

Hill rally keeps spotlight on PILT

By Charlie Ban
senior staff writer

Roughly half of Jackson County, Ore. is owned by the federal government, and that hit to the tax base makes life difficult for Commissioner Doug Breidenthal and his colleagues. But compared to some of their neighbors, they're doing okay.

"We have a county (in Oregon) that is on the brink of bankruptcy," he said. "Another county can't staff its sheriff's office to answer 9-1-1 calls."

Jackson County is the size of Connecticut; the federally-owned land within its borders adds up to the size of Rhode Island. Because the county can't

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By Charlie Ban
senior staff writer

The sky isn't really the limit for unmanned aerial vehicles, or drones.

What Chief Deputy Randy McDaniel really wants to do with Montgomery County, Texas' drone is use it for search and rescue in the Sam Houston National Forest in the northern

part of the county, but current Federal Aviation Administration rules limit how far they can fly it.

"It's problematic in large scale areas like the forest because the FAA still requires a line of sight to the UAS at all times," he said. "That's keeping us from using it for large-scale search and rescue."

The rules, effective Aug. 29,

will get some clarification after input from the FAA drone advisory committee that was recently announced. Two county officials are among the 35 members of the committee that met for the first time in Washington, D.C. Sept. 16.

NACo would like the FAA to establish a new class of air-

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ZIKA bites FY2017 funding process

By Brian Bowden
associate legislative director

Update: The Senate was expected to vote, today, Sept. 19, on whether to consider a continuing resolution to temporarily fund the federal government.

House and Senate leaders met with President Obama, Sept. 12, to discuss how to fund the federal government past Sept. 30, the end of the current fiscal year, while also providing emergency aid to combat the Zika virus.

These two items are at the top of the agenda now that Congress is back in session after a seven-week summer recess. With lawmakers eager to return home to campaign before the elections, it appears likely that Congress will seek to pass a continuing resolution (CR) to keep federal agencies funded into FY17 and avoid a government shutdown.

Complicating attempts to pass a stopgap-spending bill, however, is the debate over how to provide funding to combat Zika, which continued to spread while Congress was on recess. There are now more than 2,500 reported cases across the continental United States, including 600 pregnant women.

Early in September, the Senate failed to pass — for the third time — a \$1.1 billion emergency supplemental funding pack-

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Counties use drones for public safety, surveying, assessments

From DRONES page 1

space under local control, specifically for drones.

"We can't have a Wild West approach to rules," said Robert Boyd, a Riley County, Kan. commissioner and an advisory committee member. "We need to have a single, consistent set of rules to succeed, otherwise it will be like VHS and Beta."

San Francisco County Mayor Ed Lee was also named to the advisory committee, and he will be able to provide an urban county government perspective. Boyd's Riley County, in rural Kansas, contains the city of Manhattan and Fort Riley Army installation in its 622 square miles.

Boyd's main concerns that he plans to bring to the committee are about security, privacy, safety and registration. If new rules meet those goals, he



Riley County, Kan. Commissioner Robert Boyd is one of two county officials on the FAA's Drone Advisory Committee. He has flown planes and worked as an air traffic controller. Photo by Nick Lyell

sees a dramatic range of drone applications for counties.

"I see a future with a drone on every patrol car," he said. "Not for patrolling or snooping, but when an officer makes a traffic stop, then a drone goes up and we have a second set of eyes, a new perspective on the situation."

Several sheriff's offices have received certificates of authorization (COA) from the FAA to use drones.

In its COA application, Clackamas County, Ore. wrote that it planned to use its drone to "provide low-level airborne reconnaissance of situations and locations that would endanger human observers," and be able to provide mutual aid to Multnomah, Washington and Yamhill counties.

King County, Wash.'s sheriff's office received both a COA and a donated drone, but returned it.

"It was turning out to be a little political with the privacy

concerns since this is an urban county," said department spokeswoman Sgt. Cindi West.

Reid Demman, Salt Lake County's elected surveyor, said his department maintains a 100-foot buffer from private properties to help ensure privacy, but acknowledged sometimes his drones have to pass over private property to reach land they will be surveying.

"We give them plenty of notice and a chance to object," he said.

His department's drone has the potential to transform the work his staff does by combining the new technology with time-saving measures for employees, he said.

A recent assessment of the amount of gravel in the county's gravel pit was cut down to 10 minutes from what is ordinarily an all-day affair for surveyors doing field work.

"It slashes the overhead and labor costs," Demman said. "We took what would have

taken hours and cut it down to minutes.

"Drones will never take the place of survey crews, but they now do things the drone can't, and now staff can focus on things drones can't do. The opportunities are boundless with this thing."

He also suggested that the county's parks department could use drones to film video of hiking trails to give users a preview of what they'll see.

In Montgomery County, Texas, McDaniel has used his drone for a body recovery operation in a river, but in a supporting role.

"It was difficult to get boats in the water, and once our team found the body, it was hard to determine the location," he said. "We used to drone to get the GPS coordinates and relayed that back, and we were able to do three-dimensional mapping of the area."

On top of that, McDaniel said the sheriff's office has used

drones to do overhead views of a SWAT situation, take crime scene photographs and fatal accident photographs.

"Any agency that chooses to go without one is less effective and less efficient than it could be," he said. "They're relatively inexpensive, they're getting more advanced all the time and they extend our reach to do our jobs, and help us do more."

Boyd said the example Amazon is setting — using drones to make deliveries — could be adapted to local businesses.

"They could be the salvation of Main Street, or connect Main Street to rural areas," he said. "Someone could put in an order for a computer to a Best Buy in town and a drone could deliver it, all within the same county, they wouldn't be sending that money out of town," he said. "The company wouldn't have to hire a deliveryman and pay for the truck."

Current regulations require drone operators to have flight certification and training, though a change, as of Aug. 1, allows for an untrained operator in the presence of a trained pilot.

Organizations that have been granted COAs must file something akin to flight plans with air traffic controllers at least 24 hours beforehand, including the duration of the mission, aerial dimensions and coordinate with air ambulance dispatchers.

"You have to plan missions," Demman said. "We try to be very considerate. The more time we spend in the air, demonstrating responsible use, it ultimately will give us more access to restricted airspace." **CN**



SNAP/STATS

'YOUNGEST' U.S. COUNTIES

| County | Median Age of Residents |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Madison, Idaho | 23.2 |
| Chattahoochee, Ga. | 24.0 |
| Utah, Utah | 24.5 |
| Todd, S.D. | 24.5 |
| Whitman, Wash. | 24.6 |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, "2015 Population Estimates"

Peer groups, separate dorms power Ky. jail's substance abuse program

By Charlie Ban
senior staff writer

With heroin moving deeper into Northern Kentucky, landing in the Kenton County Detention Center could be as much of an opportunity as it is a punishment for addicts.

Dedicated substance abuse treatment dorms for men and women just celebrated their first year of operation, and the staff is using momentum from its successful three-tiered approach to treatment to continue to help keep inmates healthy after their release. A combination of biological, psychological and social approaches are helping dozens of ready and willing inmates break their addictions.

Members of the NACo-NLC Opioid Task Force toured that facility Aug. 19, viewing the programming as a model for rehabilitation. It's the first medication-assisted treatment program in Kentucky; 14 other county jails have followed suit.

"We have a captive audience," said Jason Merrick, the director of inmate addiction services. "They have plenty of time and now they have the resources to stand a good chance of success when they get out."

Programming began in September 2015, funded by the detention center and drawing a few part-time staffers along with Merrick. By Feb. 1, 2016, the jail received state funding — a \$9 per diem for each of the 107 inmates in the program, enough to fund operations and support three full-time positions, four part-timers and supplies.

Inmates take a questionnaire as part of the intake screening process, with several questions designed to look beyond just the charges to see why they've wound up in jail.

"They might be in on an assault charge or a robbery



Vidya Kora, LaPorte County, Ind. commissioner and member of the National City-County Task Force on the Opioid Epidemic, speaks to inmates at the Kenton County, Ky. Detention Center. The 70 men involved in the substance abuse treatment program live together, participate in peer mentoring and receive medication to help fight drug dependence after their release. Photo by Charlie Ban

charge, and that wouldn't be a big red flag, but when you dig deeper and ask if that was directly or indirectly related to alcohol or substance abuse and they volunteer it, it's a start for them taking advantage of what we have to offer."

There is room for 70 men and 37 women in the program, each gender getting an entire dorm.

"Having that kind of space is crucial," Merrick said. "It sets the participants apart from the general population, helps build communities and keeps them focused."

The psychological aspect of the program involves a six-month process following an evidence-based cognitive behavioral therapy. It includes socialization, relapse prevention, drug and alcohol education, and breaking down criminal and addictive thinking. In the fifth month, inmates start transitioning towards life outside, with release and reintegr-

ation preparation.

The sixth month bleeds into the socialization component of the program, with resume building, budget planning and plans of action for setting the right tone for post-release life. That includes establishing links to service providers outside of the jail.

"I've driven some of them over to treatment facilities so they know exactly where they need to go," Merrick said.

Throughout the program, all participants take part in peer group therapy.

"It's a chance to get to the root causes of why people act the way they do," Merrick said. "When they talk about their problems, their peers are asking questions to dig a little deeper."

Merrick offered an example of the kind of perspective peer therapy lends:

"Say something in their home life is out of their control. They might try too hard

to fix and manage those situations, and that's making things difficult. And their peers can offer suggestions on how to improve those conditions and deal with those stresses. It's a change from 'what's going on out there' and more 'what's going on in here.'"

Asked by a task force member what makes the program work, one male inmate said, "Our fellowship from one addict to another."

"It's our goodwill and our spiritual growth and the willingness to come to a program (like this) and ask for help."

Mike Greenwell, one of the jail's clinical navigators, said the programming bridges a gap for inmates between the world they know and one they aspire to reach.

"Education only goes so far, but you have to teach them there is a world of recovery," he said. "This allows criminals to break the chains of crime because they're addicted. They

learn how recovery happens, long term."

As inmates prepare for their release, they are given shots of naltrexone, which reverses the effects of opioid drugs and reduces dependence, giving inmates a pharmacological advantage against the temptation to relapse for the first few months. A pharmaceutical company supplied several dozen free doses to help the Kenton County program get off the ground and now offers the medicine at the Medicaid rate.

"The state prison system gives them a dose earlier on and then another when they are about to leave, but we're stretching our resources a little more," Merrick said. "We don't give them a maintenance shot, but we do test them out and see how they react to the drug."

And it appears to be working. Through June 1, with more than 200 people leaving the jail having successfully completed the program, only 17 had returned to the Kenton County Detention Center on drug charges, though other county jails' statistics were not available. When figuring just the inmates who were given naltrexone, the success rate reaches 94 percent, Merrick said.

Greenwell said it all combines, along with the collective effort, to set inmates up for success when they are released. Individually they might not have the same motivation, but the program's accountability makes a difference.

"They learn to care for each other and invest in their successes as a group," he said. "These guys have really shown a lot of respect for little things in this dorm like making their beds, staying neat, learning how not to break the rules."

"Different small things that eventually transition into big things." **CN**

BRIGHT IDEAS | LIVINGSTON COUNTY, N.Y.

Countywide Program Revives Nine Downtowns

PROBLEM: Downtowns in rural Livingston County, N.Y.'s nine villages had become run-down, losing businesses and residences.

SOLUTION: A public-private partnership that has revived the downtowns.

By Charles Taylor
senior staff writer

If Buffalo is a rock and Rochester is a hard place, then it's Livingston County, N.Y. that's been caught between them all these years.

Just as big cities' residents and businesses fled downtowns for the suburbs, rural Livingston County also saw its villages' business districts become derelict over the past 50 years.

The county's Downtown Partnership Program is reversing that trend in the county's nine villages, most with populations of fewer than 3,000 people. The program's main goals include preserving and enhancing mixed-use downtown buildings, community development, encouraging entrepreneurship and new business recruitment.

It does this by coordinating grant funding for downtown building improvements while providing technical assistance for business owners and community groups.

The program has generated more than \$7 million in new investment in 120 downtown

buildings since 2011, helped improve ground-floor commercial spaces and spurred 82 new or enhanced residential units in downtown buildings, according to the New York State Economic Development Council (NYSED), which recently recognized the program for excellence in community-based economic development.

NYSED executive director Brian McMahon praised the county for showing that "rural communities can be innovative and highly effective in rebuilding their downtown corridors."

One key to the program's success is a 12-year tax abatement on the value of improvements to buildings in designated downtown districts, which must be approved by the town, village, school district and county, explained Louise Wadsworth, who runs the program as its downtown coordinator. Taxes are frozen at pre-improvement levels for eight years and are phased in at 20 percent per year in years 8 through 12.

"Folks didn't want to fix up their buildings because they thought they were going to get assessed more and their taxes were going to go up," she said. "So this way they can put the money into the building without being penalized."

A Livingston County Sign and Facade Improvement Program, funded by private investment — matching grants of up to \$5,000 to owners of downtown buildings or



The Riviera Theatre in downtown Geneseo, N.Y. was restored to its former glory thanks to Livingston County, N.Y.'s Downtown Partnership Program. Photo courtesy of Livingston County Development

businesses — provides another incentive, Wadsworth said. Since 2011, approximately \$1 million in public and private money has been invested in more than 100 completed sign and facade improvement projects, program officials said.

In Geneseo, the county seat, the Riviera Theatre is an example of results the partnership has achieved. The building had been vacant for 20 years when a developer bought it. The Downtown Partnership helped him obtain a \$150,000 New York Main Street grant from the state to restore the theater.

"Now it's up and running, completely renovated from the ground up and it's a community center," Wadsworth said. It's being used for movies and events, parties and weddings.

The owner has pur-

chased adjacent properties to open a bar and restaurant.

In addition, the downtown partnership has helped to attract about 90 residential units to downtown Geneseo, including 25-30 brand new units created in second-floor spaces that were previously unused.

State University of New York (SUNY) at Geneseo has also been a key player in the partnership; it provides interns who serve as downtown managers in the villages. An adopt-a-business program pairs students with businesses for social media and other promotional assistance. The public university's involvement also has a private sector link. A builder who renovated 20 buildings in the village of Mount Morris funds the internship program.

The program's primary cost is for staff: a \$65,000 a year sal-

ary including benefits for the downtown coordinator. The county's industrial development agency provides \$50,000 per year, and each of the nine participating villages kicks in \$4,000 apiece — \$36,000 total. The participating villages are: Avon, Caledonia, Danville, Geneseo, Leicester, Lima, Livonia, Mount Morris and Nunda. Funding from the state's Main Street Program covers administrative costs.

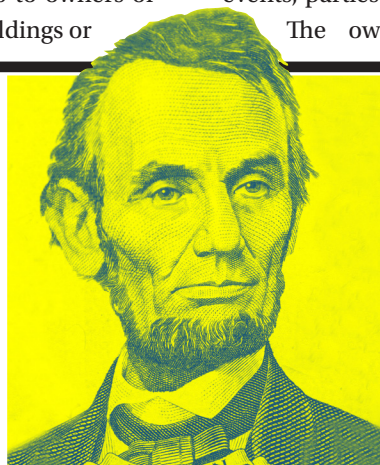
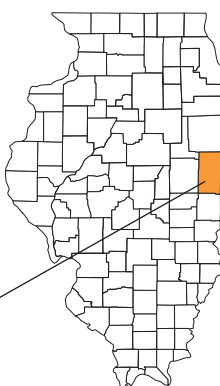
NYSED's McMahon perhaps summed it up best: "Livingston County's Downtown Partnership Program has attracted businesses and private investment to the downtown corridors and is helping retain businesses and jobs as well." **CN**

Bright Ideas features noteworthy and award-winning county programs

New NACo★
Member

GET TO
KNOW...

Vermilion
County, Ill.



Welcome, Vermilion County, Ill.

On the eastern edge of Illinois, next door to Indiana, Vermilion County has seen many masters. The area that would become the county was under French control from the late 17th century to the mid-18th century. It passed to British rule after the French and Indian War. Post Revolutionary War, it became part of the colonies and was ceded to Virginia, where it was known as the "Illinois County of Virginia." It bounced between Indiana and Illinois territories for a while until finally landing in the state of Illinois as a county in 1826.

Among its notables was Abraham Lincoln, who practiced law for 18 years in the county seat at Danville.

Counties keep heat on for PILT

From PILT page 1

tax that land, the federal government pays a pittance though PILT.

“The compensation that we receive is only about 91 cents per acre, but that has to be able to fund law enforcement, that has to be able to fund fire fighting, search and rescue...” Breidenthal said. “It’s reached critical mass in Oregon.”

Breidenthal joined other county officials and members of Congress representing districts and states with large proportions of federally owned land at a Capitol Hill briefing, Sept. 8, to push for a permanent funding source for the payments-in-lieu-of-taxes program, or PILT. PILT is a permanent program but subject to the appropriations

members of Congress that we have a huge education job in front of us,” he said. “A lot of my new colleagues in the Senate do not come from states that have a large amount of publicly owned land. Most weren’t here when SRS was authored.”

The best tactic, Rep. Paul Gosar (R-Ariz.) said, was to reach out and explain it to them.

“We have to teach our Eastern brethren why it’s so important,” he said.

Gosar offered two opportunities for progress diversifying what public lands could do. The Public Land Renewable Energy Development Act and Herd Act would each generate a quarter of its proceeds to counties.

Chelan County, Wash. Commissioner Ron Walter said counties shouldn’t apologize for want-



Doug Breidenthal speaks at the PILT briefing. Photo by Charlie Ban

process. Though both the House and Senate have committed to fully funding PILT at \$480 million, the appropriations bill has a long way to go to be signed by President Obama, and counties are helping push PILT across the goal line.

“What do you do in a county that’s 90 percent controlled by the federal government,” Rep. Chris Stewart (R-Utah) asked. “What do families do, what opportunities do their children have if they can’t ranch, timber or work in coal mines?”

What helps keep PILT on the margins of Congressional business, according to Sen. Ron Wyden, (D-Ore.), author of the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) program, is that turnover means the vast number of newer members from Eastern states with little to no federal land aren’t familiar with the program or counties’ struggles to fund operations.

“We have so many new mem-

bers of Congress that we have a huge education job in front of us,” he said. “A lot of my new colleagues in the Senate do not come from states that have a large amount of publicly owned land. Most weren’t here when SRS was authored.”

ing to use their natural resources productively, and pointed out that the cost burden on counties to provide search and rescue services on federal lands could drain budgets after too many helicopter flights. Chelan County is one of three in Washington state that owns a helicopter.

Wyden put PILT’s position in perspective relative to the business of legislating. “Most members of Congress don’t get up in the morning and say I want to spend my day being rotten to those communities where the federal government owns the land,” he said. “They wake up and say ‘I’ve got a real busy agenda...The chamber of commerce is coming in...that’s what we’re competing against.’”

Stewart rejected the notion the western counties were mooching.

“It’s not welfare when you take the asset in the first place,” he said. “We just want pennies on the dollar.” **CN**

Synthetic opioids escalate battle against drug addiction in Ohio

By Charlie Ban
senior staff writer

Around the table during the NACo-NLC Opioid Task Force meeting in Kenton County, Ky., members told horror stories of overdoses and addiction in their counties, sprinkling in mentions of something so exaggerated that it sounded like a joke — elephant tranquilizers.

Less than a week later, across the Ohio River in Hamilton County and Cincinnati, a rash of 174 opioid overdoses in six days left five dead with traces of that tranquilizer — the synthetic drug carfentanil.

It started showing up in July, according to the Hamilton County Heroin Coalition, but it made its mark right before Labor Day.

County Health Commissioner Tim Ingram doesn’t see it going away, either.

“This is the tipping point into a new era of synthetic street drugs,” he said. “It’s driven by money — it’s faster to market, cheaper to make, more profitable for dealers and way more potent.”

It’s 10,000 times more potent than morphine, with a half-life of eight hours, compared to half-lives of one hour for fentanyl and 20–30 minutes for heroin.

In some cases, that’s what

people are looking for.

“The first time someone does heroin, they have a tremendous, almost orgasmic feeling,” said O’dell Owens, Cincinnati’s health director and interim health commissioner. “Some addicts will try stronger drugs like fentanyl or carfentanil so they can get that high again, not just try to fight off withdrawal symptoms.”

Ingram isn’t sure how much users know about what they’re buying. He said their understanding of potency and dealer’s marketing nicknames, along with the varied concentrations of the stronger drugs, made it all a crapshoot.

“I think they don’t know what they’re buying,” he said. “It’s like Russian roulette, only there are five bullets in the chamber.”

Owens said the city health department is trying to get the word out about the synthetic drugs through its needle exchange.

“There’s an education component, where we ask them questions about their drug use and teach them about avoiding hepatitis and AIDS,” he said. “We can also tell them about how dangerous these new drugs are.”

They are so potent that a single dose of naloxone doesn’t suffice in reviving someone overdosing on fentanyl or carfentanil.

“That’s not all bad,” Owens said. “Sometimes when you revive someone completely, they wake up angry and fight you because they lost their high. Now you can get them enough of a dose to save their lives and get them to an emergency room.”

But those drugs also present a hazard for law enforcement.

“Police have stopped using dogs to sniff for some drugs,” Owens said. “The dogs have died from smelling the carfentanil — it’s that strong.”

Likewise, officers in Hartford, Conn. became sick after inhaling powdered opioids during a September drug bust. In British Columbia, the Vancouver Police Department is giving its officers doses of naloxone for them to use to protect themselves from accidental ingestion.

Ingram said that he saw the path forward as a combination of supply reduction, harm reduction and medically-assisted treatment.

“It’s a disease, not as much a moral failing,” he said. **CN**

The report by the National City-County Task Force on the Opioid Epidemic will be released in mid-to-late October. Find out more about the task force at www.naco.org/national-city-county-task-force-opioid-epidemic.

Planned Parenthood funding is sticking point

From ZIKA FUNDING page 1

age for Zika. Democrats objected to provisions in the package that would have eased environmental restrictions for mosquito spraying, and further afield, allow the Confederate flag to be flown on federal grounds and prohibit funds from going to Planned Parenthood affiliates.

Meanwhile, Senate Republican and Democratic appropriations leaders worked to negotiate a continuing resolution (CR) that would extend funding at FY16 levels through Dec. 9 and would include the \$1.1 billion emergency Zika

funding package. However, language that would prohibit Planned Parenthood-affiliated organizations in Puerto Rico from using anti-Zika funds remains a primary obstacle for agreement.

Talks are currently underway to possibly alter or remove the language restricting funds for Planned Parenthood from the Zika package, but it remains to be seen whether these negotiations will clear the way for the CR’s passage.

Quickly reaching an agreement is crucial to avoiding a shutdown of government agencies after Sept. 30 and

providing emergency aid for Zika efforts. However, while an agreement on a short-term CR may provide funding to relieve pressure on the Zika front, Congress would still need to return in a lame-duck session after the elections to complete the full FY17 appropriations process.

House Republicans have indicated they would prefer to pass a series of smaller groups of appropriations bills, called “minibuses” in December rather than an omnibus, which would combine all 12 appropriations bills into one huge bill. **CN**

LEADERSHIP EDGE

By Monica Wofford

Barbara is whining that Frank isn't pulling his weight; Bob is barking at Dave for not coming in on time and all emotions will blow a gasket in that meeting room if one more person yells, fusses or utters another negative word that interrupts the meeting.

Workplace stress from other people can be rampant and seems to spread faster than a viral YouTube video, but just how does one deal with these difficult people?

One doesn't deal, but rather takes actions to *Make Difficult People Disappear*, a popular book on eliminating workplace stress. Inside are powerful antidotes to the disease of contagious negativity, stress and conflict at the office and yes, even county meetings.

Here are three quick ways to implement ideas that when used regularly, reduce stress and conflict effectively, even when one's magic wand seems to be in the shop.

1. Implement Rewards and Consequences

People do what they get paid attention or rewarded for doing. When a leader listens and adds their negative commentary to a stressful conversation, that leader is actually rewarding and reinforcing the sharing of negativity. If Bob's bark is much worse than his bite, Dave learns and is trained to tolerate the barking and keep doing what he's been doing.

If nothing is done about Frank's shirking of the workload, Frank will continue his actions and Barbara, who may even be the manager, will eventually tire and leave.

And then there's Jack who complains at every meeting, never providing any relevant solution. Not only do people do that for which they are given positive reinforcement, such as an audience for Jack's ranting,

Easing workplace stress as easy as 1,2,3



Wofford

In the absence of compelling rewards and consequences, they will do whatever is easiest. Many leaders, though well meaning, miss this mark.

Remember Sheldon who taught Penny to change, using chocolates, in one episode of *The Big Bang Theory*. It works, even when one's efforts might be obvious to others. Implement motivating rewards and enforceable consequences to un-train and reduce stressful behaviors.

2. Increase Awareness

While most know intellectually that all do not communicate the same, our awareness of those differences or the lack thereof, creates conflict. Raise awareness by helping all understand the distinct styles and motivations of their colleagues. A citizen, who is motivated by "getting things done" — referred to in the book as a "Commander" — will communicate much more in bullet form, with an emphasis and preference for immediate action, results and efficiency.

An employee who is more laid back, easy going, focused on the needs of team members and skilled in empathy, is referred to as a "Relater." They are motivated by "getting along with others," complete strangers to conflict and will not be focused on efficiency, but effectiveness of team member inclusivity and engagement.

While both provide immea-

asurable value to the team, their communication style couldn't be farther apart and more readily misunderstood by both. This creates a need and powerful benefit in greater awareness, then acceptance, of differences.

3. Align Expectations

With a raised awareness comes a shift in expectations of the behavior of others. Without it, people exist expecting others to behave in just the same way with just the same needs and expectations.

It's as if looking at a German shepherd expecting it to act like a Jack Russell and then getting mad at the small dog for not acting all big and regal. The same occurs when we label a colleague as difficult and continue to expect them to act in way that is colored with sunshine and roses.

How we expect others to behave guides our reactions and yet it is one's personal expectations that have set this up, not the other party's actions.

For example, in *Make Difficult People Disappear*, one employee is expected to fully analyze a situation, gather all data and assimilate it into a methodical formula, and act as an "Organizer." But this same person finds it more important to light up a room, focus on a positive and social environment, inspire or demonstrate spontaneous creativity, and be what is referred to as an "Entertainer." These misaligned expectations will cause frustration.

Conflict occurs when we demand and expect others to behave in a way that is natural to one, but perhaps not for the other. Making difficult people disappear isn't about magic really, it's about mindset.

Those we work with who create conflict are often not being difficult, but are truly different in their approach. Yet, if one labels someone as a jerk and

ON THE MOVE

IN THE NEWS

The PILT briefing on Capitol Hill, Sept. 8, sparked media coverage in the *Arizona Republic*, "Here's what Arizona gets from federal government instead of

property taxes," in WXTL news, "Leon County Officials Urge Congress to Renew Federal Public Land Program," in the *Reno Gazette*, "Program that provides millions to counties again facing expiration," and in Route Fifty, "Chafing Over Federal Land Control on Display as County Leaders Visit Capitol Hill."

An op-ed by Mariposa County, Calif. Supervisor **Kevin Cann** supporting permanent funding for the PILT program also appeared in *The Hill*, an online and print newspaper popular with Capitol Hill lawmakers, staff and the White House.

NACo OFFICERS, COUNTY OFFICIALS

● Transportation Steering Committee Chair **Peter McLaughlin**, Hennepin County, Minn., represented NACo and the county view at a meeting, Sept. 16, with the Government Accountability Office about ways to improve the Department of Transportation.

● The Federal Aviation Administration appointed Commissioner **Robert Boyd**, Riley County, Kan., and Mayor **Ed Lee**, San Francisco city and county, to the FAA's Drone Advisory Committee (DAC). The DAC will provide the FAA with advice on key drone integration issues by helping to identify challenges and prioritize improvements. Boyd also testified, Sept. 8,

before the House Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Tax and Capital Access hearing, "Struggling to Grow: Assessing the Challenges for Small Businesses in Rural America."



Istrate



McLaughlin



Bobbitt



Langston

● NACo Immediate Past President **Sallie Clark** spoke at the National Institute of Corrections Large Jail Network Meeting in Aurora (Arapahoe County), Colo., Sept. 7.

● Commissioner **Cindy Bobbitt**, Grant County, Okla., speaking on behalf of NACo, presented the county perspective on rural transportation, Sept. 7, at the National Working Summit on Rural Transportation in Denver, Colo.

NACo STAFF

● The Association of Public Data Users has presented its 2016 APDU Data Viz Award in the Private Firms category to **Emilia Istrate**, NACo research director. The award recognizes top visualizations that use publicly available data. Istrate led the team — **Nicholas Lyell**, **Anne Powell** and **Chris Franco** — that developed and launched NACo's online County Explorer data map. Istrate also represented NACo at the American Community Survey (ACS) Data Users Group Steering Committee meeting, Sept. 13, as a newly appointed member to the national committee.

● NACo Legislative Director **Deborah Cox** briefed attendees on federal policy issues at the Association of Minnesota Counties Policy Conference, held in Alexandria (Douglas County) Sept. 15-16.

● **Linda Langston**, NACo

See *ON THE MOVE* page 10

See *CONFLICT* page 9

‘Waste not, want not’ feeds many

By Charles Taylor
senior staff writer

Most people know Orange County, Calif. as the home to Disneyland and *Real Housewives*. But like any other U.S. community, it has real-world problems.

Amid the affluence of California’s third-most populous county, there are people going hungry. One in five of the county’s 3 million residents live in households that are “food insecure” — that is, they don’t know where their next meal will come from.

Thanks to Waste Not OC (WNOC), increasingly those meals are coming as surplus from restaurants, grocers and food producers that are donated to feeding programs.

Since 2014, more than 300 tons of food that might otherwise have been discarded has been donated; program officials say that equates to over 500,000 meals. Until recently, the program’s budget consisted of \$50,000 a year from United Way, Handler said. Last month, the county’s Board of Supervisors authorized \$100,000 to provide administrative support for the WNOC.



Feeding programs like this one in Santa Ana, the Orange County, Calif. seat, benefit from the Waste Not OC food recovery program, in which restaurants, grocers and other food processors donate surplus food rather than throw it out. Photo courtesy of Orange County, Calif.

The WNOC Coalition is the brainchild of Dr. Eric Handler, the county’s public health officer, and Mark Lowry of the Orange County Foodbank. It’s an idea that grew out of a chance meeting in 2012 in Sacramento.

Handler recalled, “I asked him two questions that basic-

ly changed my life: Do you have enough food in your foodbank, and he said, ‘no.’ And then I asked him if we collected all the food that was thrown out and redirected to the people in need, could we end hunger and he said ‘yes,’ and so I said why aren’t we doing it?”

Brainstorming began in 2013. “We knew the charity world; they knew the restaurant and food world, and what was doable and what wasn’t doable,” Lowry said.

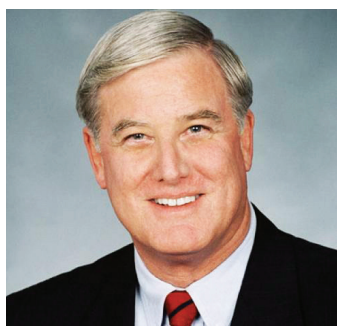
Waste Not OC began as a pilot in Anaheim, the county’s largest city. Several months later, it

was expanded to the city of Orange. The program was recently honored as a “model practice” by the National Association of County and City Health Officials, a NACo affiliate.

One key to the program’s suc-

See FOOD page 9

PROFILES IN SERVICE



GREG COX

NACo Second Vice President
Supervisor
San Diego County, Calif.

Number of years active in NACo: 15 years

Years in public service: 40

Occupation: District 1 supervisor, San Diego County

Education: M.A., B.A., San Diego State University

The hardest thing I’ve ever done: Balancing my commitment to serving the public with spending time with my family

Three people (living or dead) I’d invite to dinner: Thomas Jefferson, Teddy Roosevelt, William F. Cody

The most adventurous thing I’ve ever done is: Skydiving.

My favorite way to relax is: Watch TV.

Every morning I read: Emails and local news stories.

My favorite meal is: Bacon and eggs.

My pet peeve is: Delays caused by bureaucracy.

My motto is: “The Noblest Motive is the Public Good.”

The last book I read was: *Keep Moving: And Other Tips and Truths About Aging* by Dick Van Dyke.

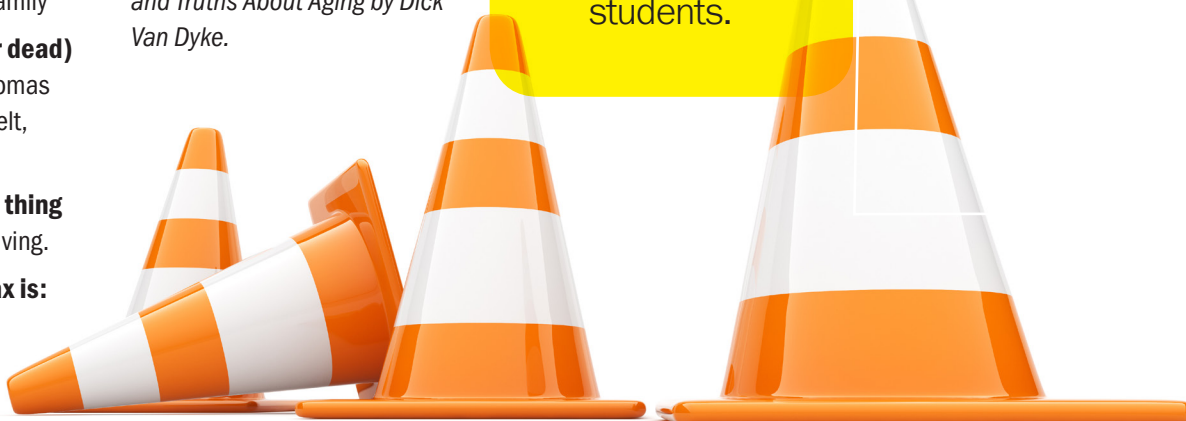
My favorite movie is: *The Great Escape*.

My favorite music is: Pop music.

My favorite president is: Ronald Reagan.

My county is a NACo member because: It wants to share best practices with other counties and learn how other counties are coming up with creative ideas to solve common problems.

You’d be surprised to learn that I: taught driver’s ed to high school students.



MONEYMATTERS%

U.S. Communities Helps to Calm after the Storm

By Kelly Boggs
marketing specialist

Recently, the battered state of Louisiana began an enormous and long-term recovery effort to restore its communities after devastating floods. U.S. Communities, NACo's purchasing cooperative, has stepped in to help.

Over the years, U.S. Communities has demonstrated a commitment to providing valuable goods and services to counties at a low price during emergency situations. Following the news of the Louisiana floods, it made available a new contract providing emergency response, water/

fire restoration and disaster recovery with Belfor weeks ahead of the scheduled launch date.

U.S. Communities also promised immediate access to other competitively solicited products, services and support including:

- recovery and rebuilding supplies from The Home Depot and HD Supply
- public sector consulting with Alvarez & Marsal, focused specifically on navigating complex FEMA claims
- emergency response and public safety with Safeware-Mallory
- facilities solutions with Cin-tas

● Herc — previously known as Hertz — Equipment Rental

● a storm zone program with Garland/DBS, Inc. (roofing)

● cleaning supplies from SupplyWorks, and

● electrical, lighting and telecommunications with Graybar.

This is not the first time U.S. Communities has assisted public agencies in preparing for and recovering from a weather emergency.

In the fall of 2012, Chris Perry, the fleet administration manager for the city of Newport News, Va., placed an order to rent six bypass pumps along with a front-end loader. Herc Equipment

Rental processed the order and delivered the equipment several days before a storm struck the coast. This storm turned out to be Hurricane Sandy, the deadliest and most destructive hurricane of 2012. By placing the order through U.S. Communities, Perry received the equipment at the lowest available pricing, saving the city valuable time, money and most importantly, lives.

"Prior to using the U.S. Communities contract with Hertz, it was always a difficult, time-consuming and high-cost process to procure equipment prior to storms," Perry said a year later. "It's crucial to have a plan for

procurement of rental equipment on an as-needed basis for named or significant weather events.

"Using a cooperative purchasing contract was the perfect solution — we were guaranteed equipment, we didn't pay a premium, and we knew the rates were competitively solicited. It saved us time, money and enabled us to begin the recovery efforts as soon as the storm cleared. It was a total win for the city and its residents." **CN**

For more information about U.S. Communities, please visit www.uscommunities.org.



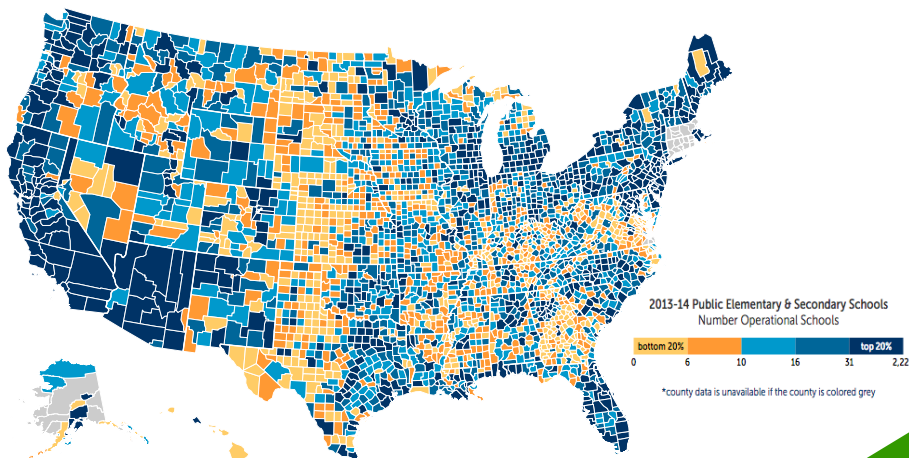
NEW IN SEPTEMBER FROM NACo's

COUNTY EXPLORER

1,004 counties have 20 or more public schools located within their boundaries.

1,137 counties have more than 20,000 registered library patrons.

49% of counties had unemployment rates below the national average in 2015.



Source: NACo Analysis of National Center for Economic Statistics (NCES) - Common Core Data (CCD), Elementary and Secondary Information System (ELS), 2013-14

www.NACo.org/CountyExplorer

apdu
ASSOCIATION of PUBLIC DATA USERS

2016 DATA VIZ AWARD WINNER



ALLEGANY COUNTY, MD.
Introduced in: 1976

The Allegany County seal was redesigned for America's bicentennial.

The line pointing to the left is an arrow to the west — Allegany is the second most western county in Maryland and was the "Gateway to the West" through a natural gorge, where the county seat, Cumberland, is located.

The county was founded in 1789.

Allegany County was a manufacturing center, a heritage represented by the factory and smokestack. The wheel symbolizes transportation's role in the county history. The National Road, the first federally funded road and today's U.S. Route 40, was built through Allegany County. An original toll house is now a museum and represents the era of horse drawn stagecoaches and wagon trains.



The arrow also represents the county's Native American influences.

The wheat, at the intersection of the lines, was on the first seal and represents the county's agricultural heritage.

The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad (railroad car) and the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal (canal barge) transported raw natural resources, coal (pick and shovel) and timber, from the mountains for use in the metropolitan areas.

Architecturally distinctive buildings and steeples represent the cultural and religious heritage. Today, the steeples, outlined in white lights at night, are a focal point in downtown Cumberland.

Supreme Court Preview for Local Governments 2016

By Lisa Soronen

State and Local Legal Center

While the Supreme Court is still down a justice, its docket is about half full, which is typical for this time of the year. Four cases in particular on the court's docket will directly impact local governments. In two of those cases, a city is a named party.

The issue in *Wells Fargo v. City of Miami* and *Bank of America v. City of Miami* is whether Miami has "statutory standing" to sue banks under the Fair Housing Act (FHA) for economic harm caused to the city by discriminatory lending practices.

The 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals concluded Miami had "statutory standing" relying on an older case, *Trafficante v. Metropolitan Life Insurance Company* (1972), where the Supreme Court stated that statutory standing under the Fair Housing Act is "as broad as is permitted by Article III of the Constitution.

In *Ivy v. Morath*, the Supreme

Court will decide when state and local governments are responsible for ensuring that a private actor complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

In Texas, state law requires most people under age 25 to attend a state-licensed private driver education school to obtain a driver's license. Deaf students sued the Texas Education Agency (TEA) arguing that TEA was required to bring the driver education schools — none of which would accommodate deaf students — in to compliance with the ADA.

The ADA states that no qualified individual with a disability may be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of public entity "services, programs, or activities" because of a disability. The 5th Circuit concluded that the ADA does not apply to the TEA because it does not provide "services, programs or activities."

In *Murr v. Wisconsin*, the Supreme Court will decide whether merger provisions in state law and local ordinanc-

SPEEDREAD

The State and Local Legal Center has filed or will file amicus curiae briefs in the following cases: *Wells Fargo v. City of Miami*, *Bank of America v. City of Miami*, *Ivy v. Morath*, *Murr v. Wisconsin*, *Manuel v. City of Joliet*.

es, where non-conforming adjacent lots under common ownership are combined for zoning purposes, may result in the unconstitutional taking of property.

The Murrs owned contiguous lots E and F, which together are .98 acres. Lot F contained a cabin and lot E was undeveloped.

A St. Croix County, Wis. merger ordinance prohibits the individual development or sale of adjacent lots under common ownership that are less than one acre total. But the ordinance treats commonly owned adjacent lots of less than an acre as a single, buildable lot.

The Murrs sought and were denied a variance to separately use or sell lots E and F. They claim the ordinance resulted in an unconstitutional, uncompensated taking.

The Wisconsin Court of Appeals ruled there was no taking in this case. It looked at the value of the two lots in combination and determined that the Murrs' property retained significant value despite being merged. A year-round residence could be located on lot E or F, or could straddle both lots.

The question the Supreme Court will decide in *Manuel v. City of Joliet* is whether malicious prosecution claims can be brought under the Fourth Amendment in the first place. Elijah Manuel was arrested and charged with possession of a controlled substance even though a field test indicated his pills weren't illegal drugs. About six weeks after his arrest he was released when a state crime laboratory test cleared him.

If Manuel would have brought a timely false arrest

claim it is almost certain he would have won. But such a claim would not have been timely because Manuel didn't sue within two years of being arrested or charged. So he brought a malicious prosecution claim under the Fourth Amendment.

An element of a malicious prosecution claim in that the plaintiff prevails in the underlying prosecution. Manuel "prevailed" when the charges against him were dismissed; and he brought his lawsuit within two years of the dismissal.

Absent from the court's docket this term so far are a lot of routine issues the court regularly takes up including Fourth Amendment searches, qualified immunity and employment.

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

Program raises awareness about hunger, food-insecurity

From FOOD page 7

cess has been education. Before it started, many restaurants and food sellers were reluctant to donate surplus food, Handler said.

"In November 2012, we convened meeting with people from the food industry," he said, "and they were asked the question why aren't they donating food, and they gave two answers. The first answer was liability and the second answer was the public health department won't allow us."

Handler's environmental health specialists, whose duties include restaurant inspections, were designated to spread the word that the federal Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Act, passed by Congress in 1996, absolves food donors of liability for "wholesome" food donated

to charities in good faith — and that there was no health department ban on food donations.

Mark Learakos is a restaurateur in Orange who joined the Waste Not OC Coalition about three years ago. For him, it was a "natural fit." His restaurant is a food donor, and he promotes the program and has recruited other restaurants and food distributors.

"It was easy for me to communicate with my colleagues in the industry and that's how I got started, and it's been a blast," he said.

"As a restaurant owner, we were encouraging food waste," he added, sometimes for cosmetic reasons. "If something isn't just right, we were telling them when in doubt throw it out." Now, he said, if a dish doesn't turn out just right, perhaps the "flavor profile isn't cor-

rect," he won't sell it to his customers who expect consistency, but it could be a meal for someone else.

Pick-ups and deliveries are handled by Food Finders, a non-profit in Orange and Los Angeles counties that's a program partner. Yellow Cab has volunteered its drivers to make deliveries during their down time.

An extra benefit of the program has accrued to Learakos' bottom line. He now pays for one fewer garbage dumpster.

Handler said another important part of the program has been educating the public and the medical community about food insecurity.

As a result of his efforts, Children's Hospital of Orange County and other health care providers are now assessing whether their patients have faced food insecurity within the past 12 months.

If so, they're informed of resources, including an online Google map created by Handler's office that shows the location food pantries or feeding programs near any address that is entered.

Handler has received inquiries about the program from other Connecticut and Texas, as well as other California counties, and has become an evangelist for the program to anyone who'll listen, Lowry said.

"He's gone to his peers in the area, in the state of California and traveling the country, talking not to foodbanks — we know this message — but he's talking to ... other public health officers, other public health departments, saying this isn't something auxiliary to our job; this is fundamental to our job. And if you're not engaged in this issue now, you need to be." CN

Following tips eases conflict

From CONFLICT page 6

then is frustrated when he acts accordingly, where might this problem begin exactly. With a raised awareness, more rewards and consequences, and an aligned and shared set of expectations, the stress and ensuing conflict effectively vanishes...even in the face of missing mastered skills in magic. CN

Monica Wofford is a leadership development speaker and certified executive coach.

She is the author of *Contagious Leadership and Make Difficult People Disappear*.

To learn more, email Monica@ContagiousCompanies.com, or visit www.ContagiousCompanies.com or www.MonicaWofford.com.

ON THE MOVE CONT.>

From ON THE MOVE page 6

strategic relations director, represented NACo at the FEMA National Advisory Council meeting, Sept. 13–14 in Crystal City (Arlington County), Va. Langston next hit the classroom, Sept. 15 at the National Emergency Training Center in Emmitsburg (Frederick County), Md. where she presented the local elected perspective in disasters at a FEMA Capstone class.

COMING UP

Travel plans kick up a notch for officers and staff representing NACo at state association meetings. See if someone is coming to yours.

● **Andrew Goldschmidt**,

director of membership marketing, New York State Association of Counties Fall Seminar, Sept. 19–21; Association of Indiana Counties annual conference, Sept. 26–29; and the Maine County Commissioners Association annual conference, Sept. 29–Oct. 1.

● **Alex Koroknay-Palicz**, membership coordinator, Wisconsin Counties Association annual conference, Sept. 18–20

● **Zach George**, membership associate, New Hampshire Association of Counties annual conference, Sept. 21–24

● **Linda Langston**, director of strategic Relations, Idaho Association of Counties, annual conference, Sept. 26–28

the HR DOCTOR

with Philpot & Winkler

We welcome from Coconino County, Ariz., HR gurus and contributors, Erika Philpot, human resources director; and Rose Winkler, deputy county attorney. Each month Philpot and Winkler will address common and critical HR questions from their “boots on the ground” perspective, while HR Doctor Phil Rosenberg continues his unique vision of the HR practice.

They are called mature workers, encore workers, senior workers or older workers. Regardless of the title, mature workers bring a diversity of ideas to the workplace. They bring experience and leadership. They often bring dedication and work ethic. As the median age of public sector employees continues to increase, more public sector employees are eligible to retire each day. Should mature workers be lost from the workforce, there could be a labor pool shortage and a shrinking cohort of qualified individuals to train and mentor new employees.

Additionally, organizational and industry knowledge would be severely depleted. Encouraging employees to work longer, even with abbreviated schedules or more flexible hours, benefits not only the organization, but also residents.

Recruiting and retaining encore career employees expands and deepens the labor pool. How do you develop strategies and programs to attract and retain mature workers? There are many ways including job-sharing, telecommuting, training and mentoring, manager rotation, tuition reimbursement, succession planning, flexible scheduling, telecommuting, phased retirement and retiree pool. Some organizations have found success assigning mature workers to strategic proj-

Recruiting and Retaining Mature Workers



ects that have long been on the back burner and need to move forward. These projects utilize the institutional knowledge and expertise of the employee while giving them a new focus and area of engagement.

Other employers have found that flextime and telecommuting options allow mature workers to care for a family member such as a parent or grandchild. Some employers use their retiree pool for temporary work, seasonal work, training, coaching or investigations. For each of these reasons, encore workers are a valuable resource.

Many organizations have found great success hiring encore workers. For example, Bob was a retiree from another agency before being hired with his current employer. Bob received relocation assistance and banked vacation when he began his new job. He also had an alternative work schedule to allow him to spend additional time with his spouse.

His banked vacation time allowed the couple the flexibility to travel, while his experience helped him bring his department to a new level of success. Bob participated in the organization's mentoring program and he brought about efficiencies that not only saved the

organization money but also boosted the morale of his team.

But aren't we investing in people who will quickly leave? We never know how long any employee will stay. Family demands, following a spouse or changes in health can have an impact on any employee at any age. Additionally, many mature workers still want to contribute and impact the community in a positive way — what better way than through public service. The programs that attract and retain encore workers are also recruitment and retention strategies for all generations in the workplace, particularly millennials. Diversity of generations and ages in the workplace is just one more facet of diversity and inclusion in the workplace.

“Wrinkles should merely indicate where the smiles have been.” -Mark Twain **CN**

Share with us — Send your feedback on how you attract and retain mature workers to cnews@naco.org.

We would love to hear about how engagement of encore workers led to success on your team. Shared ideas may be included in a future edition with your name and contact information to allow for reader networking.

AskRail safety app now ready for mobile users

Railinc, a subsidiary of the Association of American Railroads, recently announced that its AskRail app is now available for download through the Apple and Google Play stores. The AskRail app, initially rolled out in October of 2014, provides immediate information to first responders about what types of hazardous materials rail cars are carrying, allowing emergency responders to more easily access and update the app on their mobile devices.

The AskRail App's mobile

interface allows emergency responders to search for data about the contents of both individual rail cars and the entire train. The app also provides emergency contact information for all Class I railroads, as well as for Amtrak. All North American Class I railroads currently use AskRail.

As part of its announcement, Railinc noted that AskRail versions installed prior to Aug. 30 will no longer work as of Sept. 30. The new version should be downloaded from the app stores. **CN**

75% OF U.S. COUNTIES NOW NACo MEMBERS

*Welcome New Member Counties**

.....
Fayette County, Ga.
Boone County, Ill.
Vermilion County, Ill.
Union County, S.C.

* — as of July 14, 2016

NEWS FROM ACROSS THE NATION



ARIZONA

● Matt Rudig, a **COCONINO COUNTY**, Ariz. poll worker, hikes the eight miles from a main road to Supai, capital of the **Havasupai Reservation**, on primary election day last month. Located within the Grand Canyon, Supai has been called one of the remotest communities in the Lower 48 states. It's only accessible by foot, helicopter or pack animal—which is how locals get their mail delivered. The trip includes a 2,000-foot descent into the canyon.

The reservation has a population of about 200, and three people voted on primary day, according to county Recorder Patty Hansen, who also handles elections. Up to 20 or so voters have cast in-person ballots in past elections. Many of the residents there vote by mail, she added.

Rudig says someone else will make the trek in November on Election Day.

ARIZONA

● **PINAL COUNTY** won't become the first county in the nation without at least one **Affordable Care Act (ACA)** insurer.

Last month Aetna Inc. announced that it was pulling out of exchanges in Arizona and several other states because of rising medical costs that would push the company into the red.

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona has come to the rescue and will offer plans next year in the state's third most populous county. Approximately 10,000 Pinal County residents had signed up for ACA plans, *The Wall Street Journal* reported.

members under a law passed by the state Legislature. The bill, which awaits the governor's signature, would affect up to 11 counties that have either switched to video visitation or are in the process of **phasing out in-person visits**.

Counties that were planning to install video systems would have until 2022 to change their operations, according to the *Los Angeles Times*.

FLORIDA

ORANGE COUNTY commissioners have enacted a nine-month **ban on medical marijuana** operations in unincorporated parts of the county.

During that time, the county won't issue any development permits for dispensaries, the *Orlando Sentinel* reported.

The state legalized a low-dose, "non-euphoric" version of marijuana in 2014 to treat children with seizure disorders.

This fall, Florida voters will consider a referendum that could legalize pot to treat other medical conditions.

ILLINOIS

Future County Board members will need to fend for themselves when it comes to **funding their retirements**. A new state law has abolished Illinois Municipal Retirement fund pensions for new commissioners. It also requires current board members to document their hours worked.

The hours-worked requirement varies from county to county, according to the *Chicago Tribune*. But generally, for counties that participate in the pension system, commissioners must work 600 or 1,000 hours annually.

Savings to taxpayers could be significant. Statewide, about \$10 million is spent each year on County Board member pensions, the newspaper reported.

Fewer than half of the state's 102 county boards participate in the pension program.

INDIANA

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has awarded the state health de-

partment more than \$500,000 to expand **opioid drug overdose prevention** efforts in 18 counties with high overdose rates.

The grant, which runs through August 2017, will serve **CLARK, CRAWFORD, DELAWARE, GRANT, JENNINGS, LAPORTE, MARI-ON, MORGAN, PULASKI, SULLIVAN, TIPTON** and **WASHINGTON** counties. Six other counties were already receiving aid.

The money will fund education and training for medical staff and lay people to administer naloxone, an overdose reversal drug.

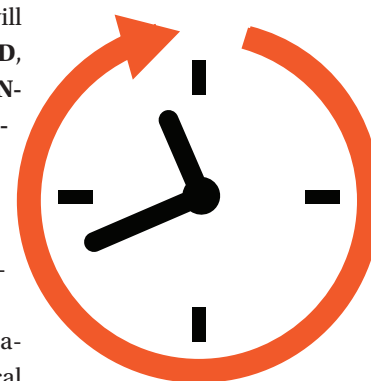
In 2014, the latest year for which data is available, 452 Indianans died from opioid drug-related overdoses, according to the state department of health.

MINNESOTA

● **HENNEPIN COUNTY** will use an 18-month state grant of up to \$350,000 to help **children and adults with autism-spectrum disorder** to find

appropriate respite care.

The grant will provide increased access to trained, "culturally competent" respite service providers both in-home and outside the home.



● In a back-to-the-future move, some 300 **DOUGLAS COUNTY** employees will soon begin accounting for their time in a different way: an automated system that's the equivalent of **punching a time clock**, according to the *Alexandria Echo Press*.

A newly approved compensation policy states that "because employees are compensated with taxpayer dollars, and for public accountability



CALIFORNIA

County jail inmates can't be denied visits from family

See NEWS FROM page 12

From NEWS FROM page 11

and liability reasons, all employees — whether exempt or non-exempt — are required to document actual time worked by timestamp.”

Commissioner Bev Bates, who opposed the measure, said it would make Douglas the only one of the state’s 87 counties with such a policy, which she likened to “micromanaging” employees.



NEVADA

ELKO COUNTY will not retain **control of a rural road** that has been part of a dispute dating back to ‘09... 1909.

A federal judge ruled county officials failed to prove the road was theirs before President Theodore Roosevelt permanently reserved the remote wilderness. T

he judge also said the Forest Service had no authority to cede control of the land to Elko County in a 2001 settlement agreement granting a rare right of way.

The dispute dates to 1998 when the agency announced plans to replace the road that washed out in a 1995 flood with a non-motorized trail, the Associated Press reported. The county and then the Department of the Interior, under both Presidents Clinton and Bush, got involved.

NEW JERSEY

● The 40 people arrested in a drug sweep conducted by police and public health officials in **BERGEN COUNTY** were given the choice of **detox or jail**. Offenders weren’t offered deals to drop their charges for entering detox. Of those, 22 chose to go to the Bergen Regional Medical Center, NBC News reported.

● **CUMBERLAND COUNTY** will undertake **road projects** over the objections of Gov. Chris Christie’s administration, which shut down those projects after a funding impasse. Safety concerns have driven the county to use its own money for the work, though officials hope the state will reimburse the costs, according to the *New Jersey Advocate*.

NEW YORK

DUTCHESS COUNTY Executive Marcus Molinaro has added a new position to his executive team — **deputy commissioner for special needs**. The new position, believed to be the first of its kind in the state, will be responsible for coordinating county and community services to meet the needs of families with special needs. It is part of Molinaro’s ThinkDifferently initiative, aimed at changing the way businesses and individuals relate to individuals with special needs, according to HVNN.com.

OREGON

A plan to seek greater local control over the **management of federal lands** at the expense of a good relationship with the U.S. Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management failed to get traction with the **CROOK COUNTY** Court.

About half of Crook County is owned by federal government.

The plan would have required the County Court to be involved in “coordination” with federal agencies in managing hundreds of thousands of acres of forests and watersheds; prohibited retirement of grazing allotments; and called for “the forest industry and the forest products commerce within the county” to be strengthened, the Associated Press reported.

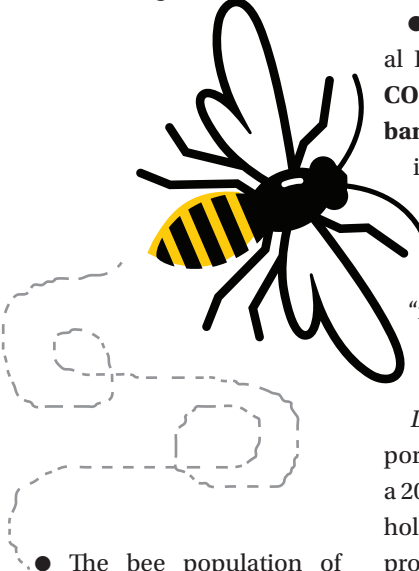
SOUTH CAROLINA

● By cross-checking tax records, **CHARLESTON COUN-**

TY officials found **600 cases of fraud** totaling \$2.1 million over two years.

Those cases involve property owners falsely claiming additional homes as their primary residences to lower their tax bills, which can be nearly three times higher than primary residences, *The Post and Courier* reported.

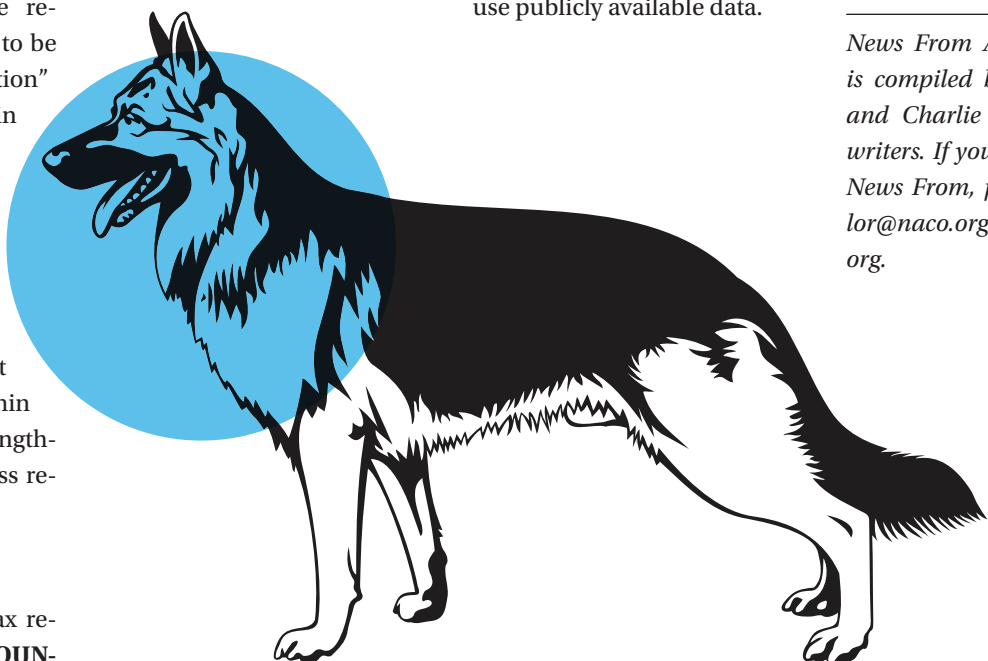
Charleston County’s investigation came after similar actions by **BERKELEY** (188 cases) and **DORCHESTER** (360 cases) counties, all of which hired the same outside firm to do the investigation.



● The bee population of **DORCHESTER COUNTY** has suffered collateral damage in the fight against the Zika virus. Four Zika cases in the county prompted an aerial pesticide bombing that also **killed more than 2.5 million bees**, the *Washington Post* reported.

TEXAS

● **Canine officer Lobos** kept his job with the **FAYETTE**



COUNTY Sheriff’s Office secure by finding 285 pounds of marijuana during a traffic stop.

A Ford F-150 truck on Interstate 10 had committed a traffic violation and Lobos sniffed out \$142,000 worth of drugs.

After obtaining permission from the driver to search the vehicle, the officer noticed that an auxiliary fuel tank in the truck bed had no fuel, according to the sheriff’s office. He opened the compartment and found 16 wrapped bundles of marijuana, the *Austin American Statesman* reported.

● Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton sued **WALLER COUNTY** over its decision to **ban firearms** in the entirety of its main court facility.

Paxton sued under a new state law that allows Texans to challenge the “no guns” policies offered by cities, counties and other government entities, the *Dallas Morning News* reported. The new law enhanced a 2003 law that said gun license holders can carry at most properties owned or leased by a governmental entity.

VIRGINIA

FAIRFAX COUNTY’s Anne Cahill, manager of economic, demographic and statistical research, was awarded the 2016 **APDU Data Viz Award** in the State/Local Agencies category by the Association of Public Data Users. The award recognizes top visualizations that use publicly available data.

WEST VIRGINIA

MONONGALIA COUNTY will receive payments generated by West Virginia University’s leasing of **tax-exempt property** to businesses.

The payments will come from the an increased cost in the lease agreements with WVU. The county tax assessor will survey the space used for commercial purposes and set the payment at 60 percent of the appraised amount for the space. That could total \$175,000 annually from one particular commercial area.

“No other county and state institution has entered any sort of agreement that I’ve ever heard of,” County Commission President Eldon Callen told *Metro News*.

WISCONSIN

In an effort to correct the underrepresentation of minorities in its workforce, **DANE COUNTY** has launched a new program to help workers **obtain a commercial driver’s license**.

Two nonprofits identify applicants and hires them as limited-term employees, and trains them to operate county trucks, snowplows and other heavy-duty vehicles.

They can apply for county jobs after completing a 10-week course.

Participants earn \$18.95 per hour while in training, the *Capital Times* reported, and the county jobs pay up to \$24 per hour. **CN**

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