

**ARTS LEADERSHIP AWARD
WINNER'S LOVE FOR ARTS
STARTED ON A DARE PG. 4**



**REAUTHORIZATION FOR
BROWNFIELDS PROGRAM
IN THE WORKS PG. 19**



**IT ALMOST LOOKED LIKE A
FAMILIAR HITCHCOCK SCENE
IN THIS COUNTY PG. 20**

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION *of* COUNTIES

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AUGUST 21, 2017

DHS: Gearing up for elections security

By Mary Ann Barton
senior staff writer

Eight months after election systems were designated as critical infrastructure by the Department of Homeland Security, officials there are finding their footing when it comes to coordinating any potential fixes for local government.

"From what I'm learning, every state is different," said Juan A. Figueroa, who is leading the Election Infrastructure Sector Specific Agency Team at DHS.

"If you've seen one fusion center, you've seen one fusion center," he said. "You haven't

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Preparations are made for the NACo Awards Luncheon at the Annual Conference in Franklin County, Ohio. See pp. 5-14 for an exclusive photo report on the conference.

Trump spotlights opioid epidemic

Ierie Brankovic
legislative assistant

President Trump has set in motion a federal state of emergency regarding the nation's ongoing opioid epidemic. The announcement, Aug. 10, came several days after the White House's Commission on Combating Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis recommended urgent action on the epidemic in its interim set of policy recommendations. Opioid overdoses accounted for 33,000 deaths in 2015 — more than any other year on record, according the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Federal emergency declarations are typically reserved for

short-term crises related to a natural disaster or contagious disease outbreak. The federal government's emergency response to a crisis driven by substance abuse will likely differ from its response to a hurricane or the Zika virus; but in either situation, declaring a state of emergency allows the government to rapidly mobilize and deploy treatment resources with less administrative oversight.

Although details are still emerging, experts predict that the federal government's emergency declaration on the opioid epidemic could empower states to waive certain

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EPA reverses decision to delay 2015 ozone rule

By Julie Ufner
associate legislative director

The Environmental Protection Agency will no longer delay implementation of the 2015 National Ambient Air Quality Standards for ground-level ozone.

EPA's recent announcement reverses its decision in June to delay the rule until October 2018. The ozone rule, which was finalized in 2015, would tighten the current ozone standard of 75 parts per billion, last set in 2008, to 70 parts per billion.

Since December 2015, the EPA has been working with state governments to determine which counties violate the 70 parts per billion standard. With the recent decision

not to delay, the agency is expected to make final nonattainment designations for the 2015 ozone standard by October. Once nonattainment areas are announced, states — and in some cases, local agencies and tribes — will be required to develop and submit an ozone implementation plan to address the pollution levels.

Ground-level ozone is one of the six air pollutants regulated by the Clean Air Act National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) program. Under the program, the EPA is required to reassess air quality standards every five years. Primarily known as a summertime

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Trump action on opioids could spur more states to declare crisis

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Medicaid regulations around mental health services; direct federal funds to support medically assisted treatment for opioid addiction; and provide states with fast-track, model legislation to make the overdose antidote Naloxone more available to the public.

Commission calls for emergency declaration

The recommendation to declare a federal state of emergency was one of several proposals contained in the White House opioid commission's first report. The other proposals offer long-term policy action that could be taken to combat

the opioid epidemic, which may be crucial since emergency declarations typically expire after a year and operate under certain budget constraints.

The report's recommendations reflect the guidance of public health advocates in its focus on expanding treatment options through maximizing the authority of relevant federal agencies and programs.

The commission is expected to issue a more comprehensive set of guidelines in October.

The recommendations include:

- Mandate prescriber education initiatives in medical and dental schools aimed at preventing patient addiction
- Provide states with model legislation to dispense the

overdose antidote Naloxone; and equip U.S. law enforcement officials with Naloxone kits

- Prioritize funding and resources to federal agencies to develop fentanyl (synthetic opioid) detection sensors to halt the flow of drugs through the U.S. Postal Service
- Streamline federal privacy laws to allow health professionals to share information across different providers and with patients' family members; and
- Deliver federal backing and technical support to states to improve data sharing to track patient prescription data.

These recommendations are likely to require congressional approval and the chance for any immediate action is slim.

However, whether Congress adopts the commission's recommendations remains to be seen. Lawmakers face a busy legislative calendar going into fall.

With just weeks left until the end of the fiscal year on Sept. 30, Congress is under pressure to act on several big-ticket items, including reauthorization of the Children's Health Insurance Program, major reforms to the National Flood Insurance Program and finalizing FY2018 appropriations bills.

Emergency declarations at the state and local level

Prior to the president's announcement, governors of six states (Alaska, Arizona, Florida, Maryland, Massachusetts and Virginia) had already declared public health emergencies in response to rising numbers of overdose-related deaths. In Arizona, for example, Gov. Doug

Ducey (R) used an emergency declaration to tap into public health emergency funds that provided overdose-specific training for law enforcement officials.

Other states such as Alaska used emergency powers to stock naloxone in public spaces for limited time periods.

Some counties have also declared public health crises regarding the opioid crisis in their jurisdictions.

In 2016, New York's Erie County Executive Mark C. Poloncarz issued an executive order declaring a public health crisis and ordering the formation of an Opioid Epidemic Task Force.

Responding to recommendations put forth by community organizations, the Erie County legislature approved proposals to create a 24-hour addiction hotline and provide county-wide training sessions on how to use Naloxone.

Proposals currently under consideration include equipping hospitals with more treatment beds and establishing safe disposal sites for prescription medications.

In 2016, NACo engaged in a joint effort with the National League of Cities to comprehensively assess the local response to the opioid epidemic.

In November 2016, the organizations published a joint report, *A Prescription for Action*, offering recommendations for reducing rates of opioid misuse, overdose and fatality through local, state and federal action. **CN**

To access the report and more information about NACo's response to the opioid epidemic, visit <http://opioidaction.org/>

Tighter ozone standards impact counties

From OZONE page 1

pollutant, ozone forms when sunlight reacts with pollutants such as volatile organic compounds emitted from chemical plants, gasoline pumps, oil-based paints and auto body and print shops. Sources of nitrogen oxides include power plants, industrial facilities and motor vehicles.

Under the Clean Air Act, states and counties serve as co-regulators with the federal government and are ultimately responsible for the implementation of new and existing air quality standards.

A more stringent ozone standard could have an effect on counties nationwide.

Ozone designations can have a significant impact on county governments since counties are both the regulator and regulated entity of Clean Air Act programs.

Currently, 227 counties, primarily urban and in the East, are regulated under ozone air quality standards. Under the new 70 parts per billion standard, that number is expected to increase.

Nonattainment designations will create challenges for counties' ability to update and improve their transportation systems, and attract and retain businesses as they are required to impose tighter regulations on local businesses and other pollution sources in order to meet the standards. **CN**



SNAP/STATS

FIVE LARGEST COUNTIES IN AREA (LOWER 48)

County	sq. miles
San Bernardino County, Calif.....	20,105.32
Coconino County, Ariz.....	18,661.21
Nye County, Nev.....	18,158.73
Elko County, Nev.....	17,202.94
Mohave County, Ariz.....	13,469.71

Source: U.S. Census

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Concerned about election security? DHS says it's 'here to help'



From DHS page 1

seen them all. That's the one caveat, couple of caveats, I'm learning about election infrastructure."

Earlier this summer, officials from DHS told the Senate Intelligence Committee that there was evidence that 21 states' election-related systems had been targeted by Russia. The issue has raised alarm bells about the risk to voter registration and digital voting machines.

In response, DHS is currently building a staff, coordinating with interests in the field and forming councils made up of public and private entities, Figueroa said.

"We, DHS, in a sense have come on the scene most recently with the [critical infrastructure] designation in January," Figueroa noted. "Prior to that, with last year's election, with the potential hacking and things like that...DHS and the FBI have been involved, hard, since March of last year, but more recently since the designation, we're in the process of forming a sub-sector." The Elections Sub-Sector falls under the Government Facilities Sector, one of 16 critical infrastructure sectors at DHS.

Secretaries of state oppose

the critical infrastructure designation based on "the federal government's continued lack of transparency and clarity with chief state election officials on plans for implementing the designation," the group said.

Security clearances? 'Still in early stages'

DHS caught some flak earlier this summer after a meeting with secretaries of state at their conference in Indianapolis, mainly about election officials not having access to classified information to find out about potential election hacks.

"Unfortunately, despite assurances from DHS representatives that this issue is being worked on internally, no secretary of state has been granted such a clearance, nor has any process for requesting such clearance been communicated with NASS members," the National Association of Secretaries of State said.

"Security clearance is something we grant across all of the sector partnerships — private sector as well as government officials," Figueroa said. "In this case, we have initiated security clearance processes. It's still in its early stages, but we think that it's important to be able to have state and local folks be

able to handle classified information if necessary."

DHS is currently forming a government coordinating council and would "probably work a lot of those discussions in there as to how to prioritize who should be receiving clearances," he said. Figueroa said ideally, local and state election officials will "share your playbook with another state or county; it doesn't all have to come from the federal government; I think states should get used to sharing some information, especially those [with systems] that are 'architected' the same way."

The fact that states and counties use different election systems, Figueroa said, "is a secure thing...a good thing that everybody has their own nuanced processes."

As far as any election officials wary of working with the federal government, Figueroa said that they should look at DHS as a tool to help, if they need it. "Having DHS in the picture, or just the federal partners in the picture...it's a voluntary process," he said. "If you want to participate, please do."

"If there are those that need support, if it's something the federal government can coordinate with cyber support,

HOW DHS CAN HELP YOUR ELECTIONS OFFICE

The Department of Homeland Security makes its cybersecurity services available to state, county and local election officials that request them. These services include cyber "hygiene" scans on Internet-facing systems, as well as risk and vulnerability assessments. Cyber hygiene scans are conducted remotely, and provide a report identifying vulnerabilities and recommendations to improve online voter registration systems, election night reporting systems and other Internet-connected election systems.

To make contact with DHS, the department recommends first contacting your state elections office, which should be able to link you to help at DHS. You can also contact DHS at: SLTTCyber@hq.dhs.gov.

Helpful websites include:

- **National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center:** <https://www.dhs.gov/national-cybersecurity-and-communications-integration-center>
- **Multi-State Information**

Sharing and Analysis Council (MS-ISAC): The council provides cyber capabilities to local partners and offers free resources. Find information on how to join here: <https://www.cisecurity.org/ms-isac/>

then we're here to help them do that," he said.

If you're a county looking for help with your election infrastructure security? You should most likely start with your state election office, DHS recommends.

The most prevalent issue they're seeing in the field? "So far, it's certainly interest in what we can do from the cyber perspective," he said. DHS has

protective security advisors in each state and cyber security advisors in lesser numbers that cover state-level engagements and requests.

Meanwhile, DHS is looking at the big picture. "It's been really fascinating, because you never realize how detailed and how different some of the election processes are," Figueroa said. "It all has worked for years and years and years." **CN**



KITSAP COUNTY, WASH.

Created by: **Burke Carstens**
Introduced in: 1969

The Kitsap Peninsula, across the Elliott Bay from Seattle, was originally part of King and Jefferson counties. Kitsap County was first established in 1857 as Slaughter County, named after a U.S. Army officer killed the previous year. It was a source of lumber for the numerous reconstructions of San Francisco following fires, and the county became a ship-

ping and lumber center.

Voters later changed the name to Kitsap County to honor the Suquamish war chief who was the most powerful chief on the Puget Sound in the first half of the 19th century and head of the largest intertribal coalition that the sound had ever seen.

The eagle on the seal is inspired by local Suquamish tribe artwork, though it was not created by a member of the tribe.



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

This county commissioner's lifelong love for the arts started on a dare

By Mary Ann Barton
senior staff writer

A lifelong love for the arts started for Randy Maluchnik as a dare in high school.

As he tells it, he “stumbled into the arts” when he was a student, trying to make a splash at his new high school in Casper, Wyo., where he was the new kid, and, he thinks back now, to impress his father.

“My younger brother was good at sports,” said Maluchnik, a commissioner in Carver County, Minn., for the past 11 years. “I played, but I wasn’t a star.”

When Maluchnik’s family fell on hard times during his high school years, they left Johnstown, Pa. for Wyoming, to better their chances of making ends meet; Maluchnik got a job there as a fry cook at a drive-in. “I made the best pizza burgers and homemade onion rings,” he said. In addition to his fry cook job, he also worked at a local radio station, where he made \$1.10 an hour.

He thought about dropping out of high school to work as a cook full-time, but on a dare, he signed up to perform in a show called *The Follies*, which his new school put on each year to raise money for the junior-senior dance. He sang *Tea for Two* with another student and did the Charleston. In another play, he performed as Old Man Grant, a character who was coming home tipsy to Mrs. Grant, who surprised him when he returned home. “I was supposed to look frightened,” he said. “I got laughs and applause. I was hooked after that.”

“The arts kind of turned me around,” he said. And also, caught his father’s attention. His stint in the follies led to more performances, including a turn in a high school production of *Hello Dolly!*



Carver County, Minn. Commissioner Randy Maluchnik thanks NACo’s Arts and Culture Commission for his Leadership in the Arts award. Photo by David Hathcox

“My dad said he was proud of me,” Maluchnik said.

A big white rabbit

During college, while studying broadcasting, the acting bug bit again. Maluchnik volunteered to perform with a children’s theater and “played a big white rabbit in *The Bad Children*, a musical. The group performed for children at the Wind River Reservation, near his junior college. He also directed a college production of Woody Allen’s *Play It Again, Sam*.

Later, at the University of Wyoming, he worked again at a radio station, where he interviewed actor Vincent Price and folk musician Arlo Guthrie.

Although arts played a role in his student days, Maluchnik said after college, he needed to pay the bills. Before becoming a county commissioner, his jobs included working for the National Guard as a recruiter, and then working as a staffer for Minnesota Rep. David Minge (D), who represented Minnesota’s second congressional district. After the congressman lost a race, Maluchnik took a job with Veterans Affairs and then ran for the Chaska, Minn. City Council.

“My dad was a big believer in public service,” he said. It was something of a family tradition. His grandfather had worked as a township supervisor back in Pennsylvania.

Four years later, Maluchnik ran for a seat on the Carver County, Minn. Board of Commissioners and won. Now in his 11th year as a commissioner, he is most proud of how he has helped weave his love of the arts into his community, he said.

Preserving culture through the arts

One of his endeavors, which initially left some of his fellow commissioners scratching their heads, was helping get photographs of barns hung inside the courthouse. “The other four commissioners thought I was nuts,” he said with a laugh. He was just looking for ways to liven up the place. “I didn’t know what I was looking for until we sat down and talked about it,” he said. “I grew up in a place (Pennsylvania) where we saw a lot of the barns go away. I miss some of those barns and the culture that goes with them. Younger people don’t know about that culture. You can preserve the

culture through the arts.”

Through his past association with veterans, Maluchnik also helped lead an effort to start a local writing group for them. “I got the idea from NACo,” he said. “I brought the idea back and turned it over to our library director.” The group met over several days, writing about their feelings and their experiences, Maluchnik said. “It’s a way for them to mend and heal.”

Farm restoration, barn quilts

Maluchnik is proud of one of the biggest cultural projects in Carver County, the restoration and preservation of a local farm, the Andrew Peterson Farm. “This is farming culture,” he said. Peterson emigrated in 1850 from Sweden to the United States, keeping a daily diary for 40 years — from the time of his voyage until the day before he died. His diaries were turned into a book by Swedish journalist Vilhelm Moberg. Today, the farm is open for tours by appointment and is also open to student groups. Maluchnik hopes that one day the farm will feature live performances.

The farm is a part of “ag tourism,” in the county, which also

includes “barn quilts,” which are large murals of quilts painted on barns. The county showcases 24 larger than life replicas of quilt blocks on barns throughout the county. A self-guided driving tour map is available online.

“It brings people out to our county,” Maluchnik said. “Arts and culture create an environment where this can flourish.”

Maluchnik has also brought his love for the arts to some of NACo’s conferences, where he’s helped arrange performances by military bands and choral groups. He’s hoping that next year’s conference in Nashville-Davidson County, will include performances by local artists. “Exposing us elected officials to the culture of a region is a cool thing to do,” he said. “It probably helps us do our jobs better.”

If your county is trying to figure out how to bring arts to the forefront, Maluchnik advises that you identify artists in the community and organize an informal discussion with them about place-making. “They’re going to find out that there are more resources than they know about,” he said. “You don’t have to put public money into it. You can show your support by writing letters to the editor or an op/ed for the local paper.”

Maluchnik’s love for the arts has been recognized. At NACo’s recent Annual Conference in Franklin County, Ohio, the Americans for the Arts and NACo announced that Maluchnik was the recipient of the Public Leadership in the Arts Award for County Arts Leadership. The award honors an elected county board or individual leader who has significantly advanced the arts in the communities they serve.

“It is truly the best award I’ve ever received,” he said. “I think my father would have been surprised.” **CN**

Capturing Columbus



John O'Grady, Franklin County, Ohio Board president, welcomes attendees to NACo's Annual Conference at the Opening General Session. Franklin County hosted the conference, held in Columbus.



NACo President Bryan Desloge prepares to put one over home plate July 21 in the ceremonial first pitch at NACo Night at the Ballpark at Huntington Park.



NACo's Alana Hurley helps Lew Gaiter III of Larimer County, Colo., at the Annual Conference registration desk.



Nancy Jackson, Arapahoe County, Colo. questions presenters at the Stepping Up Summit Part One: Identifying People with Mental Illness in Your Jails.



Images by David Hathcox unless noted

Franklin County rolled out the carpet for NACo



Rep. Joyce Beatty (D-Ohio) talks about the importance of partnerships with members of the Community, Economic and Workforce Development Policy Steering Committee.



NACo volunteers show off their work stuffing bags for patients at Nationwide Children's Hospital. Photo By Leon Lawrence III



Roy Charles Brooks presents a commemorative paddle to outgoing NACo President Bryan Desloge, an avid kayaker.



Mark Owens of Harney County, Ore. and Mike McArthur, Oregon Association of Counties executive director, listen to a presentation by Ted Boling, Council on Environmental Quality, at the Western Interstate Region Board of Directors meeting.



Derek Young, Pierce County, Wash., speaks at a meeting July 22 about improving water quality as Martha Shrader, Clackamas County, Ore. (left) and Carol Contrada, Lucas County, Ohio, look on. The three took part in the Resilient Counties meeting at the Annual Conference. Photo By Leon Lawrence III



Maui County Councilmember Riki Hokama, former NACo president, greets golf legend Jack Nicklaus July 21 at a VIP reception on the first night of NACo's annual conference.



'Orange Is the New Black' author Piper Kerman signs a book for Diana Crabtree, Portsmouth, Ohio, as Cynthia Moses-Nedd, Bureau of Land Management liaison to NACo, readies for her turn.



Michael Daniels, justice policy coordinator, Franklin County, Ohio discusses LGBT issues along with fellow panelist, Penny Perry, chief deputy, Franklin County Corrections Division.



Sarah Lowman, DHS-U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, offers her perspective during the Q&A session at a workshop on serving immigrant populations. Photo By Leon Lawrence III



Chip LaMarca, chair, Finance, Pensions and Intergovernmental Affairs Steering Committee, adjusts the mic before presenting policy resolutions to the membership for approval.



What state did you say you guys are from again? Hawai'i's Ikaika Anderson, Honolulu County; Dru Mamo Kanuha, Hawi'i County and Mel Rapozo, Kaua'i County.



NACo Past President Chris Rodgers comments during the Board Forum discussion on strategic planning for NACo. Photo by Hugh Clarke



Gay Gilbert, administrator, Office of Unemployment Insurance at the Labor Department, speaks July 21 to the Community, Economic and Workforce Development Policy Steering Committee. By Leon Lawrence III



Members of the Transportation Steering Committee gather July 21 to discuss “Bridge Building: Doing More With Less,” at NACo’s Annual Conference.



J.P. Ducro, Ashtabula County, Ohio testifies to his county’s experience at the Opioid Town Hall.



Theodore A. “Tab” Brown, chief, Planning and Policy Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, speaks July 21 to members of the Environment, Energy and Land Use Policy Steering Committee.

By Leon Lawrence III



Cass County, N.D. Auditor Michael Montplaisir relates his experience with citizen engagement at the workshop, “How to Gain Citizen Buy-In” as fellow panelists Verdenia Baker, county administrator, Palm Beach County, Fla. and Karl Keith, county auditor, Montgomery County, Ohio await their turn at the mic.



Eli Parks, 8-year-old son of Commissioner Sean Parks, Lake County, Fla., scoots through the expo hall.



Heather Carruthers, Monroe County, Fla., kicks off the Opening General Session by singing the national anthem.



First-time attendees (l) Gregory Adams, DeKalb County, Ga. and James Jones, Chatham County, Ga. take it all in during the presentations at the Aetna Healthy Counties breakfast. The presentations focused on the public health challenges of the opioid epidemic.



Trevor Fuller of Mecklenburg County, N.C. speaks at a panel discussion July 22 at the Healthy Counties Early Childhood Lunch Summit. Photo By Hugh Clarke



Larry Suckla, Montezuma County, Colo., asks a question July 21 at the Public Lands Policy Steering Committee meeting. Photo By Leon Lawrence III



Tim McCormick, (back to camera), chair, NACo's Membership Committee, welcomes first-time attendees to a breakfast in their honor.



Roy Charles Brooks swears in NACo's new executive team: First Vice President Greg Cox, Second Vice President Mary Ann Borgeson and Immediate Past President Bryan Desloge.



An exhibitor speaks in County Talks Theater in the Exhibition Hall. County Talks sessions were presentations about new products and services that could benefit counties. Photo by Leon Lawrence III



Wyoming commissioners move between committee meetings and workshops and have a few laughs along the way. From left: Forrest Chadwick, Natrona County; Matt Avery, Campbell County; Joel Bousman, Sublette County and Loren Grosskopf, Park County.



Heather Post, Volusia County, Fla., engages in a discussion about fake news at a workshop exploring county communications.



Mary Ann Borgeson, Douglas County, Neb., and NACo's new second vice president, heads to the stage to give her acceptance speech after thanking Larry Dix, executive director of the Nebraska Association of County Officials, for his remarks about her at the Annual Conference.



Cook County, Minn. Commissioner Ginny Storlie (left) chats with Granville County, N.C. Commissioner Sue Hinman at the First Time Attendees Breakfast. Participants learned how to make the most of the conference, in a talk by NACo ambassadors.



Incoming NACo President Roy Charles Brooks shows off his custom presidential gavel, presented by Alisha Bell, NABCO president. Brooks is a past NABCO president. Photo by Leon Lawrence III



Roy Charles Brooks delivers his inaugural speech to the Closing General Session audience. He is the second NACo president from Tarrant County, Texas in eight years.



Roy Charles Brooks is sworn into office as NACo’s president by his daughter, Royce. Looking on are his wife, Dr. Jennifer Giddings Brooks and their son, Marlon.



Mary Biggs, Montgomery County, Va., and George Dodge, Guadalupe County, N.M., practice their leadership skills at an exercise during the workshop, The Effective County Leader.



Karen R. Toles, Prince George’s County, Md., listens to a panelist at the Healthy Counties breakfast, sponsored by Aetna. Panel members discussed the opioid epidemic’s impact on public health.



Tim Quinn, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, outlines his agency’s priorities during the Immigration Reform Task Force meeting. Also on the panel with him are (l) Enforcement Field Director Rebecca Adducci and Stephanie Reither, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

The Winners



Congratulations to the Arts and Culture award winners shown here with members of NACo's Arts and Culture Commission. From left: Jerry Red, St. Landry Parish, La., Arts and Culture Commission vice chair; Jay Dick, Arts and Culture Commission member; Don Brown, executive director, Franklin County, Ohio Convention Facilities Authority; NACo President Bryan Desloge; Randy Maluchnik, Carver County, Minn., Arts and Culture Commission vice chair; Renee Price, Orange County, N.C., Arts and Culture Commission vice chair; Kay Cashion, Guilford County, N.C., Arts and Culture Commission chair; and Shelley Taub, Oakland County, Mich., Arts and Culture Commission vice chair.



Jefferson County, Kan., Commissioner Richard Malm (left) receives the Member Recruiter of the Year Award from Ohio County, W. Va. Commissioner Tim McCormick, who chairs NACo's Membership Standing Committee.



The Achievement Award Best in Category for Health is awarded by Arlandis Rush, AETNA vice president (second from left) to San Bernardino County for its Everyone Swims program. Accepting for the county are Geoffrey Canty and Thomas Sone. Also pictured (l) NACo President Bryan Desloge.



This year's Financial Services Center's appreciation awards — customized NACo-FCS bikes — went to (l): County Commissioners Association of Ohio Executive Director Suzanne Dulaney; Association of Minnesota Counties Executive Director Julie Ring; and Association of Indiana Counties Executive Director David Bottorff and Ryan Hoff, director of government affairs.



Seen here: Quentin Bruce, CH2M Presidential Scholarship winner, with his check and NACo President Bryan Desloge (l) and Dalen Harris, CH2M midwest director government relations. Harris presented the check to Bruce.



Smiling bright for the camera, representatives from 15 counties show off their SolSmart awards during the Resilient Counties Forum. SolSmart designations recognize jurisdictions that encourage and facilitate the rapid adoption of solar-based energy systems.

Photo by Leon Lawrence III



Davenport Presidential Scholarship winner Turiq Bruce shows off his scholarship award presented by Bill Jaisen (r), Financial Services Center executive chairman, with NACo President Bryan Desloge.



The second Aspire Award went to Miami-Dade County, Fla. Pictured here are NACo First Vice President Roy Charles Brooks; Lisa Charbarneau, chair, NACo Defined Contribution and Retirement Advisory Committee, Aspire winner, Sally Heyman, accepting the award for Miami-Dade; and Eric Stevenson, Nationwide Retirement Solutions.



The Aspire Award recognizes and honors counties that substantially promote county employee retirement savings. Seen here are (l-r): NACo First Vice President Roy Charles Brooks; Lisa Charbarneau, chair, NACo Defined Contribution and Retirement Advisory Committee; Melissa McKinlay, Palm Beach County, Fla. accepting the award on behalf of Aspire winner Walton County, Fla.; and Eric Stevenson, Nationwide Retirement Solutions, who presented the award.



Coconino County, Ariz.'s Diversity and Inclusion Program was chosen for the 100 Brilliant Ideas initiative, launched by NACo President Bryan Desloge (right) during his term. Accepting the award for the county (from left) are Jim Parks and Sarah Benatar.

..... ON THE MOVE➔

NACo OFFICERS, COUNTY OFFICIALS

- NACo President **Roy Charles Brooks** represented NACo at the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania's Annual Conference in Erie County, Aug. 6-8, and traveled again to North Carolina Association of County Commissioners Annual Conference in Durham County, Aug. 10-12.
- NACo First Vice President **Greg Cox** was a featured speaker at the Association of Arkansas Counties Annual Conference in Pulaski County, Aug. 8-11.

NACo STAFF

- **Hadi Sedigh**, associate



Brooks



Cox



Rowings



Price

legislative director, spoke on a panel about preparing for natural disasters at the National Conference of State Legislatures Conference in Boston, Aug. 9.

• **Andrew Goldschmidt**, membership/marketing director, and **Christina Iskandar**, program director, traveled to Raleigh County, W.Va. to represent NACo at the County Commissioners' Association of West Virginia Annual Conference held Aug. 6-9.

• **Kathy Rowings** has been promoted to associate program director for justice, and **Michelle Price** has been promoted

to associate program director for health in the County Solutions and Innovations Department.

Proposed border security bill would punish 'sanctuary cities'

A proposed law introduced in the Senate designed to toughen border security punishes local governments that serve as so-called "sanctuary cities."

Sens. John Cornyn (R-Texas), John Barrasso (R-Wyo.), Ron Johnson (R-Wis.) and Thom Tillis (R-N.C.) unveiled the Building America's Trust Act Aug. 3. The border security bill would allot \$15 billion over four years to increase resources at U.S. borders to secure them and strengthen enforcement of existing immigration laws.

A specific measure under the bill would punish local municipalities that have so-called immigrant "sanctuary" laws and policies by "imposing tough

penalties on federal funds for jurisdictions who fail to comply with lawful federal immigration enforcement request." The bill would withhold certain federal funds from such sanctuary cities and counties.

They include the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) and the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA).

Eliminating funds such as CDBG and EDA would undermine county efforts for enhancing local communities and expanding economic development, said Renee Price, Orange

County, N.C. commissioner and chair of NACo's Community, Economic and Workforce Development Steering Committee.

"Counties utilize the flexibility of CDBG funds to support projects that meet local priorities in addressing community and economic development, housing, water and infrastructure and human service needs.

"EDA funding is important to counties because it helps local communities achieve long-term economic growth based on local and regional priorities. CDBG and EDA provide vital resources for local economic development, job creation and retention projects, Price said. **CN**



Taking a break from their six-county ATV tour in Utah are: (l-r) Adam Trupp, Utah Association of Counties CEO; NACo Immediate Past President Bryan Desloge; and Jonathan Shuffield and Kevan Stone, NACo associate legislative directors. The ATV "briefing" is hosted by the Six County Association of Governments in Utah in early August. Members include Juab, Millard, Piute, Sanpete, Sevier and Wayne counties. Photo courtesy of Kevan Stone.

NEW IN AUGUST FROM NACo's

COUNTY EXPLORER

10%

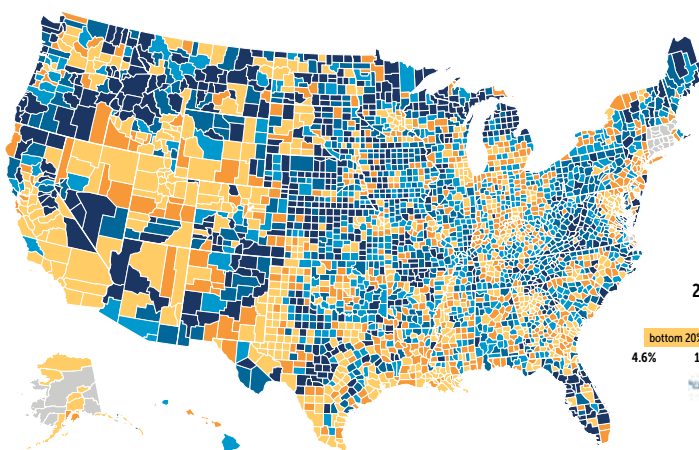
of counties with fewer than 50,000 residents have a quarter or more of their population 65 years and older

30%

of county jail inmates are convicted

1,003

counties have 20 or more public schools located within their boundaries



2016 Population by Age/Gender
Percent 65 years and older

bottom 20% 4.6% 14.8% 17.1% 19.1% 21.6% 56.3% top 20%

*county data is unavailable if the county is colored grey

Source: NACo Analysis of U.S. Census Bureau - Population Estimates Program (PEP), 2016

www.NACo.org/CountyExplorer

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& Why it Matters to Counties



Payments in Lieu of Taxes Advocacy Toolkit

Serving the Underserved: Counties Addressing Poverty

Thinking SolSmart: County Strategies for Advancing Solar
Energy Development



Counties Matter Challenge: 100 Brilliant Ideas at Work

Faces of the Social Services Block Grant

Managing County Workers: Recruitment,
Retention and Retirement



Water Quality Management at the County Level

Calling 911: Funding and Technological Challenges
of County 911 Call Centers



Managing Disasters at the County Level:
A Focus on Flooding

County Roles and Opportunities in Advancing
Safety and Justice



Medicaid Coverage and County Jails

Secure Rural Schools Profiles

Counties and Cash: How to Improve the Management of Cash Transactions



MONEYMATTERS%

The Promise of Small Change

By Helen Sims

Innovations don't have to be grand to be meaningful. A provision included in sweeping federal guidance is a case in point. The federal government sends more than \$700 billion a year to states, local governments and other grantees. With so much money in play, a simple, overarching change can have a big impact on programs across all levels of government. OMB's *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards*, (*Uniform Guidance*), issued in December 2013, included many simple, meaningful changes. One of these changes requires federal agencies to use cooperative audit resolution with direct grantees. Cooperative audit resolution is a concrete process for improving programs and addressing fiscal and programmatic challenges. First developed by U.S. Department of Education (ED) in the mid-1990s, cooperative audit resolution can play a pivotal role in improving a program by identifying its underlying problems and charting a course to address them.

Significantly, then, cooperative audit resolution isn't just a good idea. It's a requirement. This means that federal agencies must work in collaboration with counties, states or other direct awardees in resolving audit findings.

In congressional testimony before the newly created Speakers Task Force on Intergovernmental Relations, then-NACO President Bryan Desloge explained that "Counties throughout the country are partners with cities, other counties, nonprofit organizations and the private sector to deliver high-quality services to their residents in a cost-efficient manner. Given these important intergovernmental roles and responsibilities, counties are more than mere stakeholders or interested members of the public — counties are intergovernmental partners." In a similar vein, Speaker Ryan charged the task force with examining ways to restore the balance of power between the federal government and the states, tribes, and local governments.

During his testimony before the task force, Desloge observed that "This task force highlights the vital role of intergovernmental coordination as we serve our shared constituencies. We are excited about the opportunities this task force presents for collaboration."

Collaboration is one of the foundational principles of cooperative audit resolution. The Uniform Guidance begins its definition of cooperative audit resolution with this statement:

Cooperative audit resolution means the use of audit follow-up techniques which promote prompt corrective action by improving communi-

Cooperative audit resolution is a concrete process for improving programs, addressing fiscal and programmatic challenges.

cation, fostering collaboration, promoting trust, and developing an understanding between the federal agency and the non-federal entity.

This definition offers the federal government a blueprint for building a strong partnership with counties and other grantees. In implementing cooperative audit resolution, it is important to include any government official who has an interest in an audited program, including federal and county auditors, program officials, attorneys and accountants. Each of these disciplines tends to look a problem from a different perspective, which can shed light on the underlying cause of an audit finding. Certainly "communication, collaboration, trust and understanding" are not words that typically appear in federal guidance, but, like the Speakers Task Force, their use signals that it is a good time to promote changes in the way that governments relate to one another.

County commissioners play a pivotal role in the successful implementation of cooperative audit resolution. Perhaps most importantly, they can establish a constructive "tone-at-the-top." County commissioners can make it clear that "communication, collaboration, trust and understanding" are critical across professional disciplines within the county, as well as across levels of government. It is also important for county commissioners to recognize that their county can ask a state to engage in cooperative audit resolution, if the state is serving as a pass-through entity for federal funds. While a pass-through entity is not required to use cooperative audit resolution with a subrecipient, OMB encourages subrecipients to request it.

Fortunately, AGA, the professional association for financial managers at all levels of government, has prepared two free guides that help governments implement cooperative audit resolution. AGA's more than 14,000 members include elected officials, senior executives, mid-level managers, entry-level employees and students. AGA members work in government financial management professions, including accounting, auditing, budgeting, financial reporting, performance reporting, grants management, contract management and information systems. State and local government officials com-

prise the single largest group of AGA members (42 percent).

AGA has issued 11 free tools and guides, which are available to anyone at no cost. One of them, *Guide to Improving Program Performance and Accountability through Cooperative Audit Resolution and Oversight*, was issued in 2010 to capture lessons learned by the U.S. Department of Education during the early days of cooperative audit resolution. The second guide, *Successfully Implementing Cooperative Audit Resolution*, was completed in 2016. It outlines specific steps, or plays, for meeting cooperative audit resolution requirements in the Uniform Guidance. AGA also offers a one-day course on cooperative audit resolution, which is taught on-site at an employer's location.

To reap the full benefit from cooperative audit resolution, it is important for county officials to understand what it is, remind federal agencies when they are required to use it, set a constructive "tone-at-the-top" for implementation, and to request it when the county is a state's subrecipient. **CN**

Helena Sims is the former director of Intergovernmental Relations for AGA. She also served as the Washington Office Director for the National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers and Treasurers. She can be reached at Helena.Sims@SimsGS.com.

GET TO
KNOW...

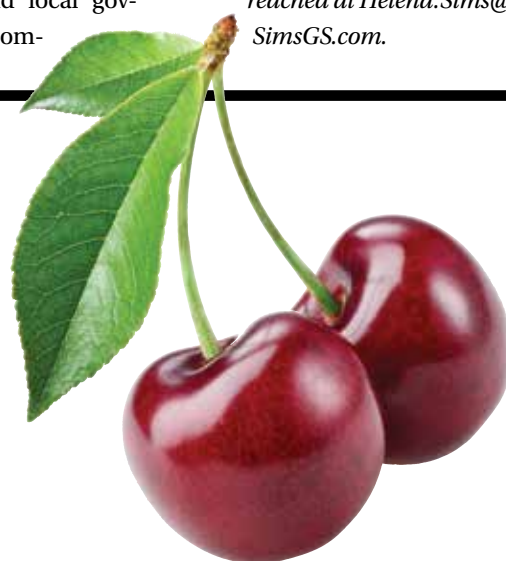
Grand
Traverse
County,
Mich.



Welcome, Grand Traverse County, Mich.

Grand Traverse County's name comes from the French phrase meaning "long crossing," reflecting the county's location on the Grand Traverse Bay.

Considered to be the "Cherry Capital of the World," Traverse City grows around 50 percent of the tart cherry crops in the United States each year. **The National Cherry Festival has been held in the county every July since 1910 when cherry growers began to hold "blessing of the blossoms" ceremonies at blossom time.**



Tell Your Story

TALK TO

CN

CountyNews

WRITERS...

Give us a call at 202.942.6226
or email us at cnews@naco.org
and we'll be in touch.

Looking forward to hearing from you,
Bev, Charlie, Mary Ann

PROFILES IN SERVICE

GEORGE DUNLAP

NACo Board Commissioner
Mecklenburg County, N.C.

Number of years involved in NACo: 9

Years in public service: 22

Occupation: Retired police officer

Education: Master's of public administration, B.S. in criminal justice, A.A. in correctional science

The hardest thing I've ever done was: Take the MPA comprehensive exam.

Three people (living or dead) I'd invite to dinner: Martin Luther King, Jr., Nelson Mandela, and President Obama.

A dream I have is to: Provide a great education for every person.

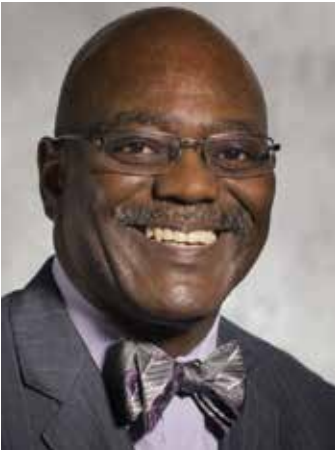
You'd be surprised to learn that I: Sing metered hymns.

My favorite way to relax is to: Listen to jazz music.

I'm most proud of: My son and his accomplishments.

Every morning I read: The news.

My favorite meal is: Fried pork chops or lamb.



Dunlap

My pet peeve is: Rude people.

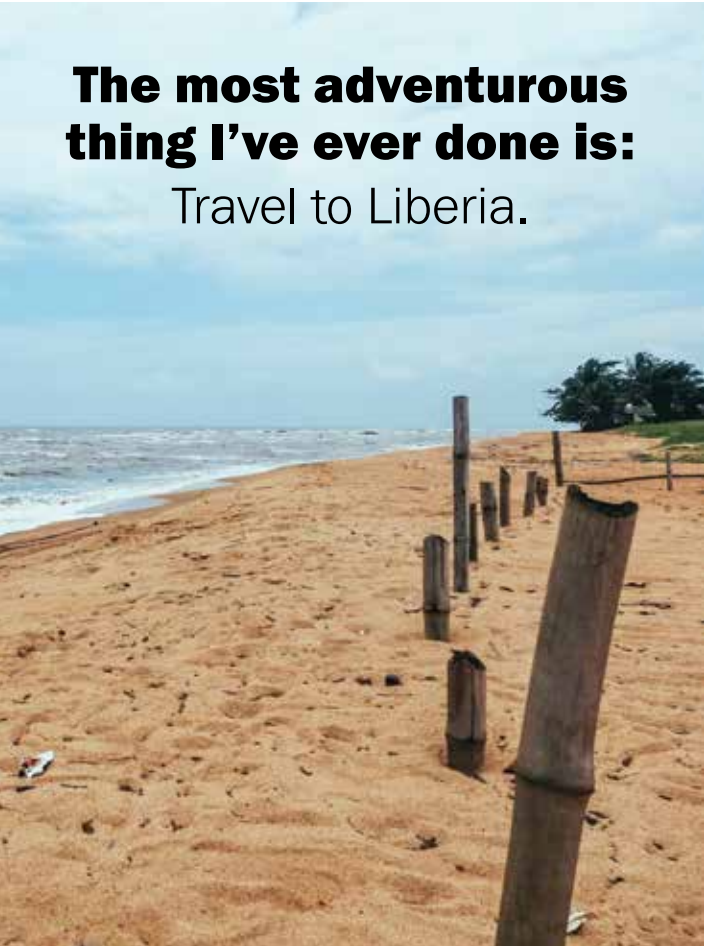
My motto is: If I can help somebody as I pass along, then my living shall not be in vain.

My favorite movie is: *The Color Purple*.

My favorite music is: Jazz.

My favorite U.S. president is: Barack Obama.

My county is a NACo member because: Our county gets so much from being a member. One of the most important things is the benefit of proven ideas that work to immediately solve issues that exist in our county.



The most adventurous thing I've ever done is:
Travel to Liberia.

Brownfields reauthorization gets boost on Capitol Hill

By Julie Ufner
associate legislative director

A new bill that preserves the Environmental Protection Agency's brownfields program cleared a House committee late last month. The program provides financial support to help clean up contaminated sites around the country.

The House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure approved — by voice vote — the Brownfields Reauthorization Act of 2017 (H.R. 1758) that would reauthorize EPA's brownfields redevelopment program at \$200 million a year. A separate State Response Program is funded at \$50 million annually.

According to the EPA, there are more than 400,000 brownfields nationwide. Brownfields are sites that contain environmental contamination, such as old manufacturing and industrial facilities, abandoned mills and mines, and areas with leaking underground storage tanks. Successful brownfields redevelopment sites can re-energize and stimulate entire communities and their local economies.

The Brownfields Reauthorization Act includes several NACo recommendations including increased funding limits for direct remediation grants, creation of a new multipurpose grant that allows entities to conduct assessment and remediation at one or more brownfields sites and expands grant eligibility to government entities that acquired brownfields prior to enactment of the 2002 law.

Prior to the committee's approval, NACo and other local government associations, sent a letter to leaders on the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and its Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee reiterating support for reauthorization of the program.

In March, the association testified before the Water Resources Subcommittee on how the brownfields program helps counties redevelop unused or

abandoned brownfields sites to revitalize local communities.

On June 28, the House Committee on Energy and Commerce passed a similar brownfields bill, the Brownfields Enhancement Economic Redevelopment and Reauthorization Act of 2017 that would also reauthorize and make improvements to EPA's brownfields program. The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, on July 12, the passed the Brownfields Utilization, Investment and Local Development Act (S. 822). All of the bills are awaiting action on the floor of their respective chambers.

EPA's brownfields program was originally authorized in 2002 through the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. The program provides technical assistance and grants for communities to undertake brownfields projects. While the program's authorization expired in 2006, Congress has continued to fund the program on an annual basis. [CN](#)

WORD SEARCH

TERREBONNE PARISH, La.
Created by: Mary Ann Barton

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

ACADIANS: The area has been a center of the Acadian or Cajun culture since the 18th century.

BAYOU: Sixty-five percent of the parish consists of bayou — wetlands and open water from the Mississippi and the Gulf of Mexico.

CRAWFISH: The crawfish is a native delicacy and was the emblem of the Houma tribe.

FRENCH: The region was settled by the French and Spanish.

GUMBO: A Creole dish you'll find at places like A-Bear's Café in Houma, the "county" seat.

HOUMA: Parish seat of Terrebonne Parish. Houma means "red" and gets its name either from the sun or the tribe's war emblem, the crawfish. The city was incorporated in 1834.

OIL: The oil and gas industry is prevalent in the area.

LOUISIANA: The parish is located in the southern portion of the state of Louisiana.

MARDI GRAS: The county is home to about a dozen parades during Mardi Gras each year.

NEW ORLEANS: The Big Easy is just east of Terrebonne Parish.

PARISH: Louisiana was officially Roman Catholic under both France and Spain's rule. Boundaries dividing the territories generally coincided with church parishes.

SHRIMP: The industry is part of the culture in coastal Louisiana.

SPAIN: The Treaty of Fontainebleau was a secret agreement of 1762 in which France ceded the state to Spain

SUGAR: The parish was once home to 86 sugar mills during the sugar boom of the 19th century.

TERREBONNE: The parish gets its name from the French word for "good earth."

BRIGHT IDEAS | GWINNETT COUNTY, Ga.

County Goes on Offense when Hundreds of Vultures Swoop In, Take Over Park

PROBLEM:

Vultures can quickly become a nuisance when dozens or even hundreds of them descend on a park or someone's backyard. The turkey vulture and black vulture, classified as migratory birds, are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

SOLUTION:

Gwinnett County, Ga. officials created a vulture abatement action plan with federal partners.

By Mary Ann Barton
senior staff writer

In Alfred Hitchcock's film *The Birds*, hundreds of birds descend on the seaside village of Bodega Bay, Calif., terrorizing the residents.

Why didn't anyone pick up the phone and call the county parks department?

Gwinnett County, Ga. certainly heard from the public when nearly 200 vultures began making a local park their home two years ago, said Mark Patterson, deputy director for the Department of Community Services.

"They were concerned about why they were there," he said. "With such a large congregation, they thought it meant that something dead was in the park."

In September 2015, Gwinnett County, a suburb of Atlanta, began to notice an increase in the number of black vultures and turkey vultures that began roosting at the park, home to a swimming pool, a 25-acre lake, paved trails, horseshoe pits and ball fields.

It wasn't the first time they'd made themselves at home there, but it was the first time the county had seen them in



A wake of vultures hangs out at a picnic area at a Gwinnett County, Ga. park. Photo courtesy of Gwinnett County

such large numbers, Patterson said. "Vultures in general have been utilizing the site for longer than I've been here, and I've been working here for 30 years," he noted. Most summers the county saw maybe five or six birds.

In addition to the public's concern, the county was also looking at damage to facilities. The birds were tearing out rubber hosing that protected the electrical infrastructure for the lights on the ballfields, damaging plastic liners on swimming pool slides, picking at sun canopies and pulling apart soft caulking on the pool's edges, costing the county thousands of dollars in repair work.

The parks department contacted a USDA wildlife biologist to find out if this was typical behavior for the birds. The biologist suggested some solutions including changing trash receptacles so they couldn't

get into them. "Vultures will eat anything — trash, food left behind," said Patterson.

Another suggestion was to make the birds uncomfortable so they would want to move from the area. The parks department began using laser lights and "sound cannons" at dawn and dusk. "We would go out with the laser beams to harass them," Patterson said. "It distracts and unnerves them."

The sound cannons play repetitive noises such as the sound of distressed prey or predatory calls on a digital device, Patterson said.

The county soon found out that the laser and sound cannon were temporary distractions and more was going to be needed to get the birds to budge.

None of the birds, protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, could be killed. But the county could apply for

a federal depredation permit from U.S. Fish and Wildlife, as a last resort. The county applied for and received the permit, which would allow them to kill a number of birds if it came to that, Patterson said.

But first the biologist suggested hanging effigies or fake dead birds to scare them away. The county purchased three effigies from USDA (each one costs about \$175). The effigies, hung upside-down, were made of painted black wood and parts of real birds such as wings and tail feathers. (USDA has a reclamation-salvage permit that allows them to possess various parts of birds to re-use in effigies.)

"Vultures do not want to be around dead vultures," Patterson said. The effigies were hung from a cell tower about 400 feet up in the air. "We contracted with a company that maintains the cell towers," he said.

After the effigies were hung, the county parks department shut the park down at 5 p.m. for three days in a row in February 2016 so they could use every weapon in their arsenal to get rid of the birds, Patterson said.

The county did end up using its federal depredation permit to shoot at the birds but only one bird was hit and it was euthanized, Patterson said.

"In terms of permanently keeping them away, the effigies were the most effective," Patterson said. Today, the county sees maybe one or two vultures hanging around the park.

The number of black vultures is about 1.8 million in the country, according to the Avian Conservation Assessment Database.

If your county is experiencing a problem with birds, you can contact Patterson at: mark.patterson@gwinnettcountry.com. **CN**

LEADERSHIP EDGE

Defending the Heartland: On the Front Line of Democracy and Its Defense

General John Allen
USMC (Ret.)

When most people think of international attacks, they think of bombs, tanks, and guns: things that can be touched, seen, and heard. For most of history, they have been right — this is how conflict has looked for centuries. Now, however, the advent of new technology has given rise to new threats, ones that are subtler and formless but no less real, and certainly no less dangerous.

Cyberattacks are a rapidly growing threat, both to government agencies and the nation as a whole. Every minute, 208 new malicious files are created, 137 new malware samples are captured, \$761,000 is lost due to digital crime, and \$1,900 is paid in ransomware. The average US firm loses \$30 a minute to hacking attacks. Make no mistake—cyberspace is an active warzone.

In many ways, it's a much trickier battlefield than those in the physical world. In the borderless realm of cyberspace, the distance between, say, North Korea and the US shrinks to nothing. Cyber attackers have unlimited and instantaneous reach directly into the heartland of our country.

Our enemies are already making use of new tools. In November 2014, North Korea was associated with a cyber-attack on Sony Pictures, which leaked not only confidential data about the business, but also personal information of employees and their families. In February 2016, a North Korean cyberattack robbed Bangladesh Central Bank of \$81 million. Most recently, North Korea was linked to the massive ransomware attack known as WannaCry, which hit 300,000 computers in 150



Gen. John Allen, USMC (Ret.)

countries, encrypting critical data and demanding a ransom for its release.

WannaCry severely crippled key infrastructure around the world. This included the Department of Homeland Security, 25% of India's national police systems, dozens of hospitals in the UK's National Health Service, 100,000 computers at various Chinese universities, and major businesses such as Deutsche Bank, Nissan, FedEx, and Hitachi. The sheer reach of this attack is chilling. With a single piece of malware, North Korea was able to disable critical systems and agencies across the globe.

North Korea is hardly alone in this. Syria boasts the Syrian Electronic Army, which was trained, equipped, and supported by Iran and targets Western media sources, such as the Washington Post, the Chicago Tribune, the Financial

Times, and Forbes, as well as companies like Dell, Microsoft, and Ferrari. Iran boasts its own organized groups of offensive hackers, including the Basij Cyber Council and units directly under the Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps. China has the PLA Unit 61398, a hacker division of the People's Liberation Army that has been attacking a wide range of government and corporate agencies since at least 2006. There has also been a trend of increasing cooperation between these parties, all of whom are generally unfriendly to US interests.

Perhaps the most infamous example of the current power of cyberattacks—and the need for better defense—is the recent presidential election. The Office of the Director of National Intelligence has concluded “with high confidence that Russian President Vladi-

mir Putin ordered an influence campaign in 2016 aimed at the US presidential election, the consistent goals of which were to undermine public faith in the US democratic process.” This was a complex attack, executed via a range of interference methods, including a network of quasi-government trolls, [spear phishing](#), and the use of botnets to spread misinformation on social media and comprise sensitive data. Over 120 election officials' computers were attacked, as were voter databases, compromising some 90,000 records. A full 39 states experienced some form of attack, and the full extent of the Russian penetration is still uncertain.

This cyber sabotage was intended to manipulate public opinion on the trustworthiness of traditional news sources and instill a distrust in our most basic democratic processes.

All of this is only the tip of the iceberg. Cyberattacks on critical infrastructure continue to increase in number and frequency. This extends to financial systems, healthcare, airports, rail networks, electric grids, and more. Safeguarding America is not just a question of guns and tanks, but new, intelligent cyber protection systems, ones that can not only defend the vulnerable points of critical systems but can learn and evolve faster than the proliferation of cyberthreats.

Traditional security methods can no longer keep up with the evolving threat landscape. New approaches, such as those using artificial intelligence (AI), are needed. In essence, the only technology that can properly guard against the rapidly growing and changing threat landscape is one that can learn and evolve faster than the threats it prevents. The defense of the nation and government is no longer limited to the physical world; some of the most important battles of the future will take place beyond what can be seen, heard, or felt. It's time to see national security for the new paradigm it is, and develop the new solutions it requires. **EN**

General Allen has served in a variety of command and staff positions in the Marine Corps and the Joint Force. He served as Special Presidential Envoy for the Global Coalition to Counter the Islamic State of Iraq and Levant, Commander of the NATO International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan, and Deputy Commander of Central Command. He serves on the board of directors of several firms including SparkCognition. He was the co-recipient of the 2015 Eisenhower Award of the Business Executives for National Security.

NEWS FROM ACROSS THE NATION

CALIFORNIA

California counties are battling proposed legislation that the *Los Angeles Times* is calling “an audacious power grab” by telecom giants. SB 649 would “transfer hundreds of millions of dollars from key government services to the bottom line of the world’s largest wireless companies,” according to the California State Association of Counties. The bill places a limit on how much local government could charge in fees for putting cell equipment on locally-owned infrastructure, and prohibits negotiating for higher fees, or for in-kind services (like free Wi-Fi for a park or library). CSAC estimates a \$100 million loss statewide.

The bill would “incentivize companies to terminate their current agreements and unilaterally replace them with the reduced regulatory and fee structures in the bill,” according to CSAC. This would “dramatically cut the fees companies must pay to cities [and counties] for use of public property and allow them to place equipment wherever they want on public assets. It adds millions to telecom company profits, while exempting them from having to spend money on expanded wireless access for under-

served communities.”

Similar legislation, designed to speed the build-out of infrastructure for 5G networks, has been passed in Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Texas and Virginia, according to a recent article in *Axios*. The Federal Communications Commission is also considering limiting local authority as a way to remove barriers to building out 5G.

• **MENDOCINO COUNTY** supervisors recently approved a **temporary ban on new vacation rentals** in residential areas outside city limits. Supervisors hope the 45-day ban will stop erosion of limited housing, as well as control traffic and noise. Nearby **SONOMA COUNTY** also imposed a temporary ban, following the lead of Healdsburg, a city there that prohibits rentals in residential areas. Mendocino County is trying to get a handle on the number of homes being rented out; a computer program recently counted 169 people — believed to be renting out part or all of their homes in Airbnb-type arrangements without a required business license — who are supposed to be paying a county hotel-bed tax revenue.



CALIFORNIA

No more feeding the wild burros in **RIVERSIDE COUNTY**. A new ordinance took effect late last month that **prohibits people from feeding or interacting with the animals** after several traffic accidents injured or killed them. The county says the burros, which have been in the area since the 1800s but aren’t native, have multiplied into the hundreds. The animals migrate down the hills looking for snacks like apples and carrots offered by people driving by in their cars. The county reported 84 incidents last year involving burros — everything from burros invading backyards to traffic accidents. Fines for feeding or enticing the burros range from \$100 to \$500.

Photo of donkeys courtesy of Donkeyland Rescue

FLORIDA

• The immigration issue is heating up in **MIAMI-DADE COUNTY**, where activists have **filed a lawsuit against the county for detaining a U.S. citizen**. The American Civil Liberties Union contends that the county detained Honduran-born Garland Creedle, 18, at the request of U.S. Customs and Immigration Enforcement for two days as a “removable alien” after his bond was posted. Creedle was arrested after an alleged domestic dispute but charges were never filed.

County Mayor Carlos Gimenez has ordered jails to approve all immigration detainer requests, not just for those who face serious charges. He justified the move by pointing to \$355 million in government funding the county has received for public housing, transportation and police programs. Attorney General Jeff Sessions has threatened to withhold funding to local governments that don’t cooperate with ICE.

• Congratulations to **MANATEE COUNTY** for being the first county — and the first local government — in the state to achieve **Platinum Certification from the Florida Green Building Coalition**. The county’s Green Team was credited by the Board of Commissioners with mapping the way to the designation. “I’m so proud of the Green Team and of what’s been accomplished for this county,” said Commissioner Vanessa Baugh at a recent Board meeting. “This is huge.”

GEORGIA

• After receiving letters from local residents about alleged behavior by R&B singer and Grammy winner, R. Kelly, **FULTON COUNTY** is trying to put a **stop to a concert** scheduled

for Aug. 25. The Office of the County Attorney for Fulton County issued a letter to Live Nation requesting the upcoming performance at the Wolf Creek Amphitheater be canceled. Fulton County owns the 5,420-seat outdoor venue in College Park, Ga.

Parents interviewed for a recent article in *BuzzFeed* allege the singer is keeping young women in an abusive “cult,” which Kelly has denied. Kelly concerts in Los Angeles, New Orleans, Baton Rouge and Dallas were recently canceled, although no reason was given, the *Los Angeles Times* reported. Live Nation is contracted to book and promote concerts on Fulton County’s behalf and has the final say about whether the event will go on.



• Is **HENRY COUNTY** ready for The Shack? Shaquille O'Neal, 45, a four-time champion basketball player and member of the NBA Hall of Fame tells *The Washington Post* he **plans to run for sheriff** in 2020. Why Henry County? O'Neal lives in the area; he works nearby as an analyst for TNT and NBA TV, based in Atlanta. O'Neal loves the law: He has been a deputy marshal in Lafayette, La., a reserve police officer in Florida and was sworn in as a deputy in **CLAYTON COUNTY**, Ga., last year.



ILLINOIS

COOK COUNTY's soda tax is back on track, for now. Delayed by a lawsuit from retailers, it was originally supposed to go into effect July 1. After a judge dismissed the lawsuit, which had temporarily blocked the tax, it went back into effect Aug. 1. The Illinois Retail Merchants Association announced that it is appealing, challenging whether the judge used the correct standards in granting Cook County's motion to dismiss. A spokesman for Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle said she had expected a legal battle and will "continue to vigorously defend the ordinance and expect to prevail..."

The county says it expects to bring in \$67.5 million this year and \$200.6 million next year from the new tax.

MARYLAND

With average Comcast cable TV bills hitting more than \$150 a month, a **free movie-watching service from your library** would likely be



quite popular. **BALTIMORE COUNTY's** library system, which serves 800,000 patrons at its 19 branches, recently announced it was adding a new video streaming service called Kanopy, featuring more than 26,000 titles available to library cardholders.

The library caps usage to 15 movies per month to control costs; Kanopy began marketing to public libraries last year, charging a varied fee for each video streamed. The library said the service will cost about \$25,000 its first year. The final amount might be lower depending on the number of videos streamed. Kanopy notes that nearly 200 public libraries around the country now offer the service.

MINNESOTA

OTTER TAIL COUNTY residents have submitted hundreds of questions to the County Board about the **proposed Shooting Star Casino & Resort** being backed by the White Earth Band of Chippewa. Residents of the county — population 57,716 — are raising a lot of questions about the proposed 270-acre complex which would be located about 190 miles northwest of Hennepin County (Minneapolis). The *Star-Tribune* has pointed out that with more than 1,000 lakes, Otter Tail County is known for its fishing, wildlife, and mom 'n pop resorts. Plans call for the casino to feature 180 hotel rooms, 850 slot machines, a spa, an RV park and

a convention center.

The Board is expected to take up the issue Aug. 22. At issue is whether the Board will accept a voluntary Environmental Assessment Worksheet or whether it will order an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Opponents are calling for an EIS, which would trigger a deeper study and slow the project.

NEW YORK

The **ULSTER COUNTY** Legislature will consider a law **requiring electricians to be licensed**. **ORANGE** and **GREENE counties** already established that requirement, and Legislator Hector Rodriguez says it will protect residents and property owners from shoddy work. The law would require all electricians working in Ulster County to become licensed by the county and would permit only licensed electricians to perform electrical work, the *Daily Freeman* reported.

The seven-member licensing board would be appointed by the county executive. The law would also grandfather electricians who have been doing business in the county for 11 years.

OREGON

• Throughout June, **CLACKAMAS COUNTY** Department of Health, Housing and Human services collected the equivalent of **60,533 pounds of food** for the Oregon Food Bank, worth about 45,400 meals. Since 2009, the department's employees have collected more than 255,000 pounds of food.

• **MULTNOMAH COUNTY** is the latest county to **sue**

pharmaceutical companies, accusing them of pushing doctors to overprescribe addictive opioid painkillers.

The \$250 million lawsuit claims Purdue Pharma, Teva Pharmaceutical Industries, Johnson

& Johnson, Watson Pharma and the McKesson Drug Co., among others, used deceptive marketing practices over 20 years to misrepresent the addictive nature of the drugs and the situations in which they should be prescribed. The suit also includes several Oregon doctors, the *Oregonian* reported. So far, 19 counties have sued pharmaceutical companies, with two in California settling.

SOUTH CAROLINA

YORK COUNTY residents can now check out the cost, status and impact of each road program funded by the **Pennies for Progress** capital sales and use taxes. The 20-year-old program has accounted for \$700 million in spending. The website is an overhaul of an older interface that presented long blocks of text. The new site includes interactive GIS maps.

TEXAS

Two similar words are going to overlap thanks to a **HARRIS COUNTY** pilot program.

The county's veterinary public health division, which operates an overpopulated animal shelter, will **provide pets** to the county's veteran population, particularly those suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and anxiety.

The county will hold training sessions for the veterans and volunteers will help assess animal compatibility.

"The emotional support provided by a companion animal can help keep a veteran calm when s/he is angry



or confused, or may help to decrease feelings of isolation that are often experienced by veterans," according to county documents about the pilot program.

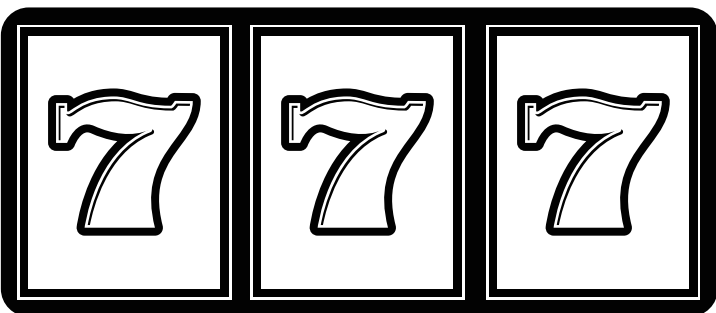
WASHINGTON

Hikers in **KING COUNTY** will have a ride to some of the county's most popular trails thanks to a **new van service**. A pilot program by Metro's Community Connections Program and King County Parks, Trailhead Direct will leave from a county park and ride lot every half hour starting at 7:05 a.m. and will end its run roughly 12 hours later, stopping at three trailheads along the way. Developed as a response to overcrowding at trailhead parking lots that spilled onto roads, Trailhead Direct will increase access to the trails to people who don't have cars.

WISCONSIN

Ten law enforcement agencies within **JEFFERSON COUNTY** will cooperate on a **newly-formed drug task force**. The Board of Supervisors recently approved creating a pool of part-time, non-benefited deputy positions to staff the task force. The task force focuses on combating the growing problem of the sale and use of opioids, heroin and methamphetamine within Jefferson County, the *Daily Union* reported.

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.



the **HR**
DOCTOR

With Phil Rosenberg

Phil Rosenberg

The Great American Cover-up

“Cover-up” usually means deception or deliberate efforts to mask or hide unlawful or unethical behavior. However, another and much more incredible meaning has been presented to hundreds of millions of Americans recently. It all occurred in less than four minutes depending on your location. It occurred in an area about 70 miles wide arcing over all of the continental United States — from the west coast of Oregon to the east coast of South Carolina — from sea to shining sea. It is the greatest cover-up a human can witness.

The total solar eclipse on Aug. 21 represents the covering up of the disc of the Sun by the disc of the Moon. It is a truly amazing spectacle, which happens relatively often in the world, usually somewhere inconveniently located, like over the Pacific Ocean. However, this one was rare. The last one moving over the continent happened 99 years ago.

The HR Doctor is also, and has been since childhood, the HR Astronomer. Through a lot of planning,

I am the owner of my own observatory and an array of high tech telescopes and cameras. There is hardly anything that I find more peaceful or a source of greater mindfulness and contemplation than sitting in my observatory on a clear night, coffee in hand and a K9 special assistant at my feet. There I turn from mild-manner bureaucrat into an explorer and hunter of the sky.

Thousands of photos of hundreds of objects have occurred over the years. No celestial event, however, is more awe-inspiring and spectacular than a total eclipse of the Sun. I look forward to seeing the eclipse first hand from a spot in lovely Transylvania County, N. C. near where Doctor Daughter Rachel’s medical practice is located.

Amazingly the disc of our one and only large natural satellite — the Moon — is essentially an exact “lens cap” cover equaling the circumference of the Sun when they line up.

This close fit is unprecedented in the solar system. In fact, even when

our great, great grandchildren peer out at the Sun from Mars, or the Saturn’s moon, Enceladus, they will not find a total eclipse of the Sun available.

And so it is that these breathtaking total eclipses have triggered fear and a search for meaning throughout history. The first recorded solar eclipse occurred in lovely downtown Mesopotamia in roughly 1223 B.C. This event “put the Sun to shame” as an ancient text noted. It was taken as a warning to the rulers — a portend of things to come which wouldn’t be very pleasant.

A 763 B.C. eclipse in Assyria marked an insurrection against the king. An eclipse in China in 1032 B.C. brought the same sense of dread and warning to its emperor.

Eclipses in A.D. 29 or A.D. 33 were thought to coincide with the death of Jesus. Then again, the one in A.D. 569 marked the year of the Prophet Mohammed’s birth.

All of the past eclipses were in the pre-science era when peoples’ mythology and religious beliefs produced “explana-

tions” for natural events, often with political motives behind them.

Perhaps the most significant eclipse of the modern era occurred in 1919, “Einstein’s Eclipse.” It marked the triumph of scientific observation and experimentation. It was accurately predicted in the scientific world and led to expeditions being dispatched to various parts of the planet to observe, confirm or refute Albert Einstein’s Theory of General Relativity. Were its predictions about the effect of gravity on light correct or false? It turned out that the eclipse confirmed that gravity bent space-time just as professor, doctor, fiddle player and pipe smoker Mr. Einstein had predicted.

The 2017 USA eclipse is the first such event accessible to millions of Americans in so many parts of the country live, not to mention via TV networks, the internet and all of the various instruments manufactured by the Apple Corporation.

This is an event that should have led to school holidays throughout the

area of visibility and to the chance for every little human on the planet to sit with grandpa and grandma, mom and dad, siblings and friends to watch, appreciate and learn about this most amazing of phenomena.

The best employers would have recognized this unique opportunity to show appreciation to the workforce and to allow as many people time off as possible.

Astronomy is the most magnificent of the sciences because it relates directly and historically to philosophy, religion, physics, math and much more. It is a tool to inspire children especially and to help shape their lives.

The great cover-up of 2017 does not involve the appointment of a special prosecutor nor is it linked to any possible crime — except for one. That is the parental “crime” and employer “crime.”

Those occur when an opportunity as astounding as the total eclipse goes by without allowing adults and children being able to share the experience directly with people they love. **CN**