to make our counties stronger. It is said that “a rising tide lifts all boats,” and a rising tide of economic innovations lifts the boats of all.

Prevention

Prevention includes the continued development of communities that are walkable, vibrant centers that support people of all ages and abilities. This is a standard we must work to not

only meet but exceed. A healthy, vibrant community has at its core, components that promote healthy living, as well as the arts. We have to become more strategic with our respective budgets and not simply balance our budgets by cutting arts programs designed for our citizens.

Additionally, counties that have large tracts of land owned by the federal government should be allowed a place at the table to take part in determining how the land will be utilized. I will also be an advocate for counties on common sense water regulations. The last thing counties need to do is pay a bunch of consultants to figure out regulations while economic development and green space use is held up. I will work to increase opportunities for workforce housing and decrease substance abuse.

I will work collaboratively with the Western Interstate Region, Rural Action Caucus and Large Urban County Caucus to ensure counties are at the table to have input on these critical quality of life factors. My NACo leadership experience and master’s degree in Public Health equip me for the challenges and opportunities that we face together as NACo members.

Finally, education is an essential piece to any strategy. I will advocate for increased educational opportunities for NACo members.

I believe that we should, in our capacity as elected officials, work toward a leadership development program that provides accreditation to our membership, which includes a premier certification.

As a commissioner in Georgia, the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) (whose slogan is “Advancing Georgia’s Counties”) has a certification program in which all commissioners must participate.

On a national level, we can work with well-known colleges and universities to establish a program, which grants credits toward a designated certification. This would greatly help to enhance the knowledge base of NACo members.

My experience also includes working for former President Jimmy Carter on a local project in Atlanta that focused on building communities. Additionally, I have been appointed by nine NACo presidents and those appointments include the following committees where I have also served as chair: Health, International Economic Development, LUCC (current chair), Healthy Counties and Health Disparities. Please vote for me to be your NACo 2nd Vice President that I may bring my vast experience and understanding of your needs to be your advocate on Capitol Hill and in your communities. I will not let you down, just ask the past presidents of NACo.

Vote for Larry “LJ” Johnson for your NACo 2nd vice president. I am business-minded and community-focused with a human service heart.

I have linked and leveraged public and private partnerships locally, regionally, nationally and globally and have empowered people to improve their quality of life.

I have the most regional experience: I lived in Illinois (Chicago and Urbana-Champaign), Colorado (Greeley, Weld County) and Georgia (Decatur, unincorporated DeKalb County). Please vote “LJ” all the way for a well-rounded, seasoned public servant who has lived in suburban, urban and rural settings. Let’s continue to make the heart of America stronger—together!

For more information call 404.941.0462, email larry-j2vp@gmail.com or visit www.LJforNACo.com.

Meet the Candidates

NACo Second Vice President
Candidate Platform

Christian Y. Leinbach

Commissioner, Berks County, Pa.



Leinbach

The Team Leinbach campaign is all about you, your county and your constituents. County government is the level of government that works as it was intended. We get things done in our counties and communities every day. While some politicians may believe that serving in county government is merely a “stepping stone” to higher office, I believe that county government is the higher office.

Every county has different challenges and needs. Each county leader is unique in their personality and the way they approach their county leadership role and the challenges they face. Every one of us do so much for our counties and yet so few of our constituents, local media or many state and federal officials understand what and how much we do.

I’m running for NACo 2nd VP because I believe we need to do a better job telling our story. Through our Team Leinbach website, we are providing

you with tools to help you “Tell Your Story” right now. This campaign is not about future promises — it’s about today and it’s about you and your county. Check out the “Tools” section of <https://www.teamleinbach.com/tools/>.

There are several issues that impact and are important to virtually every county no matter their size, demographics, population or geographical location. Some of these critical issues include transportation and infrastructure, water, air and soil protection, criminal justice reform, mental health and county jails, cyber security, public safety and unfunded mandates.

Regionally and even down to the state level there are clear and unique differences. Secure Rural Schools and PILT are critical to many Western states. In the Northeast United States, we have a few states with no county government. The Southeast United States and Gulf states prepare and

expect serious hurricanes annually and are impacted in a way no other region is. At Team Leinbach we want to make sure you have the tools and understanding to “Tell Your Story.” Whether it is a story of great accomplishment or rather a story explaining the unique challenges your county, state or region is facing, telling your story is critical in helping your state and federal officials understand what you do and what you need. It is critical in helping the media better understand your county both from a success as well as need perspective. Finally, it is critical that your county residents understand what you as a county leader are doing to better represent them.

We believe there are three keys to “telling your story” effectively.

Engage

State and federal officials: Establish personal relationships with your elected offi-

cials. Participate in your state’s county association and NACo events designed to further engage elected officials. Respond promptly to requests from these elected officials.

The media: Establish relationships with key reporters and ensure that they have your contact information including your cell phone. Be available to the media. Don’t play “hard to find.” Become a trustworthy on-the-record source.

The public: Respond timely to communications (letter, email, phone, messaging, etc.). Attend events and connect personally with constituents. Be accessible!

Inform

State and federal officials, the media and the public: Distribute information and alerts from state associations and NACo. Use your social media and website as public information portals.

Participate in elected official forums whenever possible. Be the county leader that is always providing clear, concise and reliable information about issues important to your residents.

Empower

Empower you and your county team:

To be recognized by your state and federal delegation as...To be respected by your constituents as ...To be recog-

nized by media representatives as ...

- A reliable source regarding county related issues.
- A connected person to your state association and NACo.
- A county leader that is working with all levels of government.
- A county leader that listens and engages with the citizens, elected officials and media representatives.

“Telling Your Story” is about you as a county leader and the unique reality of your county. Think about how often you are frustrated that your elected officials, your local media and even your county residents have no idea the great work you, your state association or NACo are doing for them each day. Isn’t it time to focus more effort and resources to help you Tell Your Story? At Team Leinbach, we believe it is and that’s why we are providing some of the resources to you now.

When you decide how you are going to vote for NACo 2nd vice president, ask yourself two questions: “Am I and is my county doing a good job telling the story of what we do every day to help our county residents? Do I want NACo to place a greater focus on helping my county Tell Our Story?”

For more information please visit www.TeamLeinbach.com. That’s my story and I’m sticking to it!

Origin of counties dates back to 1600s

by Rachel Looker
staff writer

While the United States just celebrated its 243rd birthday, the formation of counties has an even longer history.

The origin of counties can be traced back 400 years to four “citties” that were established in 1619 by the Virginia Company of London or London Company, a private investment venture under King James I. The “citties” included James City, Charles City, Elizabeth City and Henrico City.

Over a decade later, in 1634, the royal crown created eight shires, the English equivalent of counties, which included the original “citties” plus additional land, according to James City County Planner Tori Haynes.

The eight shires included Accomack Shire, Charles City Shire, Charles River Shire, Elizabeth City Shire, Henrico Shire, James City Shire, Warwick River Shire and Warrosquoake Shire.

The origins of James City County can be traced back to when the English settlements were established into “citties.”

Jamestown, the first permanent English settlement in the New World, is located in what is now James City County, Haynes said. It was established in 1607 as James Fort and was privately owned by the stakeholders of the London Company until 1624 when it became a royal colony.

When England created the eight shires, James Cittie became James City Shire and within the next decade, the name evolved to James City County. However, Haynes said the county has never been a city and does not include a city today.

Haynes explained that James City County is celebrating its 400th anniversary in 2019 to remember historical events such as the General Assembly, which was the first legislative assembly held in Jamestown in 1619.



A historic map shows the area in Virginia where the first eight shires were established. Photo courtesy of Library of Congress

“The scope of the influence of James City County’s history is broad and woven into many facets of our geographic and cultural identity,” Haynes said.

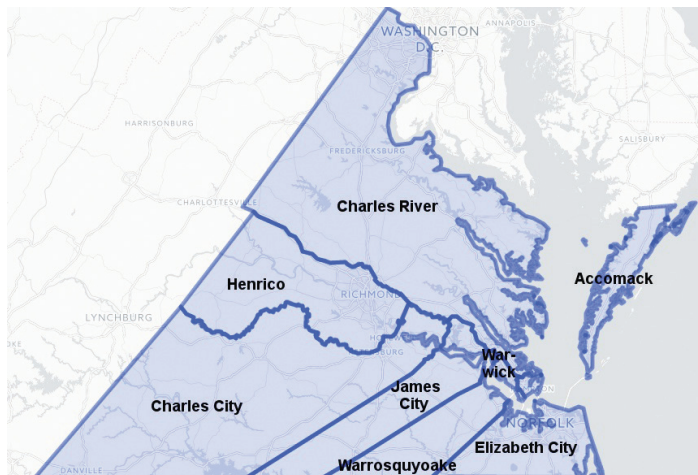
History-based tourism and recreation is an important economic driver for the county, she explained.

“Overall, James City County strives to continue the rich legacy that has made this community a wonderful place to live, work and visit,” Haynes said.

Charles City County, one of the original eight shires, was named after King James of England’s son, Charles, who later became King Charles I.

Originally, the county was made up of land on both sides of the James River, but lost the acreage as other counties formed. In 1613, settlement in the county began, leading to the establishment of what is believed to be the first Virginia plantation.

The Washington Post has described Charles City County as “the land lost in time” because of the lack of new development



America’s first counties were created in Virginia. Photo courtesy of Newberry Library

and its similarities to the original environment when the area was first settled.

Judy Ledbetter, who serves as volunteer director of the Charles City County Richard M. Bowman Center for Local History, said when the first federal census was done in 1790, the population was only 1,500 less than it was at the time of the 2010 census.

“In many ways, we’re a county that is very traditional and slow to change,” Ledbetter said.

Northwest of Charles City

County, settlers traveled up the James River and landed on the ground that was to become Henrico County.

“Henricus was the second settlement and out of Henricus became Henrico County. We go back to 1611,” said George Drumwright, former Henrico County deputy manager for community services and member of the board of trustees for the Henricus Foundation.

The city of Richmond was created out of the county, Drumwright said. Settlers built the first English hospital in

Henricus and discovered tobacco along the James River.

“We continue to look back at where we came from and the James River has always been important to us,” Drumwright said, adding that the water system in the county currently comes from the James River.

The geography played an important role in the creation of the successful settlement, according to Harvey Hinson, a retired deputy county manager who also served as an interim supervisor on the Henrico County Board of Supervisors.

“It was just a combination of factors that all combined to make it the success it was,” he said.

According to Barry Lawrence, assistant to the county manager for board affairs, the county’s longer existence allowed for more development, specifically with tourism, compared to counties that were formed after the eight shires.

“We do have that longer history and probably the maturation process that gave us more time to develop as an organization,” Lawrence said.

Along the Eastern Shore of Virginia, Northampton County, which is located on the southern half of the eastern shore, was first called “Ye Kingdome of Accawmacke.”

Accomack became the eighth shire and was renamed Northampton in 1642. A year later, Northampton County was divided into two counties with the lower county named Northampton and the upper county named Accawmack or Accomack. Later, the counties reunited once again, but permanently divided in 1670.

Northampton County has the oldest continuous court records in the country.

According to “Exploring the Oldest Continuous Court Records of America,” which Northampton County Circuit Court Clerk Traci Johnson helped compile, court records for Northampton County are

Foster care needs families, champions

by **Charlie Ban**
senior writer

Rappahannock County, Va.'s foster care system was out of sight for most of the rural community.

And it was easy to see why: For most of the last few years, the county had just one family willing to take in children. As a result, roughly two dozen children at a time who had to be removed from their homes would be sent to live hours away, in Richmond, Roanoke or Fredericksburg, places with more foster homes than a rural county of 7,300.

So, Jennifer Parker, Melissa Cupp and members of the county's newly formed foster care task force fanned out in January 2019, talking to anyone who would listen.

"We spoke at the pulpit at almost every church in the county, we spoke at Sunday school," said Parker, who is the county's director of social services. "We went to the Lion's Club meetings, we went to the garden club meetings. Anywhere we could be heard."

It was a full-court press to raise awareness of the county's need for foster parents. Virginia is one of nine states in which counties administer child welfare services. Three states share administration duties with their counties.

The Chronicle of Social Change found that more than half of the states have seen their foster care capacity decrease between 2012 and 2017, but the report doesn't blame that shortfall on complacency, noting that several states say their capacity declined despite efforts to increase it.

That makes recruitment strategies crucial to success. For Rappahannock County, that meant defining the problem, opening the doors for prospective foster parents and keeping recruits engaged beyond their initial interest.

"The key is not asking people to foster but asking them to work on the problem," said



Commissioner Weekly

Cupp, a juvenile and family judge whose district includes the county. "Even if they can't foster children, maybe they know someone who can. That spreads the message through their networks."

Those networks would then carry news of the reality of that housing shortage.

"We have to take children from their rural homes, where they are comfortable, and take them hours away to a city where they can find someone to take care of them," Parker said.

Parker added that long-distance placements are also stressful for her staff, who have to travel to visit the children, and they make visitations with their birth families difficult, which complicates reunification with their birth families — the ultimate goal of the foster

system.

"They don't have their extended families, they don't have their friends, they have to change schools and they're usually in a different environment they're not used to," Parker said.

The majority of Rappahannock County's foster children need care because of a parent's substance use disorder, Cupp said. In addition to whatever neglect the child has suffered, another dramatic transition, like moving hours away, just adds to the challenges the children face.

The task force wanted to move fast and not lose recruits in transition. An early February date kept the foster parents' orientation session on people's calendars during the January blitz, and 15 people showed up. Adam Starks, an author and Rappahannock native who grew up in a foster home in nearby Culpeper County, told attendees about his own experiences in the system. He wrote a book, *Broken Child, Mended Man*, about his experiences. That helped retain participants for the March training classes, which produced a class of eight new foster families.

"Eight families is a huge number for us," Parker said. "If I

would have gotten two families, I would have been thrilled."

On top of full-time foster parents, the county maintains a roster of foster grandparents, who can relieve foster parents or even serve on an emergency basis, in case children are removed from their families in the middle of the night.

"We have a lot of 'snowbirds' who can't commit year 'round but want to find a way to help," Parker said.

She and Cupp attribute the county's success to the thoroughness with which they recruited prospective parents. When they launched a scaled-back campaign in the spring of 2019, it wasn't nearly as successful. They'll go back to the old playbook in the fall as they aim for at least three new foster families to bring the county's total to 12.

Cupp said breaking the preconceptions that foster parents need to be two-parent households helped encourage more people to consider it, but she also stressed the need for cultural awareness among foster parents.

"I grew up at a time when there was an emphasis on being color blind and treating everyone exactly the same," she said. Starks' presentation

"opened my eyes to the cultural references you're expected to have in your community. If you don't have a parent who can teach you that, you're going to have a difficult time fitting in."

"You don't necessarily have to have foster parents of the same race," she noted, "but you need to be aware of how to navigate the cultural markers and prepare children for them."

The advocate

Lawrence Weekly considers himself a walking billboard for the foster care system. When the Clark County, Nev. commissioner meets the public, he encourages them to consider becoming foster parents.

"Everywhere I go, I talk about it," he said. "But there's a stigma on both sides we need to forget about if we want to do what is right for kids. I'm all about staying close to your roots, but if children don't have a healthy environment, we need to move them to one."

That's where his own roots come in. Born into Nevada's state foster care system, Weekly was adopted when he was nearly a year old, but didn't know he wasn't living with his birth family until he over-

See *FOSTER* page 11



FAMILY FIRST

The Family First Prevention Services Act of 2018, which goes live Oct. 1, will emphasize keeping at-risk families together by opening up federal funding (through Title IV-E of the Social Security Act) for prevention services, including mental health services, substance abuse services and in-home parent training. States will be reimbursed for up to 12 months of those services, per family per episode, without an income test.

America's first counties

From HISTORY page 9

continuous from 1632 to the present.

For more than 100 years, the court records were kept in private homes. The records include a list of the clerks of court in the county that date back to 1632.

The beginning of the oldest continuous court records contains the first court orders, deeds and wills from Accawmack County.

"The records themselves are priceless," Johnson said. "We work really hard to preserve the history and teach the young people what their forefathers did here."

Johnson said the county's history is its "most important asset."

"The sign when you come into Northampton on both ends says, 'Land of history, hospitality and opportunity for all,'" Johnson said. "I love that slogan." **CN**

'I didn't know what adopted meant at the time...'

From FOSTER page 10

heard his grandfather mention it when he was in elementary school.

"I didn't know what adopted meant at the time, but I knew it wasn't good," he said. "I thought that if I ever got in trouble, my mom could take me back to the adoption people. I lived in fear and embarrassment."

He didn't come to grips with his own background or talk about it until decades later, when he was elected to the county commission.

"I was asked to host a breakfast for kids in care, and I wondered how someone knew I was adopted, why did they ask me?" he said, "Did someone know I was adopted?"

At the event, he spoke to the children, telling them he was one of them, which a newspaper reporter noted and included in his story, inadvertently "outing" Weekly. That forced him to confront the decades of shame he said he experienced and come

STATES IN WHICH COUNTIES RUN FOSTER CARE:	STATE/COUNTY BLENDS:
California Colorado Minnesota North Carolina North Dakota Ohio Pennsylvania New York Virginia	Maryland Nevada Wisconsin

out as an advocate for the system. "I can either be bitter, or I can make lemonade. I'm not going to walk around with a sour face," he said. "I use experience and my platform as an elected official to be a voice, because too many foster kids grow up in silence."

He acknowledged challenges when he talks to prospective foster families.

"There is difficulty placing multiple children, some people can't take them all and they don't want to divide a family," Weekly said.

"And after the kids are 12, they're not considered 'cute,'" and people express concern about the added emotional turmoil that comes with adolescence.

Know your role

Tyler Massey was 22 when he decided to get a foster care license. He was a few years away from winning his first term as Hidalgo County, N.M. treasurer and serving as president of the New Mexico Association of Counties 2015-2017.

"I had room, so I opened my house to them," he said. "Our newspaper would print a story every week about a child waiting for adoption and that caught my attention."

Massey sees trepidation from prospective foster parents who ultimately pass on it. They worry about the disruption on their home lives or fear getting emotionally attached to the children and then having to let them leave.

"The public in general would be more apt to open their homes to foster children if the conversation focused on providing safe, temporary housing," he said.

"I never took in a kid hoping they would stay with me because I knew my job was temporary," he noted. "You need to understand the process may not be permanent, and our goal is for the family to be together. I'm just giving children a safe place to live until things improve at home." Living in a small rural county of about 4,600, Massey said everyone knew he was a foster parent.

"People can show up at your house, wanting to see their kids and they know it doesn't work that way," he said.

"You go to the grocery store and run into their birth family. You have to have that finesse to make sure everyone knows it isn't personal."

Massey ultimately let his license lapse in 2017, but it wasn't for lack of use. He fostered 32 different children over six years. **CN**

let's slide through time.



(time-series data sets now available)

NACo's County Explorer tool provides easy access to the latest available data, with hundreds of indicators across categories ranging from county economies to policy issues, including transportation, infrastructure, health and public safety, each telling a unique county story.

Join us for an interactive **25-minute demo** that will showcase the redesigned user interface, new functionality, and other significant updates. These demos will be held daily throughout the conference at the **County Explorer booth in Grand Salon, Bally's**.

FRIDAY, JULY 12

- 8:30 a.m.
- 9:30 a.m.
- 10:30 a.m.
- 12:30 p.m.
- 1:30 p.m.
- 2:30 p.m.
- 3:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JULY 13

- 8:30 a.m.
- 1:30 p.m.
- 2:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, JULY 14

- 8:30 a.m.
- 9:30 a.m.
- 10:30 a.m.
- 12:30 p.m.
- 1:30 p.m.
- 2:30 p.m.
- 3:30 p.m.

MONDAY, JULY 15

- 8:30 a.m.
- 12:30 p.m.

New and improved County Explorer - now mobile friendly.
#CE2 @NACoTweets
explorer.naco.org

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION of COUNTIES **NACo**
COUNTY EXPLORER

U.S. House approves bipartisan Medicaid legislative package

by **Blaire Bryant**

The U.S. House of Representatives approved the Empowering Beneficiaries, Ensuring Access and Strengthening Accountability Act (H.R. 3253), June 18, a bipartisan legislative package extending Medicaid coordinated-care programs important to counties. The legislation now heads to the U.S. Senate, where legislators are working to approve the legislation before the programs' authorization expires on June 30.

If enacted, the bill would reauthorize the Money Follows the Person (MFP) Medicaid demonstration for four and a half years through FY 2024 and extend the eight-state Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) demonstration program for an additional two and a half years through FY 2021. The legislation also

contains smaller provisions protecting against spousal impoverishment and patient neglect in the Medicaid program.

Both the MFP and the CCBHC programs help fulfill counties' mission of providing high-quality wraparound services to residents. The MFP program, first authorized in 2005, enhances federal support for state Medicaid programs transitioning individuals in long-term care facilities back into community-based settings.

Since it was first enacted, MFP has enabled 43 states and the District of Columbia to develop the infrastructure to help older adults and people with disabilities to live in the settings of their choice, while achieving lower institutional admission rates and cost savings in the Medicaid program.

In addition to extending

the MFP program, the bill's two-and-a-half year funding extension for CCBHCs will enable counties to continue providing comprehensive care to residents. In 2014, legislation known as the Excellence in Mental Health Act established CCBHCs as eligible Medicaid providers that could receive an enhanced federal Medicaid match rate for delivering mental health and substance use disorder services to patients in crisis.

Medicaid coverage of community-based care, as well as the funding and administrative certainty provided as a result of long-term program reauthorizations, is supported by NACo. **CN**

Blaire Bryant is an associate legislative director in NACo's Government Affairs department.

Congress OKs TANF reauthorization bill

by **Eryn Hurley**

The U.S. Senate cleared bipartisan legislation June 27 to reauthorize the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, a federal cash assistance program for low-income families with children.

The bill, H.R. 2940, which passed the U.S. House of Representatives last month, would extend the program through the end of FY 2019 on Sept. 30, 2019 at current funding levels of \$16.5 billion in block grants to states. Consideration of the TANF reauthorization measure follows a short-term extension through June 30 that was enacted following the January 2019 government shutdown.

Administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, TANF is a federal entitlement program

providing federal funding to states, tribes and territories for a wide range of benefits, services and activities to address both the effects and the root causes of poverty.

While TANF is primarily a partnership between the federal government and states, ten states share TANF administration with county agencies. In these states, which collectively account for 51 percent of all TANF recipients, counties contribute significant local funds to the administrative and supplemental costs of running the program.

Having been approved in both chambers of Congress, the proposal now goes to President Trump for his signature. **CN**

Eryn Hurley is an associate legislative director in NACo's Government Affairs department.

TEST YOUR BROADBAND SPEED TODAY

NACo has partnered with the Local Initiatives Support Corporation, the Rural Community Assistance Partnership, the National Association of Development Organizations and Farm Credit to develop a free mobile app designed to identify areas with low or no connectivity to help ensure adequate funding for broadband infrastructure is provided across the country.

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- Search for "TestIT" in your mobile app store

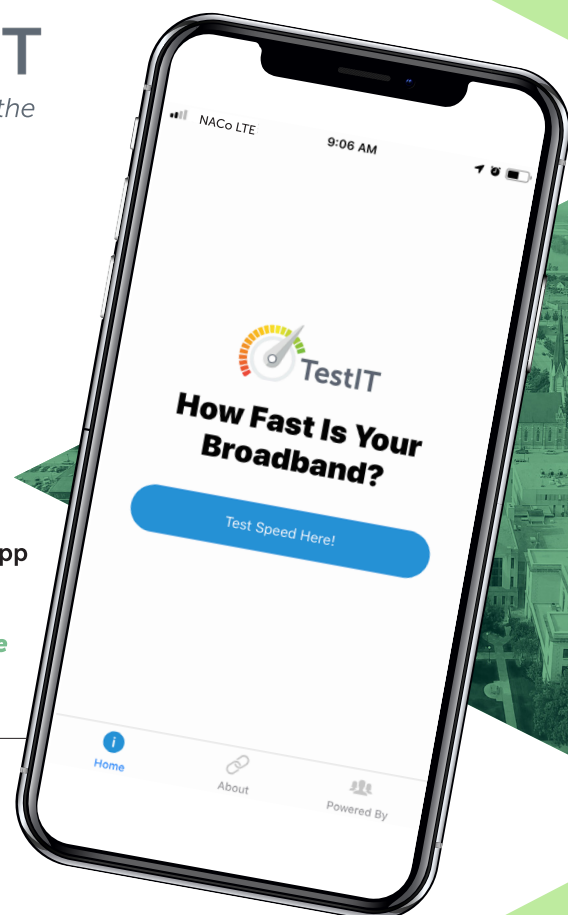


- Download TestIT mobile app

- Open TestIT mobile app and click: **Test Speed Here**

www.naco.org/TestIt

No personal information is collected through the app.



Citizenship question off census

From CENSUS page 1

census has not asked all households a question about citizenship. In a March 2018 memo, Ross announced he would reinstate the question at the request of the Department of Justice, “which sought improved data about citizen voting-age population for purposes of enforcing the Voting Rights Act (VRA).”

According to the Chief Justice, additional discovery revealed: “That the Secretary was determined to reinstate a citizenship question from the time he entered office; instructed his staff to make it happen; waited while Commerce officials explored whether another agency would request census-based citizenship data; subsequently contacted the Attorney General himself to ask if DOJ would make the request; and adopted the Voting Rights Act rationale late in the process.”

The Court agreed “to a point” with the federal government that there was “nothing objectionable or even surprising in this.” But the APA

requires that federal agencies don’t act arbitrarily and capriciously. Here, “viewing the evidence as a whole,” Ross’s decision to include the citizenship question “cannot be adequately explained in terms of DOJ’s request for improved citizenship data to better enforce the VRA.”

Chief Justice Roberts’ final sentences in the opinion are first sympathetic to the Secretary of Commerce but he ends with a stiff rebuke: “We do not hold that the agency decision here was substantively invalid. But agencies must pursue their goals reasonably. Reasoned decision-making under the Administrative Procedure Act calls for an explanation for agency action. What was provided here was more of a distraction.” **CN**

Lisa Soronen is the Executive Director of the State and Local Legal Center (SLLC). Prior to joining the SLLC, Soronen worked for the National School Boards Association, the Wisconsin Association of School Boards, and clerked for the Wisconsin Court of Appeals.

PROFILES IN SERVICE

RAY LONG

Board Member
Chairman,
Board of Commissioners
Morgan County, Ala.



Long

Number of years involved in NACo: Eight

Years in public service: 23

Occupation: Full-time chairman of the Morgan County Commission

Education: 1978 graduate of Brewer High School, Calhoun Community College

The hardest thing I’ve ever done is: A book report in fourth grade. I was actually shy back then. The week before I wouldn’t stand in front of the class and talk so I got a bad grade. My mom convinced me I needed to learn to talk in front of people.

Three people (living or dead) I’d invite to dinner:

I would love to have dinner with my mom again. She was always my biggest fan. Next would be Ronald Reagan and Richard Nixon.

A dream I have is to: See my grandkids become very successful in life and not have the early struggles that I had. Next would be to win the lottery and have several retirement houses around the United States.

You’d be surprised to learn: I was very shy as a child.

My favorite way to relax is to: Walk around the farm and watch our cattle and chickens. There is a special peace on the farm.

I’m most proud of: My wife, Regina. She is a great partner with everything I do. She is always my biggest supporter. Next would be my children and grandkids (and their spouses).

Every morning I read: The online version of the news. You always want to know if your commission made the news.

My favorite meal is: Steak and mashed potatoes. Finish it off with a moist coconut cake.

My pet peeve is: People who know everything about your business but can’t manage their own.

My favorite movie is: *Forrest Gump*

My favorite music: ‘70s and ‘80s classic rock

My favorite U.S. president: Ronald Reagan

My county is a NACo member because: We know that working together as a team, counties can benefit from each other. Numbers get results and NACo has proven through the years that because of the number of people they represent, people in Washington, D.C. and around the country will listen and take our concerns seriously. Counties matter and NACo represents us well.



The most adventurous thing I’ve ever done is:

My first trip to Tokyo, Japan. We got out and walked around the city and couldn’t read any of the signs to even know where we were. It was really an adventure trying to find our way back to the hotel.



SOMERSET COUNTY, N.J.

Somerset County was founded in 1688. The first Board of Chosen Freeholders was not elected until 1714. An accidental courthouse fire in 1737 destroyed all official records regarding the design and creation of the county seal.

A county publication from the early 1980s described the seal as symbolizing “the origin of Somerset County government — to provide justice in an agricultural area.”

In the unofficial explanation of the seal, the scale on the top half represents justice.

The lower half of the seal features a plow and represents agriculture, which was the main industry in the county during colonial times.

The stars in the garland surrounding the plow represent the 13 original colonies



If you would like your county’s seal featured in “Behind the Seal,” contact Rachel Looker at rlooker@naco.org.

Iowa county park celebrates 100 years

by Rachel Looker
staff writer

It's the 100th birthday for a county park in Hamilton County, Iowa, and the centennial celebration is commemorating more than just a century of existence.

The county obtained 60 acres of land for the Briggs Woods Park in April 1919 through a donation from Thirza Briggs, a daughter of the Briggs Family.

"The park... was very unique in that all those years ago, someone donated land specifically to a county government," said Thomas Hazelton, the CEO of the Iowa Association of County Conservation Boards. "That was a very unique thing to happen."

The Briggs family played an important role in the history of Hamilton County, according to Brian Lammers, the executive director of the Hamilton County Conservation Board.

Thirza's father, Ulysses Briggs, moved to the county in 1857 and found there was a need for cement in the area. He discovered limestone and built a kiln that turned the limestone into powder, which was used to make cement. The cement Ulysses created was used to construct some of the first buildings and the first courthouse in the area.

Later in her life, Thirza married Charles Aldrich, who was elected in 1860 as the chief clerk of the Iowa House of Representatives.

Aldrich drafted many acts that are now incorporated into the statutes of Iowa, including one that changed the county government system from a one-man county judge system to a board of supervisors.

"The entire family there had pretty important pieces here for history, not just in our county, but actually for the state," Lammers said.

Over the last century, the park has expanded from the original 60 acres to 500 acres.

Additions to the park include a 55-acre man-made



The Briggs Family's red barn in Briggs Woods Park is the last remaining building from the family farm. Photo courtesy of Hamilton County Conservation

lake, an 18-hole golf course, a clubhouse, a full-service conference center, 81 modern campsites with seven modern cabins, areas to canoe and kayak and a six-mile bike trail.

"We created a lot over the years," Lammers said. "We developed a lot."

An original red barn, which is the last remaining building of the Briggs family farmstead, is located in the park and used as a rentable lodge facility during the day.

The park remains open year-round and offers seasonal recreational activities in the winter such as cross-country skiing, snow shoeing, bird watching, ice fishing and snowmobiling.

According to Lammers, one of the biggest steps in the evolution of the park was the creation of county-run conservation boards in Iowa.

A law enacted by the Iowa legislature in 1955 gave counties the ability to create their own conservation boards. The formation of the boards was optional, and each county voted to create their own boards, Hazelton said.

Hamilton County was one of the first 16 counties in the state to establish a county conservation board, Lammers said.

After this change, the control of Briggs Woods Park shifted from the board of supervisors to the conservation board.

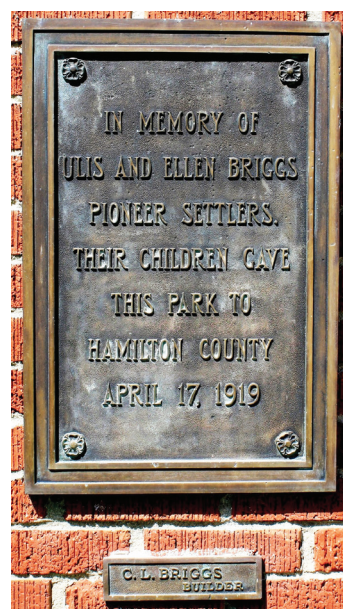
By 1989, all 99 counties in the state of Iowa formed their own boards. Hazelton said local creation of parks was instrumental because county residents know the recreation potential of the land in the area.

"I think when the conservation boards came along, it filled a void where there was a need, specifically in Hamilton County," Hazelton said.

The Hamilton County conservation board, which manages around 2,000 acres, offers outdoor recreational opportunities, environmental and educational programming and natural resource management, Lammers said.

"Without the county parks system, the quality of life would be much less," Hazelton said.

The Hamilton County Conservation Board provides over \$2.6 million to the local and regional economy and brings over 100,000 visitors to Hamilton County Parks. In the state of Iowa, visitors for county conservation outdoor recreation experiences total 24 million each year and have an an-



A plaque represents the donation of the land for the Briggs Woods Park in honor of Ulysses Briggs and his wife. Photo courtesy of Hamilton County Conservation

nual economic impact of \$609 million.

"Whether it's the economic impact or the local quality of life, a lot of that just wouldn't exist were it not for the county parks," Hazelton said.

With over 2,034 county parks across Iowa, the Iowa tourism office has started a campaign encouraging visitors to travel to 99 parks in 99 counties across the state.

"Briggs Woods just helps bring attention to the fact that we have these great local re-

sources for people to go out and find and celebrating with the tourism office this year is a really fun thing," Hazelton said.

The Briggs Woods Park centennial celebration was held in June to avoid bad weather on the real anniversary date in April. The celebration brought around 300 to 400 guests during the weekend of events.

Attendees could go on two different types of hikes, have a free lunch, play 1900-era games and complete crafts.

Lammers explained that the conservation board set up a historical museum inside the Briggs' red barn.

A timeline displayed major events in the park's history and included aerial photographs to visually show the park's evolution.

In honor of the celebration, county residents submitted their favorite memories of the park.

One submission that stood out to Lammers was a photo of a young boy who went fishing and caught his first fish.

"Those are just everlasting memories for not only the parents, but also the child," Lammers said. "A lot of firsts for us and many more to come we hope." **CN**

BRIGHT IDEAS | HARFORD COUNTY, Md.

Sensory Trail Accommodates All Abilities

PROBLEM:

Children with sensory sensitivities do not have a safe place to enjoy the outdoors and interact with peers at traditional parks or playgrounds.

SOLUTION:

Construct a sensory trail that is accessible for all abilities and inclusive for those who want to play outside.

by Rachel Looker
staff writer

It's been described as a dream come true for children and adults who have disabilities.

The Schucks Road Sensory Trail, an adaptive, inclusive playground opened in Harford County, Md., in April 2018. The trail is the first of its kind in the region.

With more than 2,700 youth in the county with disabilities, the trail provides ways for these individuals to get involved with the community.

Stretching along a 1/10-mile paved path, those with disabilities of all ages can interact with 10 sensory stations outdoors. The stations include nine-foot chimes, a roller table, drums, xylophones and brightly colored panels. Each station is wheelchair accessible.

On average, 50 to 75 visitors come to the trail each day. On the weekends, the number of visitors can increase to more than 1,000.

"It is definitely a unique experience anywhere regionally," said Kathy Burley, director of the Harford County Department of Parks and Recreation.

Traditional playgrounds are often over-stimulating for individuals with sensory sensitivity, which makes them inaccessible to children and adults with disabilities.

The equipment on Harford County's trail is spread out to avoid overstimulation, Burley



Harford County Executive Barry Glassman watches a child lay on the roller table at one of the 10 interactive stations along the sensory trail. Photo courtesy of Harford County Government

said, which provides visitors with an added bonus of more exercise by walking to different stations along the trail.

"Sensory place has so many benefits particularly for children and adults with disabilities," said Rachel Harbin, manager of the Office of Disability Services for Harford County. "It can even help change the brain in really important ways."

Children or adults with disabilities use seeing, hearing and touching while experiencing nature to engage their senses, Harbin said. However, the trail is made for children of all abil-

ities, allowing kids to play together with those who are disabled, she said. This was one of the many goals of the trail.

"It is safe," Harbin said. "It's made for them. It allows them to play with peers without disabilities and this sensory trail impacts everybody."

Local schools with children with disabilities regularly visit the sensory trail as a community outing.

"We've heard a lot of organizations, particularly schools, have benefited from it and have thanked us for creating it," Harbin said.

Many local support groups for parents of children with disabilities also use the trail as a meeting spot because they feel included in the community since the trail was a place made specifically for them, Harbin said.

"I think that it's important to create a culture that values citizens with disabilities," she said.

Since the sensory trail is the first of its kind in the region, visitors from outside the county frequently come to the trail.

"It truly has taken a very nice place in our inventory of playgrounds and experiences that

we have in our community," said Burley.

The trail was completed with the help of partnerships within the community, said Amber Shrodes, director of the Harford County Department of Community Services.

Local businesses and community organizations, including nonprofits, churches and businesses, sponsored nine of the stations. The purchase and installation of the equipment cost around \$140,000. This cost was split among community sponsorships, the Harford County Department of Community Services and the Department of Parks and Recreation.

"The partnership piece was unique with this particular project from incarnation to installation," Shrodes said. "Parks and Recreation did a rock-star job of getting this in in under a year, which is almost unheard of in county governments."

Because of these partnerships, she said, the idea for the project quickly became reality.

"Our administration is always trying to think of a new and exciting way that particularly our citizens with disabilities can be a part of the community as a whole," Shrodes said.

Harford County is working on additional initiatives for residents with disabilities including an iCan Bike Camp to teach kids and adults with disabilities how to ride a bike and a Miracle League Ballfield with accommodations for wheelchairs, allowing baseball players of all abilities to play the game.

"I think it's important to have that culture in general and to educate people ... that everyone deserves to have the same opportunities as everyone else in the community," Harbin said. **CN**

Harford County's Sensory Trail was named best in category for parks and recreation in the 2019 NACo Achievement Awards.

From Oregon to Tennessee



From BUS TRIP page 4

steps, I realized that there were no side by side seats left. If she was to sit by her son, someone was going to have to move. I reluctantly resigned my position and eased down the aisle looking for a vacant seat. There remained only two single seats and both were at the very back. One was next to a hard-eyed, hollow-looking young fellow. The other next to a very distraught, very pregnant young lady curled in the fetal position and sobbing incessantly. I slid in next to the young man and attempted to introduce myself; this was met with no acknowledgement of my existence.

By the time we stopped for dinner beneath the golden arches, I had taken inventory of those, including my seat-mate, who lacked the means for a meal. There were a handful that looked wistfully toward those downing a Big Mac. Other times, they survived on the sustenance of a bummed cigarette.

Determined to start anew, she bought a one-way ticket to Portland. I gave her my dear friend Commissioner Sonya Fischer's number in Clackamas County.

The other gal that became an absolute project was the young non-English speaking mother. The one that had taken over my prime front-row seat. Whether we were refueling and had re-boarding passes or changing buses in Denver, Salt Lake or Boise, she always managed to get in the wrong line. As we were departing Salt Lake City, I noticed her, steps away from entering the bus bound for Los Angeles. I shouted across the concourse, "Señora, tú autobus es este" or "Lady, your bus is this one," at least I hope that's what I said. As she fought back upstream toward our location, Greyhound staff at first sought to dissuade her. When the rest

See BUS TRIP page 19

LEADERSHIP EDGE

Work with People from Where They Are

by Tim Rahschulte

Do you remember the relationship between Mr. Miyagi and Daniel in the movie "The Karate Kid?" Daniel is being bullied and needs to face his rival, Johnny Lawrence from the Cobra Kai Dojo, in a local karate tournament. He looks to Mr. Miyagi, the maintenance man for the apartment complex where Daniel and his mom live, to train him. Instead of training Daniel based on "best practices" or the technique of the modern day, Mr. Miyagi orients his process around Daniel. He seeks first to know him and then to determine the methods that will work best given what he finds. Daniel ends up learning as much about life as he does about karate. The best coaches can have that kind of effect. They consider the individual capacity of their team before determining specific approaches for development. They coach at an individual level, knowing that each person is unique.

We all work to accomplish things. In doing so, we work with and rely on others. This means we have expectations of them. Often, however, these expectations are grounded in our own perspective, rather than in the abilities and motivations of those on our team.

Think about your team for a moment. It's a team composed of people who want to do great work. They want to be part of a great team. And they're very likely doing their absolute best based on what's available to them. Do you believe that? You either do or you don't. In either case, continual improvement is necessary and therefore personal and team development are necessary.

We can learn a lot about team development from the politician Henry Boyle. He



said, "The most important trip you may take in life is meeting people halfway." Perhaps more accurately, you must be willing to meet people where they are. For some, that may be halfway. For others, it may be a lot farther than you'd like to travel. But make the trip anyway; if you don't, that person or those people will never live up to your expectations of them.

As a leader, it's certainly right for you to have expectations — high expectations, no doubt. But those expectations shouldn't be based unilaterally on a bias of our personal motivations and abilities; rather, you should determine them through individualized considerations of the abilities of those on our teams. Individualized consideration is one of the main principles of transformational leadership theory. Whether you're familiar with leadership theories or not, you probably know

the value of treating people uniquely — as individuals. Don't work with people from where you are or where you wish they would be. Rather, work with people from where they are. Take the time to know the members of your team. Know their strengths, weaknesses, challenges and aspirations. Know if they're doing their absolute best based on what's available to them. Then show individualized consideration. Leverage their strengths to enable their success. Doing so will also improve the success of the team and your success as a leader. Work with people from where they are, not where you want them to be.

I regularly explain this rule and concept to leaders when they come to me for guidance, often frustrated from failed attempts at "training" their team. Have you ever had déjà vu moments regarding training sessions, conversations

and what you thought were lessons learned? Maybe it happened during a project or moving a product to market or onboarding a new employee. It's a moment when you think or even say aloud, "How many times do I need to say it?" Or it might be, "How many times do I have to show him?" or "How many times do I have to explain the same thing to her?"

I get it. It can be frustrating. But who's at fault?

We don't always learn things or change our behavior the first time we're told something, the first time we read something or the first time we're shown something. In other words, the lessons being taught may not necessarily be learned at the time of the lesson — or even shortly thereafter. In some cases, the lesson may need to be taught or experienced several times before the learning and the associated behavioral change actually occurs.

This is an important awareness to have: Lessons and learning may not be closely associated with time. So, aim for immediate learning from all lessons, but don't expect that from any lesson. Manage your frustrations of this reality by realizing that learning is a process and unique to each individual person. Everyone learns at varying rates, and for some, learning will be closely associated with time relative to the lesson; for others, it won't be closely associated with time. It's for this reason that we need to work with people from where they are, not where we'd like them to be. **CN**

Tim Rahschulte is the CEO of the Professional Development Academy and chief architect of the NACo High Performance Leadership Program (naco.org/skills).

the HR DOCTOR

With Phil Rosenberg

Phil Rosenberg

The HR Doctor and family will travel to India in late 2019. As a fan of both history and public administration, I thought I would repeat a lesson in the control of bureaucracy shared with me by a wonderful colleague and presented over a decade ago to readers of the HR Doctor articles.

Rudyard Kipling notwithstanding, how could the British government expect to control many millions of people in 750,000 square miles of territory in 19th-century India with a relatively small number of British civil servants and soldiers? For a hundred years, the British Raj ruled India, changed many aspects of its culture, managed to keep relative stability there as well as in the rest of its far-flung worldwide empire. OK, there were rebellions and the South African Boer War, but in general, the bureaucracy kept order using an interesting approach to decision-making — one which some still apply in local governments in the United States.

Queen Victoria's reign ended when she died, in 1901. At that time, there were 300 million Indians ruled by a civil service of about 1,500 people, and an army of Indian soldiers commanded by 3,000 British officers and several British regiments. There were fewer than 20,000 British civilians other than the military in the country. The British period of rule involved 600 sovereign territories in India with British advisors. Despite a mutiny in the mid 19th-century and a huge array of increasingly complex issues, it was a century of continued Colonial rule.

There are certainly many factors and insufficient time in a short article to review the dynamics of Colonial rule, but there is one that deserves

Bureaucrats '...In Injia's Sunny Clime...'



special attention. In part, this is because it involves such a curious phenomenon of bureaucracy which was called the “note and file” system of communications. It was a tool of the bureaucrats which resulted in centralized decision-making control.

The real reason for focusing on this “note and file” system is because one of the HR Doctor's favorite mentors, whom I have highly respected for more than 20 years, once served as Civil Service advisor to the Kingdom of Nepal. William F. “Bill” Danielson was a past president of International Public Management (IPMA), HR director of Alameda County, Calif., and the City of Oakland. In a letter to me (yes, a handwritten letter — remember those?) a decade and a half ago, Bill remembered the intricacies of that system. Those recollections are very definitely worth sharing with the HR Doctor's colleagues. Rest in peace my friend and mentor Bill. I know I would have your permission, if not forgiveness, to share some excerpts. Consider this a history lesson and a public administration lesson from a master teacher:

“When I was a Ford Foun-

dation Consultant in the then peaceful Kingdom of Nepal in 1969 and 1970, no one had the ability to communicate the way we do now. No one was permitted to communicate the way we do now. His Majesty's Government of Nepal was completely hierarchical. There were about 10 (as I recall) ministries; each was a small universe unto itself. Communications went the route of the ‘note and file’ system. I had never heard of the “note and file” system before I went to Nepal. The way it worked was that a lower level civil servant might write a report (e.g., ‘The Bagmati River is dammed by debris.’). The report would go to his supervisor, who would read it, initial it, and pass it up the line to the next level, who would read it, initial it, et al, until the top administrator found it on his desk. The decision maker then would make a decision, or perhaps ask a question (‘Where is the Bagmati River dammed by debris?’) and then send it down the hierarchical line, being noted and filed at each step, to the originator of the report. This ‘note and file’ system could require many days, weeks, or moons.”

Communication was vertical within a given ministry among gazetted employees. Communication between ministries, below the top administrative level, was extremely rare and hazardous to do. Horizontal communications between, say, a mid-manager in the one ministry with a counterpart in another ministry did not take place without the knowledge and approval of the people at the top.

With cell phones and e-mail today, it is routine for workers within a department or agency to be able to talk among themselves about work issues. The extreme case of the Nepal “note and file” system (which His Majesty's Government borrowed from the Republic of India, and which in turn inherited it from the former British Raj, enabling a very small number of Englishmen to administer a very large colony) simply does not exist today.” (Danielson, 2006)

The “note and file” system is still alive in many bureaucracies. Requirements that all information go to a certain director or a certain manager for personal attention can stifle the individual productivity of experienced employees and colleagues. It may have worked

in the 19th-century with an objective to resist change, but it hardly works effectively in an era of e-mail, cell phones, rapid information exchange, and fast-moving events. The “note and file” system is not the basis that any of us would want for communications when we are making a 911 call or determining if Child Protective Services should be dispatched to deal with an abused child.

To those colleagues who still persist in believing that the best pathway to power is by hoarding information, please know that you might have been promoted in the civil service of 100 years ago, but in modern public administration in the United States you would drive other colleagues crazy. Take a lesson from the wonderful Bill Danielson, “power hoarded is opportunity wasted.” Give bright people the opportunity to excel to make amazing things happen and you won't be disappointed. Thank you, Bill, for the professional lessons you taught me over the years. You have helped me in my career and my life. I hope I have paid forward some of that career help to others. Bill, “I'll meet you later on, in the place where we have gone...” **CN**



NEWS FROM ACROSS THE NATION

CALIFORNIA

- The city of San Diego partnered with **SAN DIEGO COUNTY** to revamp a program that **reduces the number of frequent 911 callers**, NBC 7 San Diego reported. The Resource Access Program is a mental health initiative that tracks frequent 911 callers and connects them to long-term care by using data to measure a caller's vulnerability. San Diego Mayor Kevin Faulconer, at the microphone, speaks on the topic, surrounded by city and county officials. Frequent callers often suffer from chronic homelessness, mental illness, substance abuse disorders and other medical conditions, he noted.

CALIFORNIA

- SANTA CLARA COUNTY** launched a **"Weed Hazard" app** that aims to reduce fires in areas that are overgrown with weeds. The app allows users to anonymously photograph and report areas where property owners are not maintaining overgrown weeds, KPIX 5 CBS San Francisco reported. The purpose of the app is to prevent wildfires from spreading to residential areas. Property owners who are told by the county to remove weeds could face up to \$1,400 in fees.

FLORIDA

- MANATEE COUNTY's** "Working Cat Program" is **helping feral cats** throughout the county. When Manatee County Animal Services finds that a stray cat is unadoptable, they

place the cat in the program after it is spayed or neutered, Fox 13 reported. The cats are placed near farms, factories, churches and homes to help control rodents. The county is working to find more areas to place the "working" cats.

- A **PINELLAS COUNTY** program is **educating parents about safe sleeping for infants**. The "Beds 4 Babies" program works to eliminate ac-

cidental infant sleeping deaths by providing pack 'n plays, fitted sheets, a sleep sack, a quilt and other supplies to county residents who need a safe place for their child to sleep, WF-LA-TV reported. In 2017, 10 infants died in Pinellas County from unsafe sleeping. The program partners with hospitals and pregnancy centers throughout the county.

HAWAII

A new website in **HAWAII COUNTY** is providing residents with **up-to-date information after the 2018 Kilauea Volcano eruption**, Hawai'i Public Radio reported. The platform allows community members to

comment on resources and view information about planning and implementing recovery steps. The website features a recovery-related calendar and multimedia stories from the eruption as well as housing recovery resources and information on lava hazards.

ILLINOIS

DUPAGE COUNTY Animal Services and the Humane Society offered a **free puppy mill workshop** to discuss key topics surrounding the issue.

The workshop informed attendees about puppy mills, kitten mills, pet store conditions, the mill-to-pet-store supply chain, humane pet store models and the impact of breeding on rab-

bits. Attendees also discussed passing laws, building coalitions and conducting research to represent the issue to the public.

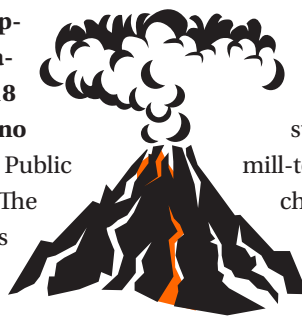
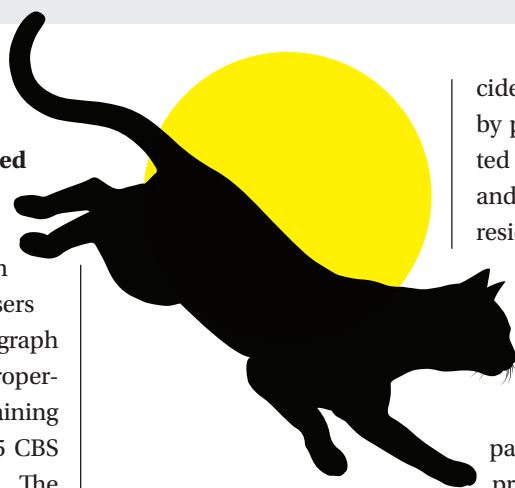
MARYLAND

A locally funded initiative sponsored by **KENT COUNTY** commissioners is helping **students gain summer work experiences**. The Summer Youth Employment Program places high school and college students in various worksites throughout the county. The program aims to help young people earn money, gain work experience, learn and develop skills and interact with other working professionals.

MICHIGAN

- A **tick and mosquito sur-**

See NEWS FROM page 19





From NEWS FROM page 18

veillance program in **WASHTENAW COUNTY** is using data to track and prepare for diseases, MLive reported. The Washtenaw County Health Department will add tick and mosquito data to a statewide system that is used to help identify virus-transmitting mosquitoes and ticks. Seventeen residents were diagnosed with Lyme disease in 2018. To help stop the spread of diseases, the county will set up mosquito traps and “tick drags” throughout the county.

MISSOURI

An extra patrol program in **CHRISTIAN COUNTY** is helping **protect homeowners** when they vacation during the summer. Residents can sign up for the program and list the dates they will be away from their homes with the Christian County Sheriff’s Office, KY3 reported. Deputies are randomly dispatched to these addresses where they physically walk around and inspect the premises.

es. The program is open to anyone who feels they may need extra patrols for their home.

MONTANA

FLATHEAD COUNTY is using a **drone to help control mosquitoes**. The drone surveys land for mosquito larvae in different bodies of standing water, KPAX reported. If the drone detects mosquito larvae, the area is sprayed with a pesticide that is safe for people and the environment.

NEVADA

- Comprehensive Cancer Centers is providing **free SPF 30 sunscreen** and safety tips for distribution at 28 **CLARK COUNTY** parks and recreation facilities, 13 pools and a campsite.

- Nevada Day will **celebrate the state’s 17 counties** this year, a theme the occasion has not drawn upon since 1957. The holiday, celebrated Oct. 31, commemorates the Silver State’s admission to the union in 1864. Organizers have asked each county to submit a page for the Nevada Day Program detailing what is significant about their county, Carson-Now.org reported. The year coincides with **PERSHING COUNTY**’s centennial.

NEW MEXICO

BERNALILLO and **SANTA**

MICHIGAN

- **OAKLAND COUNTY** is beginning a yearlong celebration to observe the **100th anniversary of women gaining the right to vote**. The board invited local governments, school districts and libraries throughout the county to celebrate the ratification of the 19th Amendment by flying the 19th Amendment Victory Flag, which was designed by the National Women’s Party. June 10 was the 100th anniversary of Michigan’s ratification of the 19th Amendment.

FE counties are teaming up to create a **hub for behavioral health services**. Dubbed “Living Room Model,” the program will create a safe space for individuals living with a behavioral health condition to access care. People can use the safe and comforting space to communicate with a peer, see a behaviorist or simply de-escalate. The center will be peer-operated, a national trend and recognized best-practice method for delivering behavioral health services.

NORTH CAROLINA

Ranking first out of 100 counties for human trafficking charges in 2018, **CUMBERLAND COUNTY** is starting a **specialized human trafficking court** to handle those charges. The County Board of Commissioners is contributing \$241,000 to start the court. Dubbed “Worth Court,” its name stands for “We Overcome Recidivism Through Healing,” the Associated Press reported.

OREGON

- A **typo** in a ballot measure will cost **COLUMBIA COUNTY**’s emergency response system millions in funding. The Columbia 9-1-1 Communications District won 74 percent approval for the measure to fund the system with a levy, but rather than asking for 29 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value, the question on the ballot asked for 0.29 cents per \$1,000, 1/1,000th of what was intended. *The Oregonian* reported that the district estimated collecting \$7.92 million over five years. As approved, it will bring in \$79,200. The district plans to ask a judge to allow the district to tax voters at the higher rate, matching what was intended and had been the existing levy rate. If a judge doesn’t side with the district, a reserve fund will keep its approximately 15 dispatchers answering emergency calls around the clock.

- The **DESCHUTES COUN-**

TY’s district attorney announced that his office will **stop prosecuting some misdemeanor offenses** to focus on prosecuting serious crimes. The county had more murder prosecutions pending than at any other time in its history and DA John Hummel told Oregon Public Broadcasting that the shift will make his office more effective. His office handles all cases, including minor misdemeanor offenses. Many of those offenses, like theft, trespassing and littering, will be handled through an early disposition program.

PENNSYLVANIA

The Environmental Protection Agency has signed a final rule that will no longer require seven counties around Pittsburgh to use a more expensive **“summer gas”** blend. The previous rules controlled gasoline volatility during the summer months in an effort to reduce pollution, KDKA News reported.

WASHINGTON

KING COUNTY plans to buy or **preserve** 5,000 acres of forest, farmland, trails and urban green space by the end of 2020. That will mean spending \$64 million on 61 individual projects, according to Executive Dow Constantine. Some of the projects will involve the county actually buying the land, while in some other cases, the county will buy easements that will forever prohibit development, preserving the land as open space. The purchases require the approval of the Metropolitan King County Council, *The Seattle Times* reported, but the council already approved the framework of the plan to expand the county’s protection of public space.

News from Across the Nation is compiled by Charlie Ban and Rachel Looker. If you have an item for News From, please email cban@naco.org or rlooker@naco.org.

‘A perfect bunch of misfits’



From BUS TRIP page 16

of the Portland-bound patrons joined in, they, quite surprised at our unity, led her to the front of our line. We couldn’t understand her, nor could she understand us, but by God, she was part of our gang.

Midway through Day Three, we cut through the Blue Mountains. Almost home. I began to think about how I would answer the inevitable question, “Was it worth it, did you make a difference?”

As we approached the exit at Stanfield, the driver came over the intercom, announced that despite being on time, it would be the briefest of stops, only long enough for one passenger to depart. Everyone else was to remain seated.

The vision of Kelly, my wife, sitting on the back of the ranch truck was a welcoming sight. Not one for goodbyes, I bounded off the bus on the driver’s heels. I grabbed my luggage and slung it up next to my wife as I hugged her.

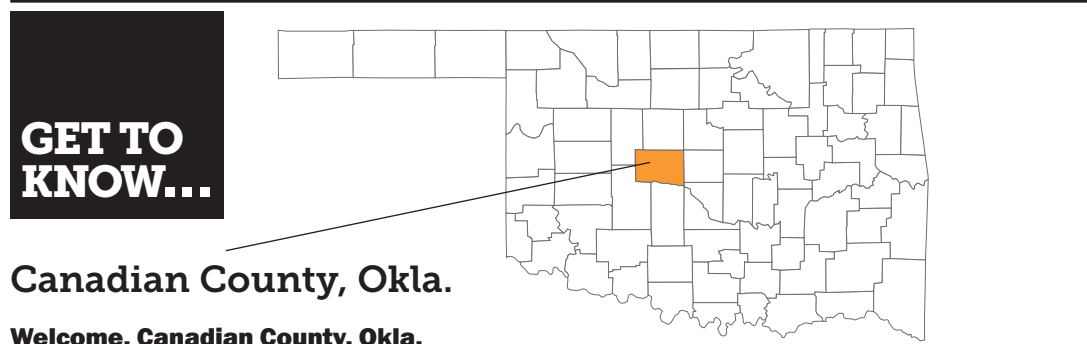
She turned me around to a humbling sight: No less than a half dozen vagabonds had risked being left behind and came off the bus to say goodbye. My seatmate quietly extended his hand and introduced himself, followed by the pregnant gal, who for the first time, was dry-eyed and well fed. Last in line was the young mother who kissed the St. Christopher medallion around her neck and offered a simple, “gracias.” A perfect bunch of misfits.

I hope the driver waited. I like to think he did. I couldn’t bring myself to look back.

I think I made a difference. I think we all can make a difference, if only in giving a hand-up, if not a hand-out, to those nearest us on this journey. **CN**

Jim Doherty is a Morrow County, Ore. commissioner and a 2018 graduate of the County Leadership Institute.





GET TO KNOW...

Canadian County, Okla.

Welcome, Canadian County, Okla.

Canadian County is located in west-central Oklahoma. The county has 900 square miles of land and water with a county seat in El Reno.

The county's name originates from early French explorers who named the county after the two rivers, the North Canadian and Canadian, that run through the area.

Canadian County is the state's fastest-growing county with a population of nearly 139,000.

Agriculture was the main economic base for early settlers. The current economy focuses on business and industry, agribusiness, manufacturing oil and gas and retail trade.

Canadian County has 51 known archaeological sites. The sites are attributed to the Paleo era, the Archaic Era, the Woodland Era and the Plains Village Era. **The historic Chisholm trail cuts through the county where 10 million cattle, one million horses and 35,000 cowboys passed through in the 1800s.**




Deadline Aug. 9 for comments

From MITIGATE page 5

should be eliminated or modified;

- Whether other administrative changes are needed to improve mitigation bank and in-lieu fee program review process;
- Whether changes need to be made to the requirements associated with ILF program accounts;
- Whether clarity is needed to facilitate multipurpose compensation projects;
- Whether changes are needed to accommodate State/Tribal assumption of the Section 404 program; and
- Approaches to quantify stream mitigation credits that better reflect the total amount of stream ecosystem restored, enhanced or preserved in rivers and larger streams, and stream-wetland complexes, while maximizing available

credits and opportunities for larger compensatory mitigation projects within a given watershed. The agencies are seeking feedback on how such changes might impact state and local governments and any recommendations while the agencies develop a new proposed rule. EPA and Army Corps are accepting comments through Aug. 9.

Comments can be submitted to MitigationRuleAmendment@usace.army.mil and copied to MitigationRuleStates@epa.gov. In addition to soliciting comments, EPA and Army Corps will be holding a webinar for state and local governments on the Compensatory Mitigation Rule on July 23. You can register for the webinar by visiting: <https://bit.ly/2xu1cmh>. 

Zach George is a legislative assistant at NACo.



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