



NACo executive team (l-r): Second Vice President Gary Moore, Boone County, Ky. judge/executive; First Vice President Mary Ann Borgeson, Douglas County, Neb. commissioner; President Greg Cox, San Diego County, Calif. supervisor, Immediate Past President Roy Charles Brooks, Tarrant County, Texas commissioner. Photo by Jessica Yurinko

San Diego, Calif. Supervisor Greg Cox takes NACo helm

By Beverly A. Schlotterbeck
executive editor

San Diego County, Calif. Supervisor Greg Cox was sworn in July 16 as NACo president, taking the helm of the new 2018-2019 executive team, during NACo's Annual Business Meeting in Davidson County/Nashville, Tenn.

He is joined by First Vice President Mary Ann Borgeson, Douglas County, Neb. commis-

sioner; Second Vice President Gary Moore, Boone County, Ky. judge/executive, and Immediate Past President Roy Charles Brooks, Tarrant County, Texas commissioner.

In the only contested race, Moore bested three opponents, winning in the third and final round by a margin of 31 votes out of 2,561 cast.

In his inaugural speech, Cox said, "I have seen firsthand the ability of county governments

to transform lives and communities. When America's 3,069 counties, parishes and boroughs are united at the national level, we can be an immense force for good. I am honored to lead NACo in this noble effort."

Cox's presidential initiative, "Connecting the Unconnected," will build on former President Roy Charles Brooks' "Serving the Underserved" campaign.

His effort will focus on using technology, data and public-pri-

vate partnerships to connect people to services.

"This initiative will explore the many ways counties link residents to services. It builds on NACo's previous effort led by the Honorable Roy Charles Brooks, in Serving the Underserved, by continuing to inform and illustrate how counties help our most vulnerable citizens forge pathways to live well and thrive.

See CONFERENCE page 2

More than 3,000 attend NACo Annual Conference in Davidson County, Tenn.

From CONFERENCE page 1

“Over the course of the next year, NACo will demonstrate how counties deliver “people-centered” services, maximize government efficiency and ensure responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars,” he said.

The six-term San Diego County supervisor began his public service on the Chula Vista City, Calif. Council, where he also served as mayor before running for county supervisor.

At the Business Meeting, NACo members also adopted just over 100 new policy resolutions as well as 20 changes to the County Platform, the association’s formal compilation of policy positions.

In other NACo business, the

Board of Directors approved a new member program — the NACo High Performance Leadership Academy — that will provide an integrated, online 12-week development program in high-level skill development for county staff subsidized by NACo.

The Davidson County/Nashville-based conference attracted record numbers, over 3,000 registered to attend. Participants were offered a full agenda, starting with the traditional pre-conference County CIO and Technology Leadership Forum, co-sponsored by PTI, and the Smarter Counties Summit, July 12-13. Both the CIO Forum and the Summit took looks at cybersecurity and the U.S. election infrastructure. Brian Newby, executive director, U.S. Election Assistance Commission, keynoted an afternoon Summit session.

The conference also set the

stage for celebrating the 50th anniversary of *County News*, marked by a special drink at the Opening Reception, the Byline Blast; video congratulations from NACo members; and an interactive *County News* kiosk, where attendees could search newly-uploaded digitized archives of NACo’s official publication of record.

General sessions featured an inspirational talk from former NFL star running back Eddie George about coming to terms with the end of his football career, an equally inspirational address from children’s rights advocate and rock star, Marian Wright Edelman and an entertaining panel discussion from three Nashville singer/songwriters who had composed hits for some of the town’s most well-known County/Western stars.

Attendees took full advantage of two series of presentations which mixed corporate

solutions to county problems in one-on presentations, “County Talks,” mimicking the popular Ted Talk format, and panel discussions with county customers, dubbed “Solution Spotlights.” Participants could also attend specialized, two- to four-hour training sessions on topics such as crisis communications challenges or technology leadership.

A special forum on affordable housing brought together stakeholders and counties to discuss cutting-edge solutions to bring more affordable housing to communities.

Volunteers at the traditional NextGen Community Service Project filled 200 backpacks with supplies for homeless youth served by the Oasis Center, a human services non-profit agency in Davidson County.

Award presentations are standard events at every NACo Annual Conference. Award winners are feted at the annual

Awards Luncheon, which spotlights the 20 Best of Category Achievement Award winners.

The NACo Achievement Awards program, now in its 48th year recognizes innovative concepts that improve county governments.

The Americans for the Arts presented the Public Leadership in the Arts Award to Hillsborough County, Fla. and NACo’s Arts and Culture Commission honored the Davidson County, Tenn. Juvenile Court with its Local Arts Advocacy Award.

The NACo Presidential Scholarship awards went to Michael Matthews, Jr. and Mercedes Saldana from Tarrant County, Texas. The Dav-enport Financial Group and the Linebarger Attorneys at Law sponsor the scholarships, which are awarded annually to college-bound students in the home county of the out-going NACo president. **CN**

SNAP/STATS



TOP HOMEOWNERSHIP RATES 2017*

MSA	PERCENT OWNED
Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton, Pa.-N.J.	73.1
Pittsburgh, Pa.	72.7
Grand Rapids-Wyoming, Mich.	71.7
Louisville/Jefferson County, Ky.-Ind.	71.7
Columbia, S.C.	70.7
Birmingham-Hoover, Ala.	70.6

*75 Largest Metropolitan Statistical Areas: 2015 to 2017

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey/Housing Vacancy Survey, Feb. 27, 2018.

New legislation would reduce local regulatory authority on telecommunications infrastructure

By Jacob Terrell

Senate Commerce Committee Chairman Sen. John Thune (R-S.D.) and Sen. Brian Schatz (D-Hawaii) introduced legislation, June 28, that would place limits on the authority of local governments to regulate the deployment of wireless communications infrastructure within their jurisdictions.

The new legislation, Streamlining the Rapid Evolution and Modernization of Leading-edge Infrastructure Necessary to Enhance Small Cell Deployment Act (S. 3157),

or “STREAMLINE Small Cell Deployment Act” for short, would limit fees local governments are currently able to assess telecommunications companies for the placement, construction or co-location of new wireless service facilities. The bill would restrict these fees to “actual costs,” capping what local governments can charge telecommunications companies for the use of locally owned rights-of-way and reducing or eliminating any application fees local governments may assess for processing incoming requests for construction.

SPEEDREAD

The recently introduced **STREAMLINE Small Cell Deployment Act** would limit local governments’ ability to regulate wireless telecommunications infrastructure deployment.

The **STREAMLINE Small Cell Deployment Act** would cap fees local governments can charge telecommunications companies for the use of locally owned land.

Additionally, the new legislation would limit the amount of time local governments have to consider and respond to requests made by telecommunications companies make to build new wireless service facilities on locally owned land.

Specifically, the bill mandates that local governments respond to applications or requests from telecommunications companies related to new wireless service facilities on local infrastructure, including 5G Small Cells, within

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Supreme Court: Unions can't collect 'fair share' fees

By Lisa Soronen

The Supreme Court held 5-4 in *Janus v. AFSCME* that state statutes allowing public sector employers and unions to agree that employees who don't join the union must still pay their "fair share" of collective bargaining costs violate the First Amendment. The court also held that employees must "affirmatively consent" to join the union. More than 20 states authorize "fair share" for public sector employees.

In *Abood v. Detroit Board of Education* (1977) the Supreme Court held that the First Amendment does not prevent "agency shop" arrangements where public employees who do not join the union are still required to pay their "fair share" of union dues for collective-bargaining, contract administration and grievance-adjustment. In *Janus*, the Supreme Court overruled *Abood*.

The Supreme Court's decision isn't surprising. The five most conservative Justices had criticized *Abood* in 2014 in *Harris v. Quinn*. In 2016, right before Justice Antonin Scalia died, the Supreme Court heard oral argument in *Friedrichs v. California Teachers Association*, which raised the same question as *Janus*. The court ultimately issued a 4-4 decision in that case which, practically speaking,

By Mary Ann Barton
senior staff writer

Lehigh County, Pa. has nearly 2,000 county employees. Hundreds are considered "fair share" contributors to public unions — meaning they are contributing money from their paychecks to unions whether they want to or not and are benefiting from the unions' bargaining power. But after the Supreme Court recently overturned a 1977 decision that required public employees to pay dues and fees to unions in unionized shops, saying it was a violation of free speech, those employees are no longer required to pay union dues.

County Executive Phillips Armstrong of Lehigh County, Pa. said about half of the county employees there are in unions. "Just about all of them have signed

up to continue, knowing this was about to happen," he said.

Lehigh County informed employees of the decision. "We immediately sent out an email to everybody," he said. "We contacted all of the union leaders too. It went really smooth."

David A. Dunbar, an SEIU Local 721 member at the Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services, said he and other union members tweeted out their support for their union during work and lunch breaks using "our #UnionStrong hashtag, which trended in L.A. on the day of the decision," he said. "Nobody was surprised that morning, so we focused exclusively on letting the world know that we are choosing unions for the long haul."

Dunbar noted that "membership in my union is a small investment that pays off not just for my fam-

ily — but my community. Unions make our cities, counties and states strong."

Sussex County, Del. Councilman Rob Arlett had a different take on the court's decision: "I applaud their decision to allow the workers to be able to make the choice to be in a union and receive those benefits and pay a fee or not," he said. "To me, it was empowering to the worker." Arlett said there are county employees in Sussex County in a union. "I will tell you there are employees in the union who are furious about it [having to pay dues without joining]. I get a little thrown under the bus on social media by union guys because of that ordinance I tried to pass." [See *County News* "New Mexico, Delaware counties explore right-to-work ordinance, Nov. 22, 2017"] "I do not 'not support unions.' What I support is choice," he said.

terests of the person who does not want to pay."

Prior to *Janus* unions could ask employees to "opt-in" or "opt-out" of paying dues. Unions prefer the opt-out arrangement where the union contacts employees each year and tells them they will be a member of the union unless they contact the union and opt-out. The court held that going forward only "opt-in" is permissible where employees must affirmatively tell the union they want to be a member.

In a strongly worded dissent, Justice Elena Kagan, joined by the court's other liberal justices, warned that the decision to overturn *Abood* will "have large scale consequences." She noted that many state and local governments "have found agency fees the best way to ensure a stable and productive relationship with an exclusive bargaining agent." She concluded her dissent by warning that the *Janus* decision had "chosen the winners" in the debate between states over the role of unions "by turning the First Amendment into a sword." **CN**

Soronen is executive director of the State and Local Legal Center. NACo is a founder, a funder and a board member of the State and Local Legal Center, headquartered in Washington, D.C. The center extends NACo's advocacy on behalf of counties to the highest court in the land.

kept *Abood* on the books.

Mark Janus, a child support specialist with the Illinois Department of Health Care and Family Services, challenged Illinois's agency fee statute applicable to public employees.

In an opinion written by Justice Samuel Alito, the court repudiated the two main justifications for "fair share" in *Abood*. The court's main defense of agency fee in *Abood* is that it promotes "labor peace." The union acts as the exclusive representative of all employees in

a bargaining unit so no rivals unions can cause conflict. In *Janus* the Court pointed out that labor peace exists in federal employment, where agency fee is disallowed, and states without agency fee. "The *Abood* Court assumed that designation of a union as the exclusive representative of all the employees in a unit and the exaction of agency fees are inextricably linked, but that is simply not true."

The second defense for agency fee in *Abood* was to avoid free riders who "enjoy

the benefits of union representation without shouldering the costs." But the court pointed out that Janus argues, "he is not a free rider on a bus headed for a destination that he wishes to reach but is more like a person shanghaied for an unwanted voyage." More technically, the court concluded the "First Amendment does not permit the government to compel a person to pay for another party's speech just because the government thinks that the speech furthers the in-



KING GEORGE COUNTY, VA.

Created by:
Leon Rosenberg
Adopted in: 1974

Ten years before King George County adopted a seal, it appeared in the King George Fall Festival Parade. Local businessman Leon Rosenberg designed the seal to accompany a float in the parade, and later brought it to the Board of Supervisors for consideration for inclusion on county documents.

Named after England's King George I, King George County is the birthplace of Founding Father James Madison and has been a historically rural community. It is known as the gateway to Virginia's Northern Neck — a peninsula bounded by the Potomac and Rappahannock rivers.

The seal depicts that the foundations of America are found in the Old World in four quarters.

The upper left quarter is occupied by three gold lions on red, representing England.

One red lion rampant in a double tressure of fleurs-de-lis which represents Scotland.

The upper right quarter is occupied by three gold fleurs-de-lis on blue, representing France.

The lower left quarter is indicated by a gold harp with silver strings, representing the Arms of Ireland as a separate kingdom.

The lower right quarter of the shield consists of two gold lions on red for Brunswick II, red hearts and a blue lion rampant on gold for Luneberg III, and a white horse on red for Westphalia.

In the center is Charlemagne's crown on red.



Would you like to see your county's seal featured? Contact Charlie Ban at cban@naco.org.

NFL star talks trials, triumphs after football

By Charlie Ban
senior staff writer

Eddie George is a football player. Ask almost anyone about him and that’s what they’ll say. That’s what he said, up until he was 31, when a mental lapse during a drill, while playing out a bad season, forced him off the field.

He was too busy griping to himself that he shouldn’t be running plays for the scout team, typically the role given to backup players. He didn’t pay attention to the play call and took a guess as to which way he was supposed to carry the ball. He guessed wrong.

“George! Get the hell off my field, you’re messing up my drill,” two-time Super Bowl-winning coach Bill Parcells yelled.

Suddenly, the man who won the Heisman Trophy at Ohio State and was the face of the Titans when Tennessee’s still-new NFL team played in one of the most exciting final quarters of the Super Bowl was on his own.

“They say an athlete dies twice,” he told the Opening General Session audience at NACo’s Annual Conference July 14. “As an NFL athlete, that being you created is now done. You’ll never compete on



NFL legend Eddie George talks about the challenges he faced after his football career with NACo members July 14. Photo by Jessica Yurinko

that level as an athlete. That’s literally like watching a loved one die.” George’s drive to play football stemmed from a hope that it would strengthen his relationship with his troubled father, striving to be the player his dad talked about instead of the legendary Jim Brown.

“Some handle (the end of their playing careers) better than others,” he said. “For me, why I played the game, it cut a lot deeper. I had to reposition, readjust my entire life at the end of my career, be focused about what I wanted to do and how I thought about myself.”

Through counseling, he pulled out of a depression, started a landscape architecture business, a financial advising business, an acting career and was a present father, husband, friend and family member. And 14 years later, he lives by four pillars that allow him to thrive.

Mentally, he allowed himself to shed the “me against the world” mentality that drove his collegiate career. He acknowledged that a man needs help to get through life, and therapy was crucial to maintaining his mental health.

“We think we can force things through by ourselves,” he said. “We probably can, but it will tear your soul apart and it will compromise your health. It’s okay to say, ‘I need help.’ There’s more strength in that than trying to force yourself through life.”

He continues a rigorous physical training regimen that he hopes will keep him alive to see his great-grandchildren, and also to soothe the aches from a bruising football career.

“To achieve the things that I want to do in life, I have to make sure I get my rest, get my

exercise in,” he said. “I played every game for eight and a half years, and as soon as I stop (the routine) I feel every bit of it.”

George credits his relationship with God for keeping him spiritually centered and aware of his place in the world. At the same time, he also keeps that place in the world moving by surrounding himself socially with people who challenge and keep him accountable.

“If you’re the smartest person in the room, you need to get a new group of friends,” he said. **CN**

WORD SEARCH

CASSIA COUNTY, Idaho

Created By: Mary Ann Barton

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

AGRICULTURE: More than 80 percent of economic sales in the county are from the sale of crops and livestock.

BURLEY: County seat.

CACHE: Cache Peak is the county’s highest point at 10,339 feet.

CASSIA: The county was named for Cassia Creek, which was named for John Cazier, a member of the Mormon Battalion.

COURTHOUSE: The Art Deco designed county courthouse was built in 1939 funded by the Works Progress Administration.

FEDERAL: More than 56 percent of the land in the county is owned by the federal government.

IDAHO: The county is located in the south central region of Idaho.

MINIDOKA: The Minidoka Dam brought irrigation to crops.

OWYHEE: The county was carved out of Owyhee County Feb. 20, 1879.

PALEO: The first inhabitants of the county; later the Shoshoni and Palute tribes settled there.

POTATO: Ore-Ida, now known as McCain’s, is located in the county; they make hash browns and French fries.

ROCKS: City of Rocks National Reserve is located in the county.

SNAKE: The Snake River provides boating, water skiing and fishing opportunities.

TRACY: The oldest building in the county still in use, the Tracy Store, since 1894.

WAGON: Wagon trains heading to Oregon and California in the 1860s often stopped in the area.



Child advocate Marian Wright Edelman urges county officials July 16 to join her in conquering childhood poverty. Photo by Jessica Yurinko

Edelman urges county leaders to join her in fight to end childhood poverty

By Mary Ann Barton
senior staff writer

Urging NACo members to join her in a fight to end childhood poverty, activist Marian Wright Edelman said counties have the ammunition to fight the battle.

"You all have the money, the leadership capacity — I hope you will join us," she said in her keynote address July 16 at NACo's Annual Conference in Davidson County, Tenn. "Change has to come from the bottom up."

There are about 14 million children in the United States living in poverty, the Annie E. Casey Foundation reported

last month.

Calling her "truly a living legend," NACo Immediate Past President Roy Charles Brooks introduced Edelman, who, he noted, began her career as the first black woman admitted to the Mississippi Bar.

In 1967, then a civil rights lawyer, she took Sen. Robert Kennedy to the Mississippi Delta to investigate reports of extreme poverty and hunger. In her speech, she noted the 50th anniversary of the Poor People's Campaign, founded in 1968 by Martin Luther King Jr. and carried out after his assassination. The actions eventually led to reforms in the nation's food assistance

programs.

More than five decades later, she's still at it. "We need to finish that work," said Edelman, 79, president and founder of the Children's Defense Fund. "You have real power and real resources — we're going to end child poverty."

Edelman, long a champion of children since her days as a policy liaison to King, criticized the amount of money spent on locking people up versus the amount of money used for education, which garnered applause from the audience.

She encouraged county officials to seek out partners to add the Children's Defense

Fund's Freedom Schools to their communities. The schools provide summer and after-school reading enrichment to children who might not otherwise have access to books.


The schools operate in partnerships with local congregations, schools, colleges and universities, community organizations and secure juvenile justice facilities.

"Kids need hope, they need role models," she said. "I hope you'll look at this and run them in your counties."

Edelman encouraged counties to join her in a "strategy session" on how to end poverty, after the Children's Defense

Fund publishes a childhood poverty report, expected out soon.

"We need to create a sense of urgency to save our babies," she said. "We need to keep our common and moral sense and not make children the victims. We've got all the power in this room we need."

"Let me encourage you to plant the seeds of hope," she said. "In the next 30 to 60 days, let's start planting some seeds." 

For more information on childhood poverty, read County News' Hot Topics "Forging a Fair Start" published in December: <https://bit.ly/2uMUWEx>

More counties see big opportunities for tiny homes

By Charlie Ban
senior staff writer

Stan VanderWerf's generation envied the bigger job, the bigger car, the bigger house. Now, as a first-term El Paso County, Colo. commissioner, he has seen things head the other direction with the rising popularity of tiny homes.

In late 2017, the county changed its land development codes to allow tiny homes throughout unincorporated areas, part of a trend that is seeing counties, cities and states embrace these structures as solutions for affordable housing and infill.

"Once you get over the novelty of living in a house this small, you realize what options are out there," he said. "Some people want low-cost housing and some people just don't want a big house. So we've given them the option."

Their size had been the sticking point. Tiny homes are residential structures of 400 square feet or less, on a foundation or on wheels. Building codes haven't mixed well with the smaller dimensions of certain house features, but in 2017, the International Code Council adopted new building regulations specifically for tiny homes.

Coconino County, Ariz. is finalizing adoption of those building codes, and Chris Young, county building manager, said that will simplify the county's approach to tiny homes.

"It's nearly impossible to meet standard code regulations in a building that's less than 400 square feet," he said. "We had a tiny home (placement) policy, but the policy couldn't trump the requirements of a code, so now we'll have step-by-step guidelines for how to make one livable."

He, too, sees opportunities for people to own homes that didn't exist before in a pricey housing market, with tiny home construction costs starting at \$20,000.

"It's hard to find a (tradi-



El Paso County, Colo. Commissioner Longinos Gonzalez, Jr. tours a tiny home during a December 2017 media event announcing the county's land development code to allow for more tiny home occupation. Photo courtesy of El Paso County

tional) house for less than \$400,000," he said. "This is an opportunity for people to buy a plot of land in a rural area, off the grid. People can be totally reliant on hauled water, solar power. There are small lots in canyons in Sedona where you can't build much else."

That perfect fit is a selling point for counties adopting tiny home regulations, according to John Kernohan, director of the American Tiny House Association.

"There's a nice curb appeal that people didn't see before," he said. "The footprint of these houses means that property that was once deemed too small to build on is now fair game. Improving that property with a structure ups its taxable value and a small lot with



a house is worth more than a vacant lot."

Kernohan said government attitudes toward tiny homes has flipped in recent years. As more people become familiar with the concept, particularly through the television show "Tiny House, Big Living," the mystery fades and elected officials and planning departments get a better handle on what tiny homes are, how they can be used and how to handle their regulation.

"Early on, most of our calls were from individuals interested in finding out more about living in tiny homes," he said. "Lately, we've been hearing a lot more from cities and counties hoping to find out more about how they fit into a community."

El Paso County enacted a strict set of guidelines to ensure tiny homes blend into the community. They must be hooked up to water and sewer lines and look like a traditional house, including a seven-feature list, from which builders must include a minimum of four.

Back East, the Lancaster County, Pa. Planning Commission has taken the lead and published a community planning tool to help its municipalities craft regulations for tiny homes.

"We didn't want to just give them a sample regulation because there are so many different factors in these municipalities," said Dean Everson, principal planning analyst. "It's a series of questions to address how you want tiny homes to fit into your community."

Lancaster County is home to Tiny Estates, a tiny home resort offering nightly, weekly and monthly rentals, which is indicative of the demographics of people interested in the tiny home lifestyle.

Kernohan said that the information collected by the American Tiny House Association shows most attendees have household incomes of more than \$40,000.

"That's an attractive demographic," he said. "It's a population a lot of counties want to have paying taxes." **CN**



RESOLUTIONS



NACo Board members stand to register their vote during the resolutions process. Photo by Leon Lawrence III

NACo Board members, at their Annual Meeting, reaffirmed or adopted 107 new policy positions, touching on issues as diverse as sexual abuse in families to remediation of abandoned uranium mines.

Thirty-one policies were submitted for adoption at the Annual Conference proceedings in Davidson/Nashville, Tenn. The remainder had first been adopted as interim policy at NACo Legislative Conference in March.

Delegates also approved 20 platform changes, including an addition to the Justice and Public Safety section that acknowledges the authority of the federal government to regulate and enforce against illegal drug traffic, while also respecting states' actions to decriminalize marijuana under state law.

The newest policy positions follow.

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Reform H-2A administrative rules

ISSUE: The U.S. Department of Labor should consider reforms to existing H-2A administrative rules by addressing the following items: 1) Streamlining housing, transportation, and worker certification approvals; 2) Re-evaluating housing program components to include a discussion of vouchers, wage offsets, and a pre-employment housing needs survey; 3) Clarifying the term "seasonality" and providing flexibility for farm worker movement to respond to production needs; 4) Creating a simplified application processing system with a central portal housed under the United States Department of Agriculture; and

5) Modernizing farm worker recruitment methods to ensure timely certification of and arrival of farm workers.

POLICY: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the U.S. Department of Labor to reform existing H-2A administrative rules to modernize and simplify the H-2A application and certification processes and expand farm worker flexibility to ensure that a reliable and capable workforce is available for the nation's farmers and ranchers.

Rural broadband

ISSUE: Rural residents lag behind their urban counterparts with respect to access to reliable and high-speed Internet services.

POLICY: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to strength-

en sustained funding for rural broadband deployment and support cooperatives deploying telecommunications services by leveraging and streamlining key federal programs: the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service (RUS); the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Connect America Funds (CAF); U.S. Economic Development Administration grant program; and the Rural Infrastructure Program.

COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Protect the health and safety of sober home residents

ISSUE: Local governments continue to see a proliferation of sober homes within their

boundaries and need additional clarity from the federal government on how they can protect the health and safety of sober home residents through reasonable regulations.

POLICY: The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports further U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) clarification on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Fair Housing Act (FHA) to allow local governments to enact reasonable regulations to protect the health and safety of sober home residents, and the residents of the surrounding communities.

NACo also supports federal legislation to establish patient protection and best practices for sober homes.

See RESOLUTIONS page 8

NACo SUPPORTS IMPROVING HEALTH OF CORAL REEFS

From RESOLUTIONS page 7

Affordable housing in federal infrastructure packages

ISSUE: Support the inclusion of affordable housing investments in any federal infrastructure package.

POLICY: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to include affordable housing investments in any federal infrastructure package to provide counties with the resources necessary to create and preserve more affordable homes in the United States.

Flexibility for the Registered Apprenticeships Program

ISSUE: Support flexibility for registered apprenticeships, academic and hands-on training.

POLICY: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to provide more flexibility for the Registered Apprenticeships Program to allow for more hours to be achieved through relevant college and workshop classroom instruction, rather than all hours having to be recorded working with a journeyman.

ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY AND LAND USE

Regulate groundwater under the Clean Water Act

ISSUE: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is considering regulating pollutants originating from point sources that eventually reach surface water through groundwater via a "direct hydrologic connection."

POLICY: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the EPA to work closely with state and local governments on potential regulations, guidance or clarifications on the agency's authority to regulate groundwater connections under the federal Clean Water Act (CWA).

Coral Reef Conservation Act

ISSUE: Coral reefs throughout the United States are threatened. In particular, the Florida Reef Tract, the third largest barrier reef in the world and the only living coral reef in the continental United States, is currently facing an unprecedented disease outbreak.

POLICY: The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports the Coral Reef Conservation Reauthorization Act and any similar legislation that will dedicate needed resources to improving the health of coral reefs. Specifically, NACo supports legislation that would:

Strengthen the federal response to coral reef emergencies, such as the current disease outbreak in Florida;

Direct new federal grant making for local coral reef conservation projects;

Provide Congressional authorization for the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force, which gives full representation to state and territorial governments;

Support public-private partnerships that advance coral reef conservation and stewardship;

Authorize the U.S. Department of the Interior to conserve coral reefs in our national parks, national wildlife refuges, and marine national monuments; and

Engage our nation's marine laboratories, aquariums, and coral reef institutes in cutting-edge, federally funded research that advances our scientific understanding of coral reef biodiversity and resiliency. Current research has not been able to properly identify or find a cure for the current disease outbreak.

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) impact on human health, environment

ISSUE: Addressing the potential human health and environmental threat caused by per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)

POLICY: The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports efforts by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and other federal agencies to study health and environmental impacts of PFAS compounds. Additionally, as the administration moves toward potential regulatory action, NACo urges the administration to work closely with state and local governments throughout the rule-making process.

ation of Counties (NACo) supports efforts by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and other federal agencies to study health and environmental impacts of PFAS compounds. Additionally, as the administration moves toward potential regulatory action, NACo urges the administration to work closely with state and local governments throughout the rule-making process.

FINANCE, PENSIONS AND INTER-GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Fully fund the 2002 Help America Vote Act

ISSUE: States have used or obligated funds appropriated by the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA) to implement the requirements of the law and

to improve the administration of elections. However, fulfilling the original intention of HAVA and fully funding the law is necessary to ensure states have the financial resources they need to sustain the improvements they have made since 2002.

POLICY: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to fully fund the required payments of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA). These funds are allocated to states to continuously upgrade voting systems, registering voters in statewide voter registration databases, provide provisional voting options, improve voter accessibility and implement other improvements to the administration of elections. Continuous funding of election administration, beyond the one-time infusion of federal dollars from HAVA, is also critical. NACo urges the federal government to provide more funding to county governments for functional voting machines and to

create awareness for increased voter participation. Continuous funding from the federal government sustains local election jurisdictions (counties and municipalities) to procure voting equipment that is critical to the nation's election infrastructure.

SEC's Municipal Advisor rule

ISSUE: The Security and Exchange Commission's (SEC) Municipal Advisor rule under the Dodd Frank Act.

POLICY: The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports the 2013 rule released by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) on the Registration of Municipal Advisors (MA), as well as the operational guidance released by the SEC. Counties support regulations separating the duties between MAs and financial advisors to prevent manipulation of government finances or use of government financial transactions for personal gain.

HEALTH

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health services privatization

ISSUE: Several congressional initiatives have recommended that all medical and mental health services be privatized and treatment be provided by the private sector, totally eliminating direct medical and mental health services provided by U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical centers and community-based medical treatment facilities.

Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress not to enact any legislation that would privatize all medical and mental health services now provided by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to eligible veterans.

Immigrant eligibility for federal benefits

ISSUE: Immigrants' use of public health benefits and the



Dallas County, Texas Judge Clay Jenkins takes the microphone with his daughter alongside. Photo by Leon Lawrence III

See HEALTH page 9

NACo OPPOSES PRIVATIZATION OF VA MEDICAL, MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

From **HEALTH** page 8

impact of changes to eligibility on county governments.

POLICY: The National Association of Counties (NACo) opposes specific changes to existing immigration policy that would lead to increases in uncompensated care and shift federal and state costs and the administrative burden to counties, including preventing access to and/or penalizing immigrants for the use of federally-funded health care and public health programs including Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

Mental health, addiction care integration to address opioid crisis

ISSUE: Although opioid addiction very frequently follows the onset of depression, and opioid addiction frequently triggers depression within as few as 30 days, our patterns of care organization and funding do not make provision for a necessary linkage between mental health and substance use care.

POLICY: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the federal government, specifically relevant agencies within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to modify grant, technical assistance, and service funding programs that support the development and operation of integrated care to include provision for the integration of mental health and addiction care, including care for depression and opioid addiction.

Veterans Choice Accountability Act (H.R. 1797)

ISSUE: Support for the Veterans Choice Accountability Act (H.R. 1797)

POLICY: The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports the Veterans Choice Accountability Act (H.R. 1797) and urges Congress to ensure that reimbursements from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to non-VA facilities for

the care they provide to eligible veterans through the Veterans Choice Program are processed in a timely manner. This will not involve any diversion of funds from other VA programs including, VA medical centers.

HUMAN SERVICES AND EDUCATION

Address sexual abuse in families

ISSUE: Resources and education to prevent sexual abuse in families

POLICY: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Office of the Administration for Children and Families' (ACF) Children's Bureau to focus prevention money through, but not limited to, the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) for victims of sexual abuse, including commercially sexually exploited children, with evidence-based trauma informed care. NACo further supports programs, research and monitoring systems that prevent child abuse and neglect in families while ensuring that children who are victims receive treatment and care.

JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

Emergency Management Performance Grant

ISSUE: The Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) is the sole all-hazards grant currently extant, and the most demonstrably successful Department of Homeland Security (DHS) grant program for local governments. NACo has long supported the EMPG program. For nearly a decade, the EMPG program has remained steady at \$350,000,000 per year while inflationary costs have risen, eroding the fund. The National Emergency Managers Association (NEMA) and the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM)



Commissioner Kitty Barnes, chair, Environment, Energy and Land Use Steering Committee, presents her committee's report to the Board of Directors. Photo by Leon Lawrence III

are working with Congress in light of the new spending caps to increase the EMPG funding by at least 5 percent to account for inflation.

POLICY: The National Association of Counties (NACo) requests that Congress provide for an inflationary increase of at least 5 percent in the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG).

FEMA's emergency management strategic goals

ISSUE: In 2018 the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) released a new five-year strategy for the agency. As part of that strategy, FEMA set forth a new concept for coping with the rising cost of major disasters and emergencies and the limited capacity of the agency to adequately manage all emergencies.

The keystone of this new strategic approach is that FEMA will oversee major emergencies and disasters in a new way, which is federally funded, state managed and locally executed. The FEMA strategy document does not, however, detail any partnership between FEMA and local government in the policy, prevention, planning, response, and mitigation and recovery realms.

POLICY: The National Associ-

ation of Counties (NACo) urges Congress and the U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security to ensure that FEMA actively consults with and involves counties in the development, analysis and implementation of emergency management policy and procedures in the United States to ensure that "state management" of emergencies and disasters is carried out with transparency and due attention to the needs of local government, and that due attention is given to the development of adequate local capacity to execute appropriate activity.

Rural EMS Needs Act

ISSUE: Rural fire and emergency medical services (EMS) agencies currently struggle to fund their EMS operations. As a result, many agencies experience difficulties recruiting personnel, providing EMS licensure classes and obtaining sufficient medications and medical supplies.

POLICY: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to pass the Supporting and Improving Rural EMS Needs Act (SIREN Act, H.R. 5429/S. 2830). This bill would reauthorize and amend a grant program within the U.S. Department of Health and Human

Services to provide funding for rural fire and EMS agencies to recruit personnel, procure emergency medical supplies and provide EMS training classes. Only public and nonprofit agencies would be eligible to receive these funds.

Deflection initiatives

ISSUE: Communities across the country are facing a behavioral health crisis related to substance abuse. In an effort to provide resources needed to combat the devastating impacts of the crisis, law enforcement agencies are implementing deflection program initiatives. These innovative programs — intended to divert non-violent individuals experiencing addiction, substance use, and mental health disorders from jails into community treatment programs while protecting public safety — connect individuals directly to the services needed.

POLICY: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to increase financial support for measures that maximize the ability of counties to develop and support programs that deflect non-violent individuals experiencing behavioral health crisis into treatment driven by a complete, integrated

See **FIRE CLOTHING** page 10



SUPPORT REGISTERED FOR CLEANING UP ABANDONED URANIUM MINES



Cheshire County, N.H. Commissioner Charles Weed discusses policy resolutions at the Board of Directors meeting. Photo by Leon Lawrence III

From FIRE CLOTHING page 9

and accessible continuum of care. NACo encourages federal legislative action to expedite the creation of collaborative deflection initiatives that offer immediate pathways for non-violent individuals to treatment and other services as an alternative to traditional involvement in the criminal justice system.

Service life of fire protective clothing

ISSUE: The service life of fire-fighting personal protective equipment, which includes helmets, boots, coats and pants ("fire protective clothing" or "bunker gear") is governed by a standard that mandates retirement of the gear based on manufacture date and not consideration of integrity, meeting applicable specifications or safe use.

POLICY: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to support efforts by the National Fire Protection Association ("NFPA"), National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health ("NIOSH"), International Association of Fire Chiefs ("IAFC"), Metropolitan

Fire Chiefs Association (Metro Chiefs") and others working to: (1) amend NFPA Standard 1851 ("NFPA 1851"), the Standard on Selection, Care, and Maintenance of Protective Ensembles for Structural Fire Fighting and Proximity Fire Fighting; (2) evaluate the functionality, safety and integrity of the fire protective clothing for compliance with all applicable laws and standards; and (3) change standards that regulate the service life or use of bunker gear through objective technical specifications correlated to the capacity of the equipment to protect firefighters during its intended use.

Safe life cycle for fire fighter turnout gear

ISSUE: The service life of firefighting personal protective equipment, which includes helmets, boots, coats and pants ("turnout gear" or "bunker gear") is governed by a National Fire Protection Association standard that mandates retirement of the gear based on manufacture date and not consideration of integrity, meeting applicable specifications or safe use.

POLICY: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges

Congress to direct the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health ("NIOSH") to expedite its research on firefighter turnout gear. NIOSH proposes to evaluate the functionality, safety and integrity of turnout gear by assessing its performance and effectiveness while being used in a number of varied conditions. This scientific data will be reviewed by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and could assist the NFPA with determining the safe service life or use of turnout gear by identifying objective technical specifications to be evaluated and correlated with the capacity of the equipment to protect firefighters during its intended use. Such data could also be used to inform amendments of NFPA Standard 1851 ("NFPA 1851"); Selection, Care, and Maintenance of Protective Ensembles for Structural Fire Fighting and Proximity Fire Fighting.

PUBLIC LANDS

Abandoned uranium mines

ISSUE: Throughout numerous counties across the nation,

for example the Navajo Nation within the Four Corners area, abandoned uranium mines continue to jeopardize public safety and the environment. Uranium mining has resulted in elevated uranium and radon radiation levels at over 400 locations on the Navajo Nation.

POLICY: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to enact legislation for the aggressive treatment of abandoned uranium mines across the United States to protect public health and the environment.

Forest thinning and restoration activities

ISSUE: The need for adequate, robust, and timely forest restoration to mitigate the threat of future catastrophic crown fires and reduce the risk associated from post wildfire flooding and debris flow events is critical to reducing the threat to public safety that many western forested counties confront.

POLICY: The National Association of Counties (NACo) calls on Congress to pass legislation increasing appropriations for and allowing for the use of FEMA pre-disaster mitigation grant

funding for forest thinning and restoration activities, including using FEMA flood mitigation assistance for forest restoration to reduce the threat of catastrophic fire, post wildfire flooding and debris flows.

Wood products industry in regions with low- to no-value trees

ISSUE: The wood products industry is a valued partner in restoring our forests and reducing the threat of catastrophic wildfire. Without a viable wood products industry that can consume the forest products that are removed from the forest through various restoration activities, communities will continue to face an elevated threat of catastrophic wildfire.

POLICY: The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports federal funding to promote and expedite the building of the wood products industry in regions with low to no-value trees to allow consumption of forest products as a pathway to forest restoration and reduction of the risk of catastrophic wildfire.

Federal public lands agencies' tourism and recreation

ISSUE: Federal public land agency operating budgets have a substantial impact on county recreation-based economies through their tourism and visitation programs. Future decreases in spending for these agencies will restrict the continued growth and health of counties heavily dependent on tourism and recreation.

POLICY: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to maintain current funding levels, and if possible provide additional funding, for federal public lands agencies' operating budgets. These agencies, including the National Park Service, the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Land Management, have a positive

See WOOD page 11

COUNTY SHERIFFS SHOULD BE FIRST CALL ON PUBLIC LANDS

From WOOD page 10

impact on counties with economies heavily dependent on tourism and recreation.

Counts of Utah prairie dogs

ISSUE: Inventory counts of recovering Utah Prairie Dogs and other recovering Threatened and Endangered Species.

POLICY: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to modify its policies to include the counting of Utah Prairie Dogs and other recovering threatened and endangered wildlife on private lands and state trust lands as well as federal public lands for the purpose of measuring the success of species recovery efforts.

Permit-less gathering of wood products from areas planned for fire remediation treatments

ISSUE: Permit-less gathering of wood products by the public off of Forest Service and BLM lands, before the agencies destroy those wood products in a planned treatment project

POLICY: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the U.S. Forest Service and the BLM to give members of the public notice and opportunity for permit-less gathering and private or commercial use of wood products from areas where the agencies are planning controlled burn, slashing, chipping, bull hogging and similar destructive treatments. This permit-less gathering of wood products by members of the public would occur during an announced window of time after agency final approval of the treatment project but before the project is actually carried out.

BLM, law enforcement and county sheriffs

ISSUE: The BLM has not followed the direction of the Federal Land Policy Management Act (FLPMA) to place maximum

feasible reliance on available local law enforcement including county sheriffs and their officers for all the BLM's law enforcement needs, before the BLM deploys its own law enforcement officers.

POLICY: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges all BLM field offices, district offices and state offices to follow FLPMA's direction in 43 U.S.C. 1733(c)(1) to achieve maximum feasible reliance upon willing and available local law enforcement officials in enforcing federal land management laws and regulations, and paying fair amounts for available sheriff services pursuant to contracts entered into for those services, before the BLM deploys its own law enforcement officers. If the BLM refuses to follow FLPMA's direction in this regard, then NACo urges Congress to amend 43 U.S.C. 1733(c)(1) to abolish the BLM law enforcement program altogether and require the BLM to turn to county sheriffs for all law enforcement assistance pursuant to fair contracts to pay for sheriff services.

Establishment of national monuments

ISSUE: The growing abuse of the Antiquities Act of 1906 to enable huge national monuments, amounting to one-sided presidential lockups of public lands with no input from Congress or the affected states and counties.

POLICY: The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports congressional legislation modifying the Antiquities Act to prevent designating a national monument without the affected state's and county's approvals.

Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante national monuments

ISSUE: The President's authority to act on December 4, 2017 under the Antiquities Act to modify and reduce the boundaries and size of two national monuments in southern Utah, each over a million acres in size, and to order a new management plan for the reduced

monuments, done at the behest of the state and counties where in the national monuments are located.

POLICY: The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports the actions and proclamations of the President on December 4, 2017 to modify and reduce the boundaries and size of the Bears Ears National Monument, designated in 2016, and of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, designated in 1996, under the authority of the Antiquities Act that requires any reservation of land as part of a national monument be confined to the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects of historic or scientific interest

to be protected, and to order the issuance of a new management plan for the reduced monuments.

Designation of White Sands National Monument as a National Park

ISSUE: Legislation was recently introduced to designate White Sands National Monument as a national park without the affected county's approval.

POLICY: The National Association of Counties (NACo) calls on Congress to consult with and seek the approval of the affected county before designating White Sands National Monument as a national park. If the affected county's approval is given, then

the affected county should be fully involved in the drafting and development of any legislation to designate White Sands National Monument as a national park, as well as any future management plan.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY

911 service fees

ISSUE: Funding for 911 comes for a variety of sources, including monthly fees that are set by the state and paid on consumers' telephone bills. Yet this rate may vary by phone type within

See ALARM page 12

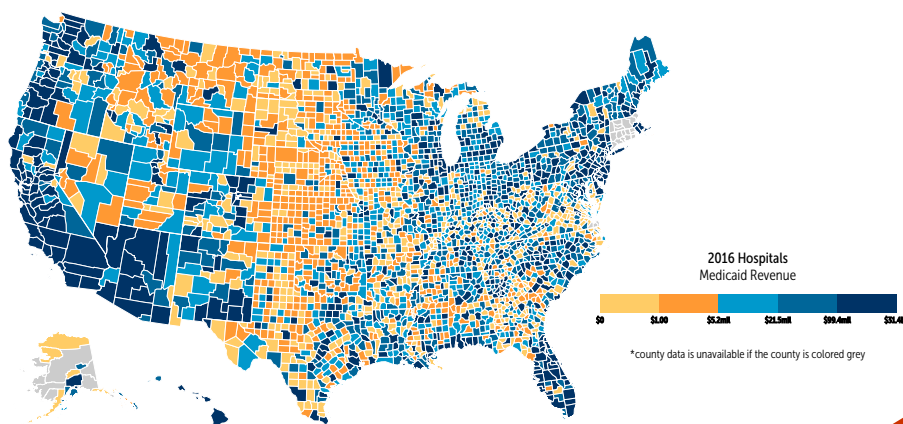
NEW IN JULY FROM NACo's

COUNTY EXPLORER

\$57 B County-supported hospitals received over **\$57 billion** in Medicaid revenue.

824 nursing homes are county supported, either owned by the county, with a city or by a hospital district.

32% In about **32%** of all counties, the millennial population (adults aged 20-36 years) accounts for at least a quarter of all residents.



Source: NACo Analysis of Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services 2015, 2016 cost report, 2016

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2016 DATA VIZ AWARD WINNER

COUNTIES SOUND ALARM ON DWINDLING 911 FEES

From ALARM page 11

a state. As consumers shift their telecommunications preferences from wired to wireless phones, some states have seen a dramatic decrease in dedicated 911 funding as existing statutes have not been updated to account for these shifts. Subsequently, it is not uncommon for the revenue from 911 fees to fall short of the cost of running a 911 call center, also known as a public safety answering point (PSAP). Additionally, many states collect 911 fees and remit the revenues to local governments. However, in 2015 over \$220 million in 911 fees were diverted by states throughout

the country for purposes other than maintaining and upgrading PSAPs. As counties receive less in dedicated 911 revenue due to both states withholding funds and shifts in telecommunications preferences they must turn to general fund money.

POLICY: The National Association of Counties (NACo) encourages Congress and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to adopt legislation or take regulatory action that ensures that fees collected for local 911 services are only used to repair, replace or improve communications and security infrastructure technology at our nation's public safety answering points or 911 call centers. **CN**

Telecom proposal pre-empts locals

From TELECOM page 2

60 days for co-located technology and 90 days for new wireless service facilities. The co-location requirements extend to buildings, light poles and public rights-of-way. In instances where local governments fail to respond to such requests, the federal government would extend authority to telecommunications companies to build on locally owned land without the consent or approval of local officials. In March, NACo sent a letter to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) opposing similar proposals that would limit the authority of local governments and curtail the ability of locals to

raise revenue. S. 3157 is one of the first bills introduced in Congress that would alter local regulatory authority related to wireless telecommunications infrastructure deployment. NACo encourages county officials to urge their congressional representatives to work with local governments on new laws or regulations that would speed the deployment of next-generation telecommunications infrastructure without limiting local zoning authority or limit the ability of local governments to raise revenue. **CN**

Jacob Terrell is an associate legislative director for telecommunications and technology.

CN JOB MARKET

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

YATES COUNTY, NY is seeking applicants for the County Administrator position. The County Administrator oversees the daily operations of Yates County government by performing duties conferred by local law upon a county chief operating officer or head of the administrative branch of County government. Specific responsibilities include development and implementation of county policies, negotiation of union contracts and labor issues, recruitment, supervision and evaluation of department heads, and general administration of County projects. The County Administrator is appointed by and is directly responsible to the Yates County Legislature. For more information please visit <https://mycivilservice.yatescounty.org/jobopps>. **Application deadline is August 3, 2018.**

ON THE MOVE

NACo OFFICERS, COUNTY LEADERS



Starkey

• Pasco County, Fla. Commissioner **Kathryn Starkey** will serve on a national trade advisory committee, providing advice to the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative.

The trade representative serves in a Cabinet level position, and is appointed as President Donald Trump's principal trade advisor, negotiator and spokesperson on trade issues.

There are eight advisory committees focusing on different trade issues.

Starkey's role on the

Intergovernmental Policy Advisory Committee is "to represent the voice of local governments on U.S. trade issues," according to a news release from Pasco County.

She currently chairs NACo's International Economic Development Task Force.

• On June 25, **Immediate Past President Bryan Desloge** represented counties at the National Civic League Board meeting.

NACo STAFF

• **Julie Ufner**, associate legislative director, presented "State, Regional and Local Perspectives" on water-related issues at the National Association of Flood and Stormwater Management Agencies Conference held July 9-12, in Santa Fe, N.M.

• **Jessica Perez** joins

NACo as a justice associate in the County Solutions and Innovations Department. Before joining NACo, Jessica worked as a legal assistant with Brownell Landrigan LLC. Prior to that, she held several internships on Capitol Hill, both on the House and Senate side.

• Two new staffers have joined the IT Division: **Elliott Saltares**, as a systems engineer, and **Seydou Belemvire** as a systems/network engineer. Prior to joining NACo, Elliot served as a senior infrastructure and network engineer for the National Restaurant Association. Seydou worked as a network administrator and systems engineer with PATH, an international health organization.



Perez



Saltares



Belemvire

New NACo Member

GET TO KNOW...

Colquitt County, Ga.



Welcome, Colquitt County, Ga.

Colquitt County was founded on Feb. 25, 1856 and named for Walter Terry Colquitt, a U.S. senator from Georgia from 1843-1848. The county seat is Moultrie, the third largest city in southwest Georgia, and named the "**Antique Capital of South Georgia.**" It is also the hometown of former U.S. Sen. Saxby Chambliss, who served from 2003-2015. Visitors can tour the **James W. Coleman** House, listed on the Nation Register of Historic Places as the home of the builder and operator of Colquitt County's first cotton gin.



BRIGHT IDEAS | GWINNETT COUNTY, Ga.

County Grows Community Spirit with Tower Gardens



Library patrons stop to check out a tower garden at a Gwinnett County, Ga. library. Photo courtesy of Gwinnett County

PROBLEM:

Providing stimulating learning opportunities to library patrons and teaching them about nutrition in Gwinnett County, Ga.

SOLUTION:

Grow tower gardens in each library.

By Mary Ann Barton
senior staff writer

Library employees in Gwinnett County, Ga. are growing learning opportunities and cultivating community spirit with a program that adds “tower gardens” to their libraries.

The library applied for and received funding, approximately \$20,000, through the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to purchase tower gardens. The IMLS is a federal agency that administers grant funds to libraries and museums. A tower garden is an indoor aeroponic growing system using water and minerals, artificial light and no soil.

Why did Gwinnett County decide to bring tower gardens to their libraries? In addition to learning opportunities, “there’s a lack of nutrition education and a lack of knowledge, frankly, about where food comes

from,” said Charles Pace, library director. “There is some food insecurity in our community — we have transportation issues — and pockets of some pretty significant poverty in parts of the county.”

The county library system placed tower gardens in each of the library’s 15 branches, growing mainly swiss chard, chive, parsley, cilantro and butter lettuce. The tower gardens were displayed “front and center” at each library. They attract a lot of attention from patrons because they are brightly lit with bubbling sounds from the water.

“We wanted them to be very visible to get a lot of notice,” said Meg Wilson, project manager. Each library branch created signs for the gardens describing the project, what was being grown and an events calendar centered on garden activities.

The libraries created programming for every student age group; activities ran the gamut from making botanical drawings to making salads. The libraries even held impromptu learning lessons about the pH level of the water while testing it. Other programs involved nutrition and proper eating. “We would use the greens to make salads,” Pace said. “We also dis-

tributed a lot of the greens.”

The tower gardens also helped the library develop community partnerships to address food insecurity such as donating fresh greens to local food pantries and senior lunch programs.

Community groups that connected with the library included master gardeners, chefs, culinary experts, Girl Scout troops, and groups from assisted living homes, said Barbara Spruill, director of community partnerships and grants.

“One of our partners was a non-profit group called the Path Project, working with Latin American youth,” she said. “We were able to provide two huge coolers of fresh greens to feed 250 summer campers with a fresh salad during their lunchtime.”

The gardens are also useful “as a gateway to talk to library patrons about all the other services and programs the library offers that people may not be aware of,” Pace noted. “It’s kind of a wholistic approach to caring for the whole person.” **CN**

For more information contact Barbara Spruill at bspruill@gwinnettpl.org.

PROFILES IN SERVICE

MIKE MCGINLEY

Board Member
Commissioner
Beaverhead County, Mont.



MCGINLEY

Number of years involved in NACo: 12

Years in public service: 18

Occupation: Beaverhead County commissioner, owner of Beaverhead Meats

Education: One year at Montana State

The hardest thing I’ve ever done is: Attend my sister’s funeral.

Three people (living or dead) I’d invite to dinner are: My sister Sally, Jesus and Dak Prescott — *just not all at once!*

You’d be surprised to learn that I: Was a rodeo bullfighter back in the day — when I could run!

I’m most proud of: My four children — all are over-achievers and doing great.

Every morning I read: *The Montana Standard*.

My favorite meal is: Montana ribeye steak with grilled asparagus.

My pet peeve is: People who can’t make a decision.

My motto is: I have the right to remain silent — sometimes not the *ability!*

My favorite music is: Classic country and 60s and 70s rock.

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

My county is a NACo member because: NACo gives Beaverhead County the ability to have a direct voice on our issues at the federal level. Also, it provides a great way to meet commissioners from across this great nation.



The most adventurous thing I’ve ever done was:

Train to run a marathon when I was 50.

NEWS FROM ACROSS THE NATION



CALIFORNIA

An enterprising **ALAMEDA COUNTY** firefighter, Brendan Burke, used mother duck sounds from YouTube to **coax two small ducklings from a storm drain**, after they refused to come out, the *San Francisco Chronicle* reported. The chicks responded to the sounds and headed to Burke who placed them in a cardboard box. After firefighters searched the area for the ducklings' family, they were about to give up when they checked a local golf course, where a mother duck and 10 little ones were spotted. After one of the lost ducklings let out a quack, the mother duck reunited them with their siblings.

- A former **homeless** drug addict has earned the dubious spot of using more county services than anyone else in **SACRAMENTO COUNTY**, *The Sacramento Bee* reported. The man racked up \$149,797.50 in county services in one year, ranging from jail, emergency response and behavioral health costs. A new study launched by the county shows that 250 homeless people were costing the city and county more than \$11 million in 2015-2016. A new database tracked the services provided to homeless people and identified the top 500 users of public services. Under a new program to try to break the cycle, county employees attempt to track

down the homeless who are costing the county the most. They then help them get counseling, schooling, job training, driver's licenses and whatever else they need to get them off the streets.

- **SONOMA COUNTY** may launch a network of "**wild-fire-watch**" cameras, *The Press Democrat* reported. The new network of high-tech web cameras could help first responders and government officials respond more quickly to wildfires and decide how best to deploy their resources. As proposed by the county Water Agency, the project would start as an eight-camera system, with cameras located

in strategic spots around the county. "It provides a level of situational awareness that is absolutely needed going forward to address the new normal, which are these extreme weather events that drive fires to a different degree," James Gore, Board of Supervisors chair, said. "I'm very excited about this." Supervisors are expected to consider the \$475,000 plan at their Aug. 7 meeting. Lake Tahoe and San Diego already use the system, developed by the University of Nevada, Reno.

COLORADO

The **PARK COUNTY** Sheriff has added **target or recreational shooting** to its burn ban. "We've had so many incidents involving the Harris Park shooting range," Sheriff Fred Wegener told Fox 31. "We had two fires there, I've had other fires within my county, we just don't have a really good sense that people are gonna be doing this responsibly and it's just too dry during the burn ban." The TV station reported that not all Colorado counties prone to wildfires treat gunfire the same. Some counties have gunfire banned on public land but not on private land such as **CUSTER COUN-**



TY. Colorado Parks and Wildlife shut down several gun ranges as a result of wildfires burning across the state.

FLORIDA

The "Culture of Clean," an **anti-littering** marketing team from a local high school, was recently honored by the **CITRUS COUNTY** Board of Commissioners. The students, who premiered their anti-littering video at the Board meeting, will make presentations to local groups and are already planning to expand the program during the next school year. The hope is that community groups will partner with the marketing team to not only clean-up the county but also create a Culture of Clean mindset for the future. Commissioner Jimmie T. Smith got the idea off the ground and Public Information Officer Cynthia Oswald connected with local schools.

MARYLAND

MONTGOMERY COUNTY police recently released a composite of a suspect in decades-old **unsolved rapes and a murder** thanks to a new technology. Using DNA collected at the crime scenes, detectives sought the services of a DNA tech company in Virginia that specializes in "phenotyping," the process of predicting physical appearance and ancestry from unidentified DNA evidence. Based on the DNA, predictions were made for the suspect's ancestry, eye color, hair color, skin color, freckling and face shape. Composites were produced by combining the attributes. Detectives released composite sketches of the suspect at 25 years of age and at 45 years as well as a map of where the crimes occurred.

MISSOURI

ST. LOUIS COUNTY has teamed up with the City of St. Louis to battle **sexually transmitted diseases**, the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* reported. A city contract that started in July will pay the county Department of Public Health, Planned Parenthood and other non-profits to test and treat STDs in low-income and uninsured city res-



COLORADO

ADAMS COUNTY has filed a lawsuit over **noise pollution** at Denver International Airport, *The Denver Channel* reported. The county gave more than 50 square miles of land to the airport in 1988 on the condition it would track and pay for noise pollution. The airport has a hotline for residents to file noise complaints. Last year it was used 3,500 times. The county contends the City of Denver is not using the noise monitoring system outlined in the original agreement. The airport has paid the county \$40 million in the 23 years it's been open for business, for going above the noise threshold.

idents. Previously the city had contracted, at \$200,000 annually, with a private clinic that was charging people \$30 per STD screening. Under the new contract, the screenings and treatment will be free.

NEBRASKA

GAGE COUNTY officials will ask the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to weigh in on a case that involves a **\$28.1 million judgment** against the county.

An 8th Circuit Court of Appeals panel affirmed the judgment in the case against the county and two deputies, ruling in favor of six people who served prison time for a crime authorities later connected to another man, according to the *Lincoln Journal-Star*. If the re-hearing is not granted, the county could appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court, said Patrick O'Brien, an attorney for the county.

The Beatrice 6 served a combined 75 years for the murder of Helen Wilson before DNA testing tied Bruce Allen Smith to the crime in 2008. In 2016, a federal jury awarded \$28.1 million to the Beatrice 6 but also found there had been no conspiracy and then-Gage County Sheriff Jerry DeWitt wasn't liable for anything. County officials could further explore applying for Chapter 9 bankruptcy to pay the \$28.1 million judgment, attorney's fees and other costs, potentially becoming the first county in Nebraska to do so.

NEW JERSEY

A federal appeals court ruled that New Jersey's elimination of **cash bail** did not violate the constitution. A man charged with assault following a bar brawl, sued after being assigned a GPS ankle monitor rather than being jailed, which he claimed was a "scarlet letter" that violated his rights before he had his day in court.

A three-judge panel in the third circuit of the U.S. Court of Appeals wrote that the fundamental issue in the case was whether cash bail was a fundamental right enshrined

in the constitution. They said it was not, and that the move from cash bail to the new system was "rationally related" to the state's interest "in assuring defendants appear at trial, the safety of the community and other persons, and the integrity of the criminal justice process."

NORTH CAROLINA

The Interior Department paid \$35 million to **SWAIN COUNTY** for a road it promised to build 75 years ago, completing an **11-year-old settlement**. The federal government flooded a large chunk of land to create a lake that produced power for a World War II plant and planned to build a 34-mile road between two towns, but the effort stalled 7 miles short in 1972.

TEXAS

Overrun by wild hogs, **GUALUPE COUNTY** Commissioners put a **bounty on the roughly 2,000 such animals** roaming the countryside.

The county received a \$15,000 grant from the Texas A&M Agrilife Service for feral hog control, which will fund a variety of hog management measures. The grant and the county will both contribute \$5,000 for the bounties, which will earn \$5 per hog,

the *San Antonio Express-News* reported.

UTAH

A federal judge chose not to reopen the **contested redistricting case** in **SAN JUAN COUNTY**. Judge Robert Shelby decided that the county made appropriate reforms after finding its previous political boundaries racially gerrymandered, according to the *Salt Lake Tribune*.

Navajo residents in the state's southeast corner claimed that up to 2,000 voters did not receive the appropriate ballot for this year's primary election and wanted Shelby to hold the county in contempt of court. Shelby has twice ruled against the county for drawing racially discriminatory districts that disenfranchised Navajos who make up roughly half the county's population.

WASHINGTON

KING COUNTY will donate a parcel of land next to a proposed light rail station to a nonprofit developer to use to build **affordable housing**. Seattle and the county have each committed \$10 million to build at least 200 units of affordable housing, available to people making less than the median income. The city is in the pro-



PENNSYLVANIA

A quartet of geese will be **repainted** on one of downtown Pittsburgh's signature bridges following a rehabilitation project.

The **ALLEGHENY COUNTY COUNCIL** voted to allow artist Tim Kaulen to repaint the geese, which he illegally painted more than 20 years ago, *The Tribune Review* reported. More than 950 people signed a petition that started in May in favor of allowing Kaulen to repaint the geese.

cess of rezoning the land to allow buildings to be twice as high as currently allowed, the *Seattle Times* reported.



WISCONSIN

With some neighborhoods dealing with rat infestations, **BROWN COUNTY** has purchased **1,500 traps** to give away to residents. The county paid \$7,000 out of its general fund for the traps and gave away more than half of them in two weeks, with several dozen fulfilling their purpose. The county has asked residents to report in if their trap is responsible for a kill, reminding residents that every rat eliminated could mean 96 fewer rats on the streets over the course of a year, WBAY News reported.

WYOMING

• Business owners in **NATRONA COUNTY** will not have to pay a tax to import goods from overseas, thanks to the Casper Natrona County Airport being named a **"free trade zone."** The airport's designation expands the zone

throughout all of the county, KCWY News reported.

Natrona County's zone is the only free trade zone in Wyoming.

• With the high cost of housing in mind, **TETON COUNTY** has purchased a single-family home to **house county employees**. The house will be leased to a higher-level employee, *The News and Guide* reported, likely one of the positions required to reside in the county. The home could also be used to recruit a new employee moving here from somewhere else.

The County Board commissioned a survey of employees about housing demand and recommendations for how the county can develop more housing opportunities for employees, with 51 percent of the more than 400 county employees saying housing is "impactful or very impactful" on their desire to remain working for the county, with nearly a quarter of non-homeowners considering leaving.

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



OHIO

Visitors to the **TRUMBULL COUNTY Fair** can unwind and help fund a veterans memorial after the fair allowed for **beer sales** for the first time in its 172 years. Sales and consumption will be limited to a grandstand area following an ID check. The Cortland Veterans Memorial Committee will serve the drinks and will be the beneficiary. The memorial is already under construction.

the HR DOCTOR

With Phil Rosenberg



This is one of several HR Doctor articles stemming from a trip to South Africa and time spent in the Zulu homeland.

Besides meeting many new friends and learning a great deal about public administration in South Africa, other highlights of weeks in Africa stood out. One in particular, of course, is the amazing animal life inhabiting the large game reserves. Days spent in the Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Park and Tembe Elephant Park led to more than a thousand photos and a greatly enhanced appreciation for nature and the critical importance of environmental protection.

Another highlight was all that I learned in terms of an appreciation of different aspects of Zulu culture and history. Today, the Zulu are a spirited, as well as gentle and kind people. They also have a strong military history and pride in their past as a warrior nation. Each young man who learns the traditional ways of his forefathers learns the importance of the basic weaponry in the Zulu arsenal: the cowhide shield, the short stabbing spear and a club called the knobkerrie. There is also a learning of the importance of when the warrior spirit should pop out versus when quieter and reverential interactions with other people should dominate.

Within each of us, whether we come from Zululand or from Brooklyn, rural California or North Carolina, there can be found a warrior persona. That warrior persona is marked by understanding the importance of sticking up for your beliefs and not simply being a follower, especially down a path or with a policy or behavior you feel is

The Warrior Inside Each of Us

wrong. The warrior within us involves being an individual proud of who we are and where we came from, but also open to cooperation with others and participation in the successes of groups.

The warrior persona involves becoming adept at various skills including our professional skills as well as our hobbies. It means being a willing teacher and a role model of professional, humane behavior towards other people. The noble tradition of the Zulu warrior kept that society together even in the face of overwhelming British and Boer colonization and dominance.

Anyone familiar with the movie *Zulu Dawn* is aware of the defeat in the late 1870s of more than a 1,000 professional British soldiers equipped with Her Majesty's latest "Martini Henry" rifles by the army divisions of the Zulus, known as Impis. Those Impis and their tactics crushed the modern army of the superpower of the day and successfully, for a while at least, defended a homeland against invasion.

The British Empire decided that it would not accept the risk of another battlefield failure, not to mention national embarrassment, after their major defeat at Isandlwanda and brought in "weapons of mass destruction," such as Gatling guns. Even the great Zulu warrior tradition on the battlefield couldn't prevail against machine guns, artillery and an overwhelming force. However, the tradition of pride, personal strength of character and the importance of being a balanced person remain present in the traditional Zulus we met. This heritage means not only learning to be a well-seasoned individual, but also a strong, committed team member. These are noble characteristics from which every society and every workplace can learn.

I saw no sign that in modern South Africa workplace issues were resolved by spears, shields and clubs, but I saw many ex-

amples of struggles being addressed constructively, respectfully and with a common sense of purpose and spirit.

The lesson for all of us as employees as well as members of the community, family members and individuals, is to realize that we too have a "warrior" inside ourselves. Allowing that warrior spirit not to be physically violent, bullying, or sexist-racist, but to display the character traits of the noble committed warrior to come forward, can help each of us become more respectful and assertive at the same time. "Respectful assertiveness" backed by strong presentation skills and practiced communications with others can help us be identified early in our careers as people marked for success at work and in life.

Many of the habits present in our "more modern" society are aimed at suppressing that individual warrior spirit. Fashion trends, hours spent each day watching television, declining civic engagement, loss of emotional intelligence at critical times and "...walking by things that are wrong..." instead of addressing them are all symptoms of the repression of the noble warrior spirit within us (the quotation here refers to the title of the HR Doctor's first book).

As leaders in government and in our various other individual organization commitments, such as charities or schools, it would not hurt at all to deliberately think about how to help someone you know become more assertive and engaged by helping them release their own inner warrior in a constructive way.

For the job-seeker — for the person just beginning a career in public service — the Zulu warrior lessons are critical. Offer to a potential employer a committed spirit of service, innovation, respect and doing what it takes to get the job done properly. Show a willingness to go the extra mile and to offer

diverse talents to the organization. Show a sense of humor and a broad perspective on how to advance the organization's goals. In turn, these characteristics will help persons trying to begin their careers or advance in their work to be regarded as among the most valuable members of the team. Amazing choral singing and dancing traditions would also help! **CN**

