



Boone County, Ky. Judge Gary Moore, co-chair of the National City-County Task Force on the Opioid Epidemic, makes opening remarks at the task force's inaugural meeting. Seated next to Moore is fellow co-chair, Little Rock, Ark. Mayor Mark Stodola. Photo by Alix Kashdan

Joint opioid task force takes first steps

By **Beverly Schlotterbeck**
executive editor

A toolkit for counties, a social media strategy, one voice with

one message on the national level — these are a few of the hoped-for outcomes from members of the National City-County Task Force on Opioid Abuse that met for the first time April 7 in Washington, D.C.

The 24 task force members led by co-chairs Judge Gary Moore, Boone County, Ky., and Mayor Mark Stodola, Little Rock, Ark., engaged in daylong discussions about prevention campaigns, treatment options and public safety challenges.

A joint effort by NACo and the National League of Cities (NLC), the task force was formed to foster collaboration and ramp up local leadership in the fight

against prescription drug abuse and heroin use.

There are 11 deaths per week from drug overdoses in Erie County, N.Y. — more than enough to move Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz to issue an emergency executive order in January, in part to draw attention to the overdose outbreak and in part to mobilize the county's resources to tackle the escalating loss of life.

Poloncarz's story was one of many anecdotes from city and county leaders grappling with the opioid epidemic in their communities.

On their agenda were three discussion topics: prevention and education; treatment; and public

safety and community well being.

To set the stage, members were first presented with a big data picture on the growth of the heroin epidemic, a trail of despair and death that has moved out from an urban core into the nation's suburbs and rural areas, killing more people in 2014 than automobile accidents. Drug overdose was the leading cause of accidental death in the U.S., with 47,055 lethal drug overdoses in 2014, according to the American Society of Addiction Medicine

The mapped review of the spread of heroin and pain prescription abuse, by Chris Reith from Socrata, a cloud software company focused on digital government, sparked discussion about the accuracy of the data

Fund swaps spark county road projects

By **Charlie Ban**
senior staff writer

Trading 90 cents for a dollar may seem like a bad deal, but for county governments in a growing number of states, it's a shrewd way to fund road improvements.

For example, Nebraska counties and first-class cities will net \$23.2 million for roads projects, after trading \$25.8 million in federal funding to the state. While that's 10 percent less than the original allocation, the money will go further once it is free of federal conditions and procedures that can add time and costs to construction projects. The state department of transportation keeps the 10 percent for its trouble.

A handful of states, primarily in the Midwest, currently have or are introducing federal fund exchange programs, also known as federal fund purchase programs or federal fund swaps.

In Kansas, which pioneered the system in 2010, Geary, Republic and Chase counties used money from their exchange to do chip sealing on their roads, a maintenance-type improvement not eligible for federal aid. Jewell County built a steel girder bridge with features typically not allowed for federal-aid projects, according to the National Association of County Engineers.

Nebraska recently increased its exchange rate to 90 percent



See **TASK FORCE** page 2

See **EXCHANGE** page 3

NACIO accepting entries for Awards of Excellence

The National Association of County Information Officers (NACIO), a NACO-affiliate, is now accepting entries for the 2016 Awards of Excellence Competition.

This contest recognizes and awards outstanding public relations and public information work being done in counties and state associations across the nation. Winners of the contest will be awarded at the NACO Annual Conference held this July in Los Angeles County, Calif.

The NACIO 2016 Awards are a comprehensive look at the initiatives and efforts put forth from Jan. 1, 2015, to Dec. 31, 2015 and will recognize excellence in nine categories: Annual Reports, Brochures/Multiple-Page Booklets, Publications, Writing, Graphic Design, Photography, Audio-visual Productions, Special Projects, and Electronic Communications.

Each category will include several subcategories. Please

note that the projects must have been produced during the calendar year, but they do not have to be new projects. They can be an ongoing program or initiative.

Several subcategories for the 2016 contest reflect new communications practices. Category G-3 is for podcasts or other audio programming. There are three new subcategories in the Electronic Communications category — I-2 (Best Facebook Page), I-3 (Best Twitter Feed) and I-4 (Email Newsletter to citizens).

The Awards of Excellence program is open to counties and state associations who are members of NACIO as well as non-members. NACIO members receive discounted entry fees.

Those entering the contest are encouraged to submit entries through the online process whenever possible. Go to <http://bit.ly/1SK1s1N>.

Deadline is April 29. There is an entry fee. ☐

Overdose data not always accurate

From TASK FORCE page 1

used to illustrate the locations and penetration of prescription drug and heroin abuse. “Some communities underreport their overdoses,” said Manchester, N.H. Police Chief Nick Willard, afraid that accurate reporting would reflect poorly on their cities and counties and make them less attractive places for business.

Even with possible underreported data, the maps Socrata had prepared (based on CDC data) showed the dramatic spread of abuse over the last decade and a half. A CDC report has stated, “Since 2000, the rate of deaths from drug overdoses has increased 137 percent, including a 200 percent increase in the rate of overdose deaths involving opioids (opioid pain relievers and heroin).”

Following the data review, prevention and treatment discussions dominated the day.

Robert Morrison, executive director, National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD), led the discussion on prevention and education. In Morrison’s opening remarks, he said NASADAD is working “to elevate prevention as a core part of our strategy to combat the opioid epidemic.”

A wide-ranging discussion followed that touched on the importance of coalitions, funding for coalitions, observations that too much of federal support for local prevention efforts is taken by states for administrative costs, the importance of having a “youth track” in all prevention efforts, the impact stigma can have in blocking prevention efforts and back again to the importance of educating children and youth on the dangers of drug



Weber County, Utah Commissioner Matthew Bell discusses prevention efforts as Covina, Calif. Mayor Walter Allen listens. By Alix Kashdan

abuse.

Morrison urged task force members to take control of their communities and “not let drug overdoses become the norm.”

He also urged them to institute an addiction initiative “because in five to 10 years, there will be

See TASK FORCE page 12

HELP FROM THE FEDS

Several executive branch agencies have announced initiatives to attack various facets of opioid and heroin abuse, many of which will reach the county level. These were announced at the National Rx Drug Abuse and Heroin Summit in Atlanta in March.

JUSTICE

- The Office of National Drug Control and Policy is adding Ohio and Michigan to the existing High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas, a designation which supports local law enforcement agencies, including sheriffs’ offices, to reduce drug trafficking.
- The Department of Justice’s COPS Anti-Heroin Task Force Program is distributing \$7 million to local law enforcement agencies to investigate distribution of heroin, unlawful distribution of prescription opioids and unlawful heroin and prescription opioid traffickers. This money will go to states with high rates of treatment admissions for heroin and opioid abuse.

TREATMENT

- The Department of Health and

Human Services is expanding access to buprenorphine, a drug used to treat opioid addiction. HHS’s proposed rule increases the patient limit per physician, currently 100, to 200.

- The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration is funding \$11 million to up to 11 states to expand their medication-assisted treatment services.
- HHS is requiring that Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program offer mental health and substance abuse services be offered at parity — comparable to medical and surgical benefits.
- HHS is issuing guidance for the use of federal funds in maintaining syringe services to reduce the spread of diseases through needle sharing.

SNAP/STATS

DEADLY DATES TOP 5 TORNADO DAYS 2015

Rank	Date	Tornados
1.	May 5.....	59
2.	May 9.....	53
3.	May 16.....	50
4.	Nov. 16.....	47
5.	Dec. 23.....	39

Source: NOAA/National Weather Service

President
Sallie Clark
Publisher
Matthew Chase
Public Affairs Director
Brian Namey

Executive Editor
Beverly Anne Schlotterbeck
Senior Staff Writer
Charles Taylor
Senior Staff Writer
Charlie Ban
Design Director
Leon Lawrence III

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

Published biweekly except August by:
National Association of Counties
Research Foundation, Inc.
25 Massachusetts Ave., N.W.
STE. 500, Washington, D.C. 20001
(202) 393-6226 | FAX (202) 393-2630
E-mail cnews@naco.org
Online address www.countynews.org

The appearance of paid advertisements in County News in no way implies support or endorsement by the National Association of Counties for any of the products, services or messages advertised. Periodicals postage paid at Washington D.C. and other offices.

Mail subscriptions are \$100 per year for non-members. \$60 per year for non-members purchasing multiple copies. Educational institution rate, \$50 per year. Member county supplemental subscriptions are \$20 each. Send payment with order and address changes to NACo, 25 Massachusetts Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001.

POSTMASTER: send address changes to County News, 25 Massachusetts Ave. N.W., Ste. 500, Washington, D.C. 20001

(USPS 704-620) n (ISSN: 0744-9798)
© National Association of Counties
Research Foundation, Inc.



Road funding trades with states work out in counties' favor

From EXCHANGE page 1

from 80 percent, to the delight of Nebraska Association of County Officials Executive Director Larry Dix. That rate brings it in line with what most other participating states currently offer.

"It's a sign of how good our working relationship with the state is," Dix said. "When the new administration came in, we questioned whether we could get more of the money and they were willing to reevaluate things.

"We were still coming out ahead with 80 percent, though."

That's because of the mounting requirements and conditions the federal Department of Transportation puts on projects it funds.

Some conditions on federal money include additional environmental review and greater detail in the design process, additional appraisals for material costs, specific materials required for the jobs and the mandate that an inspector be on site whenever a contractor is working.

A sample cost comparison by the Kansas Department of

Transportation showed a 20 percent savings if a \$423,000 project was otherwise completed under federal guidelines.

The engineering and inspection phase of the project was projected to cost nearly three times as much under federal regulations than under local procedures. In addition, federal requirements mean inflation enters the equation, because materials costs increase over time while the myriad permitting processes run their course, sometimes adding up to two years to a project.

The extra money Nebraska counties save will go a long way toward keeping county roads viable for the dominant economic driver in the Cornhusker State.

"We're such an agricultural state that getting the product to market from our farms is our biggest priority," Dix said. "The equipment is getting larger and heavier and the bridges we once built aren't going to cut it much longer.

"If we want to be good economic partners we're going to have to make bridges wider, make the roads thicker to handle this kind of traffic."

The programs aren't always winners, though. Wisconsin's efforts to pass a fund exchanged failed due to opposition from road builders and labor organizations, particularly because federal funding includes caveats about prevailing wages.

"We're going to try again next year," said Daniel Bahr, a government affairs associate at the Wisconsin Counties Association. "It's a program that can help a lot of our counties finally get some work done on their roads."

Minnesota manages an even exchange rate, Oregon does \$0.94, while Nebraska and South Dakota counties receive \$0.90 per \$1. Ohio counties trade for \$0.80 and Indiana counties for \$0.75.

For more information, contact Ron Seitz, bureau chief, KDOT Bureau of Local Projects, 785.296.3861 or Seitz@ksdot.org.

Get Involved! Stay Involved!

Looking ahead to my year as NACo president, I want to take this opportunity to let you know about the appointments that I will have the privilege of making to NACo's leadership team.

These appointments are for:

- Policy Steering Committee chairs and vice chairs, and subcommittee chairs and vice chairs
- Large Urban County Caucus and Rural Action Caucus chairs, vice chairs and members
- Standing Committee chairs, vice chairs and members
- Ad hoc committee, task force and advisory board chairs, vice chairs and members



Desloge

NACo Board of Directors, you MUST complete the application online before June 3.

Visit http://www.naco.org/presidential_appointments for the application.

I look forward to receiving your application and working with you during the 2016-2017 year.

Bryan Desloge
First Vice President

PLEASE NOTE

Steering committee membership is not a part of this application process.

The online nomination form for Policy Steering Committee membership can be found at www.naco.org

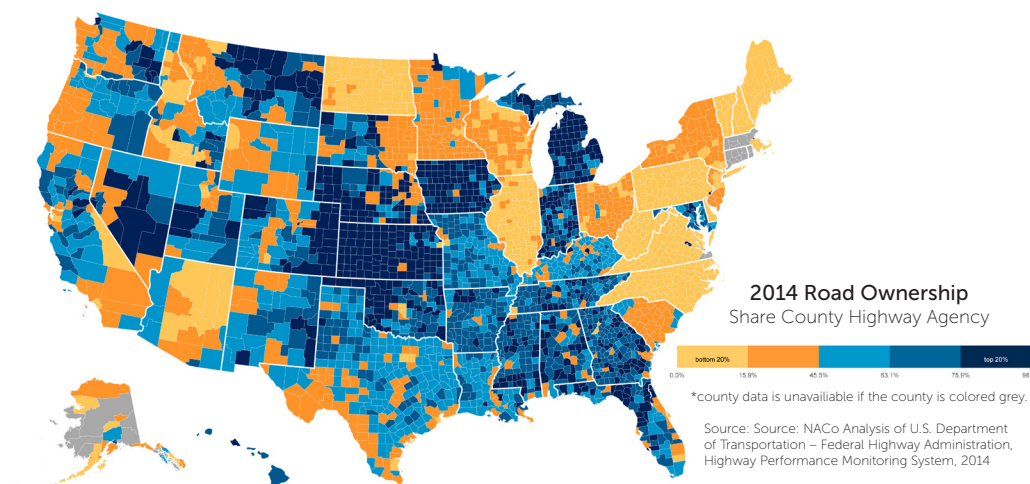
- At-large NACo Board Directors

To be considered for a presidential appointment to any of the committees listed above or as an At-Large Director for the



43% of counties have median home values of less than \$100,000.

61% percent of counties have more than a quarter of household incomes below the poverty line.



www.NACo.org/CountyExplorer

DELAYS LIKELY AHEAD

Michigan counties have an agreement with the state department of transportation to develop pilot exchanges in for one urban county and one rural county, though uncertainty with federal allocations slowed down the process.

"If there was any drawback to finally getting a long-term transportation bill passed in Congress, we didn't know how much to calculate for this year," said Ed Noyola, deputy director of the County Road Association of Michigan. "That will put us back a bit, but we're excited to see what this can do. We can't get by with just a few inches of asphalt anymore."

If the 2017 pilot goes well, Noyola hopes to add four or five counties to the program.

CAROL HOLDEN, 73

N.H. commissioner known for hats, generous service

Carol H. Holden, Hillsborough County, N.H. Commission vice chair and long active in NACo died Friday, April 1 after a short illness. She was 73.

Known for her signature hats, fierce devotion to county government and the New

member of the then-Labor and Employment Steering Committee. She first became a NACo Board member in 2003, and served on several NACo committees over the next two decades, most recently as a member of the Finance, Pensions and Intergovernmental Affairs Steering Committee

and the Board's Finance Committee.

"Carol was a passionate public servant. She was an active member of NACo's board and finance committee, always looking out for the interests of our members," said NACo Executive Director Matt Chase

her hats, we would say that's how you could tell which party we were from," he added.

In New Hampshire politics, Holden was recognized as an ardent flag bearer for conservative principles and an influential member of the state's Republican Party. In 2010, the Hillsborough County GOP honored her with its Lincoln-Reagan Award.

Upon her death, New Hampshire Republican State Committee Chairman Jennifer Horn issued a statement, saying, "We are deeply saddened by the passing of Commissioner Carol Holden. Carol was a devoted public servant and a passionate advocate for conservative candidates and fiscally responsible principles. Carol was a dedicated Republican, and she motivated a countless number of people across New Hampshire to get involved with our political process at both a state and local level."

On the national scene, Holden served as president of the National Conference of Republican County Officials in 2007-2008 and won NCRCO's 2014 Outstanding County Official of the Year Award.

"She not only wore hats, but she also served under many hats. We'll miss her," said Cindy Bobbitt, immediate past NCRCO president and Grant County, Okla. commissioner.

Holden served 13 years in the New Hampshire House of Representatives before she won county office. At the time of her death, she was in her sixth term as a Hillsborough County commissioner. **CN**



Holden swapped seasonal headgear for her usual chapeau at a NACo December Board meeting.

Photo by Bev Schlotterbeck

Hampshire Republican Party, Holden served as a county commissioner and vice chair of the Hillsborough County Board beginning in 1997. Fellow county board member and chairman, Toni Pappas — in a Facebook comment — said, "She was a dedicated public servant who loved county government. Her influence was felt not only in New Hampshire but at a national level as well."

Holden became active in NACo activities in 1999 as a

In New Hampshire politics, Holden was recognized as an ardent flag bearer for conservative principles and an influential member of the state's Republican Party.

Anyone who knew Carol Holden knew her hats. She was famous for her chapeaus of all sizes and colors. "We'd joke among ourselves about what kind of hat Carol would be wearing at our next meeting," said Strafford County Commissioner George Maglaras, a 20-year colleague and current president of the New Hampshire Association of Counties. "Since I have a habit of pushing my glasses back to my head — and am a Democrat — and Carol had



FAUQUIER COUNTY, VA.

Created by: Deborah Jann Howard, Damon Hertig
Introduced in: 1992

Fauquier County, Va. has a two-sided seal, designed by Deborah Jann Howard, and later colorized by Damon Hertig. The front includes the county courthouse and a falcon — two symbols long associated with the county. The county was formed in 1759.



ON THE FRONT

The falcon, representing strength and swiftness, clutches scales which pay tribute to John Marshall, the fourth chief justice of the United States; and arrows in recognition of the native Americans who were Fauquier's first inhabitants, and as a reminder of their deep respect for the land and nature.

ON THE BACK

iustitia et libertas is Latin for "justice and liberty."

The white dogwood in the foreground, Virginia's state tree, represents all growing things and the important part agriculture plays in the county's history and future.

The deer symbolize peace, gentility, and traditional family values, and represent the county's abundant and treasured wildlife.

The mountains, symbolic of lofty ideals, represent Fauquier's dedication to its preservation of the county's beautiful countryside.

Tracy Gallehr assisted.

(If you would like your county's seal featured in "Behind the Seal," contact Charlie Ban, senior staff writer: 202.942.4249 or cban@naco.org.)

Fla. county’s Teen Court grooms new ‘attorneys’

By Charles Taylor
senior staff writer

The Manatee County, Fla. Circuit Court clerk’s office obviously isn’t a law school, but later this month it will be training “attorneys” to try cases ... in the county’s two youth courts.

Teen attorneys are the lifeblood of the county’s Teen Court and “Teen Court Too” programs that divert children, ages 10 to 17, from the formal juvenile justice system.

But the estimated 100,000 cases heard by teen courts in the United States each year — misdemeanors, status offenses and, less often, nonviolent felonies — don’t try themselves, hence the need for a steady supply of teen “attorneys.”

Sue Locklear coordinates Manatee’s teen courts, which recruit teen attorneys twice a year. Over the course of five hours, teen volunteers learn how to become the prosecutors and defense attorneys who will try cases that range from retail theft to vandalism to marijuana possession.

“We give them a brief overview and make sure that they understand that these cases that they’re going to be handling are real offenses committed by real children,” she said. “We go through how to prepare an opening statement, how to interview the defendant...”

Youth courts have been steadily been growing in numbers since the 1990s. Nationwide, more than 1,250 youth courts are operating in 49 states and the District of Columbia, according to the report *Youth Courts: An Empirical Update and Analysis of Future Organizational and Research Needs*, funded by the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. The Urban Institute estimates these courts hear more than 100,000 cases per year.

On average, Manatee County’s teen court trains 20–40 volunteer teen attorneys twice a year — spring and fall. Some of the trainers for these sessions are adults, like Chris Melody, a retired local attorney. Another, Kelley Thompson, is a 22-year-old college senior, who has been a Teen Court

volunteer since she was in high school.

“The principal role of the volunteer,” said Melody, “is once the hearing is over and the sentence has been decided on, the volunteer (attorney) sits with the defendant and their parents and writes up a contract, which lays out all conditions the kid has to satisfy in order to comply with teen court.” Melody was an attorney for the Government Accountability Office in Washington, D.C. before retiring to Florida.

Thompson has been thinking about being a lawyer since she was in middle school. She finds the unpaid work “very gratifying.” “I think it’s an opportunity for me to remind the kids that we see them as fellow human beings and they’re not bad kids,” she said.

The goal of the teen court is to mete out justice, not mint new lawyers. But occasionally, Locklear said, a teen attorney will later go into law. She recalled a volunteer, in his first year of college, who, after his teen court experience, decided to go to law school. “When he’s here on breaks, he works with the up-and-coming attorneys. It’s a great thing to see these kids that really blossom.”

Thompson, who will begin law school at Notre Dame this fall, has been interested in law since she was in middle school. “Teen court really cemented the decision in my head,” she said. Being a teen attorney was “super beneficial” for her.

Teens who have gone through the attorney training sometimes decide that being a legal eagle isn’t for them, even on this minor scale.

“If after going through the training, you decide this just isn’t for me ... you’re more than welcome to come and just volunteer with us — be a juror, be a clerk or a bailiff,” Locklear said.

“Even if you have absolutely no interest in the law, it certainly helps with your public speaking, being able to stand up in a courtroom in front of people that you don’t know and present a case, and that can help you in many different careers.” **CN**

‘Total population’ remains basis for redrawing state districts, SCOTUS says

By Lisa Soronen
executive director
State and Local Legal Center

In what has been described as the most important “one-person, one-vote” case since the U.S. Supreme Court adopted the principle over 50 years ago, the court held that states may apportion state legislative districts based on total population. Local governments may do the same. The high court’s opinion in *Evenwel v. Abbott* is unanimous. All 50 states currently use total population to design state legislative districts; only seven adjust the census numbers “in any meaningful way.”

In *Reynold v. Sims* (1964), the court established the principle of “one-person, one-vote” requiring state legislative districts to be apportioned equally so that votes would have equal weight.

The question in this case was what population is relevant — total population or voter-eligible population. Total population includes numerous people who cannot vote — notably non-citizens and children.

Following the 2010 census, Texas redrew its state Senate districts using total-population. The maximum total-population deviation between districts was about 8 percent (up to 10 percent is presumed constitutional); the maximum eligible-voters deviation between districts exceeded 40 percent.

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg’s majority opinion concluding Texas may redistrict using total population is “based on constitutional history, this court’s decisions, and longstanding practice.”

Regarding constitutional history, Section 2 of the 14th Amendment explicitly requires that the U.S House of Representatives be apportioned based on total population.

“It cannot be that the 14th Amendment calls for the apportionment of congressional districts based on total population, but simultaneously pro-

hibits states from apportioning their own legislative districts on the same basis.”

In no previous cases had the court determined if a deviation was permissible based on eligible- or registered-voter data.

And finally, states and local governments’ redistricting based on total population is a settled practice. “Adopting voter-eligible apportionment as constitutional command would upset a well-functioning approach to districting that all 50 states and countless local jurisdictions have followed for decades, even centuries,” Gins-

burg wrote. Despite Texas’s urging, the court did not decide whether states may redistrict using voter-eligible population. It seems only a matter of time until the court will decide whether state legislatures and local governments must redistrict based on total-population data. **CN**

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

WORD SEARCH

FAUQUIER COUNTY, VA.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS FEATURED COUNTY IN 'WHAT'S IN A SEAL?'

Created By: Charles Taylor

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

CAPT JOHN SMITH

Explored the area in 1608

CULPEPER

Southwest adjacent county

DELAPLANE

Unincorporated community

EQUESTRIAN EVENTS

County is in the heart of Virginia hunt country

FRANCIS FAUQUIER

County's namesake, a former lieutenant governor, who, according to legend, won the land in a poker game

JOHN MARSHALL

Fourth U.S. Chief Justice, born in the county

LOUDOUN COUNTY

Neighbor to the northeast

PAUL MELLON

Philanthropist who resided in county; a recognized 'Exemplar of Racing' thoroughbred horses

PRINCE WILLIAM

County from which Fauquier was formed

TEDDY ROOSEVELT

Rode his horse from Washington, D.C. to Warrenton to prove it could be done in a day

THE PLAINS

Town within county

UPPERVILLE

Village listed on the National Register of Historic Places

VINEYARDS

Fauquier is home to many wineries and vineyards

VIRGINIA GOLD CUP

Steeplechase race held annually the first Saturday in May since 1922

WARRENTON

County seat

BRIGHT IDEAS | PEORIA COUNTY, ILL.

New County Animal Control Program Leaps Beyond the Traditional Dog Pound

PROBLEM: Budget cuts forced the city of Peoria to cut its animal control program.

SOLUTION: The county created its own animal control program and within five years had achieved lofty goals.

By Charlie Ban
senior staff writer

People mean it as an insult to say someone couldn't be elected dog catcher, but it turns out it's a pretty demanding job.

Peoria County, Ill. found that out in 2010 when county officials got some news — the city of Peoria was shutting down the animal control program, which the county contracted with for service. The county had 180 days to fill that gap.

"It was a total surprise," said County Administrator Scott Sorrell. "They gave us notice that they cut it from their budget, and because it's a statutorily-mandated county function, we had to be ready to pick up that service."

The city had been serving as animal control contractor for three decades. When it fell back to the county, officials decided to not just pick up where the city left off, but to do more.

"We didn't want to just do animal control, we wanted to brand it animal protective service, manage the shelter component and unify everything.

"We wanted to have a good balance of the public safety and animal welfare sides, but we felt like if we addressed welfare, it would have a positive impact on safety issues."

And that also meant setting goals to increase adoption rates

and decrease euthanasia rates at the animal shelter, which is jointly owned by the county, city and local humane society, and increase rabies vaccination rates in the community.

"We generally don't want to impound as many animals," Sorrell said. "The public and the staff decided to set our goals pretty high."

Being able to hire all of the city department's staff — and retain the respected director — helped. As did the county's comparatively favorable rebound from the recession, giving it a stronger budget for the new department.

"Having a department head who was nationally recognized was a positive," Sorrell said. "We were able to let her do things the city budget constraints kept her from doing."

The department was able to clear more than \$11,000 in profit in its first year of operation by establishing new rabies registration fees and coupling vaccinations and tags with fee collection, a step Sorrell said is not standard but made clear sense.

"It sounds simple, but few counties do it," he said. "Usually you'll go to the vet, get shots and then have to come to a county facility to get tags. We consolidate it all."

In the following years, the county amended the animal control ordinance three times, strengthening anti-cruelty laws, defining "nuisance situations" and increasing penalties for vicious and dangerous dogs.

The county encouraged adoption of older dogs and cats by waiving fees and offering periodic "specials" on adoptions.

Though 75 percent of the county's 186,000 population lives in the city of Peoria, and

pet ownership follows closely, the county adapted for its rural population, creating a barn cat caretaker license that exempted sterilized barn cats from rabies registration.

In the end, by 2015, the county had exceeded most of its goals. It set out to increase its live-release rate — the rate of animals leaving the shelter alive — and instead nearly doubled it, to 46 percent from 28 percent. The euthanasia

rate dropped by 50 percent for dogs and 53 percent for cats, much more than the 10 percent target. One of the main reasons rabies registrations did not increase by the 20 percent is that the rates are already quite high for a county of Peoria's size — 79 percent license compliance rate for dogs and 30 percent for cats.

The county also set new service agreements with the 13 municipalities, agreements

that are being reevaluated as they reach the end of their lives.

"We're negotiating new deals this summer but I don't anticipate any drastic changes in service delivery," Sorrell said. "Throughout this process, we've just looked at what is mandated and what we want to do and made it work." **CN**

Bright Ideas features noteworthy and award-winning programs.

Meet the Challenge!

HEALTHIEST CITIES & COUNTIES CHALLENGE



The Challenge aims to improve measurable health outcomes and promote health, wellness, equity and social interaction through practical, evidence-based strategies and cross-sector collaboration.

Cities and counties selected to participate in the Challenge must have strong cross-sector teams focused on public health issues that reflect community priorities.

Challenge participants that demonstrate measurable results are eligible to win up to \$500,000.

The deadline for submitting a proposal is May 31 at 5 p.m. EDT.

For more information, visit www.healthiestcities.org.

CREATE MORE HEALTHY DAYS AND JOIN



The Healthiest Cities & Counties Challenge is generously supported by the Aetna Foundation. The National Association of Counties (NACo) is a partner on the Challenge along with the American Public Health Association and CEOs for Cities.

aetna
FOUNDATION

APHA
AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION
For science. For action. For health.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION of COUNTIES
NACo

Mental health crisis intervention training teams form in SW Virginia; hailed as rural model

Four southwest Virginia counties are serving as a model for how rural law enforcement and behavioral health can work together to keep mentally ill individuals out of jail.

Floyd, Giles, Montgomery and Pulaski counties are among 14 separate law enforcement agencies — ranging in size from two officers to 100 officers — in the New River Valley region that participate in Crisis Intervention Training (CIT).

It's a pre-booking diversion program created to prevent "inappropriate incarceration," according to Patrick Halpern, the program's coordinator through New River Valley Community Services. CIT is designed to teach law enforcement officers to recognize the signs and symptoms of mental illnesses when responding to crisis situations and refer rather than arrest.

"We've been training (others) for 12 years now, so we've been able to develop a program, system and process that works pretty well for all of our partner agencies," he said.

The CIT concept originated in Memphis, Tenn. in the late 1980s. The New River Valley region began creating its program in April 2002 using a \$150,000 grant from the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

In 2004, the first group of 10 law enforcement officers and 10 civilians traveled to Memphis for training — and later became the nucleus of the New River Valley program. It would go on to become the first rural, multi-jurisdictional CIT programs in the nation, according to Halpern. It was also the first of its kind in Virginia.

The southwestern Virginia CIT provides law enforcement officers with 40 hours of specialized training that includes nine hours of role-playing ex-

ercises based on actual police interactions with mentally ill persons.

Another key component of the program is the creation of a "therapeutic crisis assessment center." The CIT Assessment Center (CITAC), which opened in 2013, is a place where law enforcement officers can hand off individuals in crisis for immediate evaluation and triage in a therapeutic setting. Once there, a mental health clinician determines whether the person needs to be hospitalized, can be released or should be referred.

Without crisis intervention, it can take law enforcement officers in the region about four hours to execute an emergency custody order.

And as of September 2015, more than 1,000 individuals with mental health problems had received crisis assessment services at the New River Valley CITAC, with approximately 75 requiring inpatient psychiatric hospitalizations, according to a report from New River Valley Community Services, the region's public behavioral health services provider.

Without crisis intervention, it can take law enforcement officers in the region up to four hours to execute an emergency custody order. But, for officers that use the CITAC, it takes, on average, less than one hour, the data show.

The CIT program has also developed a four-hour training curriculum for dispatchers to aid them in handling calls that have a mental health component. The instruction includes

how to contact and dispatch the on-duty CIT officer and verbal techniques to de-escalate a mental health crisis — all of which can lead to quicker responses and better outcomes.

The original CITAC in Blacksburg is open 16 hours per day (9 a.m. – 1 a.m.) seven days a week. A second facility opened in January in the city of Radford and will also be a regional asset.

Since September 2004, the program has trained approximately 800 law enforcement officials from 63 law enforcement agencies throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia.

In fact, the New River Valley CITAC recently began training sheriff's deputies from Washington County, Va., about 100 miles to the southwest.

"They are a big, rural county and CIT can definitely be a benefit to them," Halpern said. "We had a fabulous experience working with the groups that came up here last week."

Four Washington County sheriff's deputies were trained in mid-April, and about a half-dozen more will attend the next session in Blacksburg, where Halpern's office is located. "Then we'll do an instructor school — a train-the-trainer — for them so they can try and set their own training component."

The New River Valley CIT takes the approach that mental health crisis response isn't just law enforcement's responsibility; program goals include building strong relationships among law enforcement, mental health practitioners, consumers and family members, hospital systems, and the local legal system.

There are 32 assessment centers in Virginia funded by the state and 32 community services agencies, Halpern said. "Virginia's state Legislature has been a staunch sup-

porter of CIT programs. We've been very fortunate and certainly recognize that after grant funding goes away, that it's a big challenge for communities trying to sustain their CIT programs. In Virginia, the General Assembly has made big com-

mitment and investments to funding CIT programs and assessment centers." **CN**

(Nastassia Walsh, program manager, and Charles Taylor, senior staff writer, contributed to this report.)

PROFILES IN SERVICE

RANDY RIPPERGER

Board of Directors
Polk County Assessor
Des Moines, Iowa



Number of years active in NACo:

This is my first year.

Years in public service:

36
county assessor

Education:

B.A., economics, Central College, Pella, Iowa

The hardest thing I've ever done:

saying good-bye to my mom and dad
Winston Churchill, Albert Einstein, Vince Lombardi

You'd be surprised to learn that I:

love to cook.
climbed Taylor Mountain in Colorado.

My favorite way to relax is:

grilling out and hanging with my family.
our three daughters.

Every morning I read:

The Economist Espresso and *The Des Moines Register*.

My favorite meal is:

steak and potatoes.
being late, tardy.

My motto is:

Commitment to Excellence.
Big Data – A Revolution.

My favorite movie is:

Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil
jazz, blues, early rock & roll.

My favorite president is:

John Kennedy.
because: of the resources, skills and support that NACo provides its members.

My county is a NACo member

A dream I have is to:
get my pilot's license.



MONEYMATTERS

Making Financial Officer Turnover Less Taxing

By Joel Griffith
FSC program manager

Turnover of elected and appointed financial officers is an expected feature of local government.

Many of these officials enter public service after — or in the midst of — a successful career in the private sector. After a tenure representing the people, many financial officers return to business; others run for another public office; and some retire. Of course, term limits can play a role in elevating turnover as well.

Regardless of the reason for the exit, it's important to keep disruption at a minimum. A handful of actions by the chief elected official or the current office holder can go a long way

towards preparing for a smooth transition.

- Determine the experience gaps. Many elected and appointed financial positions do not require a minimum aptitude in financial management. As a result, the job title of incoming personnel may not reflect the development of that individual's skill set.

- Do some background research on the new officer based on personal conversations or her resume to craft an awareness of particular strengths and weaknesses in budget construction, investment management and risk management.

- Alert the incoming officer to training resources. Fashion your advice based on the likely experience gaps. Keep in mind that

the educational opportunities, which are well known to you, may be unheard of to the new official. Furthermore, sometimes the sheer volume of possible instruction can prove overwhelming.

Your input on which materials are most relevant to the new role can save time and improve the functionality of the department after your departure. Of course, state law may mandate some training. But in short, do not presume knowledge of these distinctions by your replacement.

- Brief the incoming officer on peer organizations in your state, particularly those consisting of county treasurers and financial officers. The ability to network and learn from these groups of peers can provide your replacement much-appreciated cam-

raderie. Perhaps more importantly, this network can help a relatively new officer avoid costly financial pitfalls.

- Ensure that the new officer has access to and is aware of the requisite technology to accomplish her tasks. Budgeting processes, data gathering, revenue collection, payment functions and investment management have become technology-intensive. With lean staffing, neglecting to use all of the financial technology at one's disposal can create needless financial snafus.

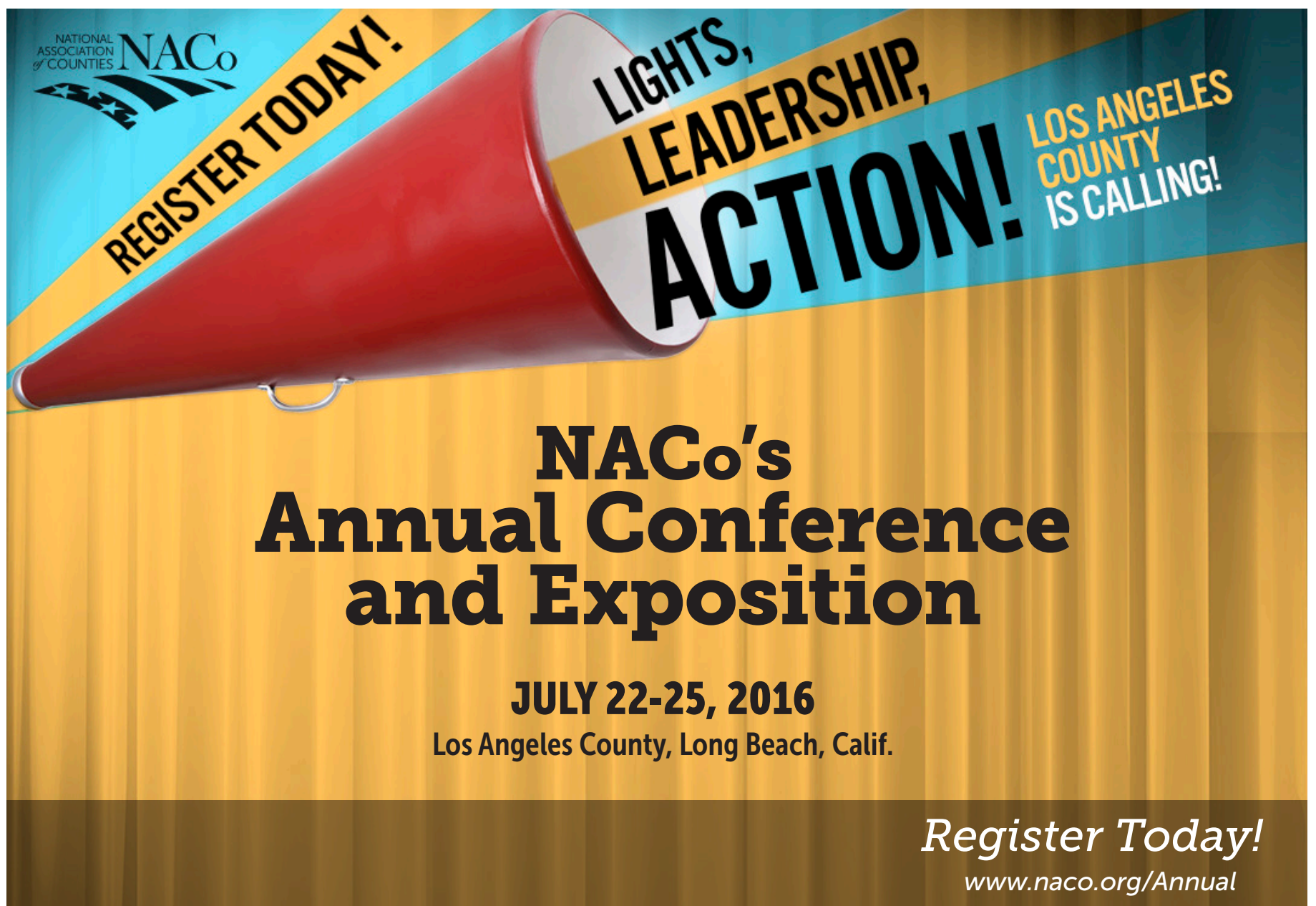
Fortunately, many of the requisite tools are either free or low cost. In particular, fixed income securities quotes and data are available at no cost through NACo's partner eConnectDirect.

- Recognize the efforts of new

financial officers. Attempting to implement the budget decisions of elected officials can be a thankless job. In fact, community frustration over the choices of other officials is often misdirected towards the financial officers.

Privately acknowledging these challenges and providing public praise for a job well done improves the relationship between the legislative and administrative teams, and it can also reduce turnover.

These steps can ensure that when turnover affects your county financial team, the negative impacts will be minimized. In fact, on-boarding of new financial officers can actually be made enjoyable for the incoming officer and profitable for the county. **CN**



NACo's
Annual Conference
and Exposition

JULY 22-25, 2016
Los Angeles County, Long Beach, Calif.

Register Today!
www.naco.org/Annual

REGISTER TODAY!

LIGHTS, LEADERSHIP, ACTION!

LOS ANGELES COUNTY IS CALLING!

NEWS FROM ACROSS THE NATION

ARIZONA

MOHAVE COUNTY supervisors are urging Congress to expand the federal **Radiation Exposure Compensation Act** to include additional residents afflicted with radiation-induced cancers linked to nuclear testing in Nevada between 1945 and 1962, the *Mohave Valley Daily News* reported.

The act currently covers parts of the county north of the Colorado River along with

APACHE, COCONINO, GILA, NAVAJO and YAVAPAI counties. The resolution seeks compensation for approximately 2,000 “downwinders” in southern Mohave County, according to havasunews.com.

Rep. Paul Gosar (R-Ariz.) introduced the Downwinders Compensation Act last summer, but the bill has yet to move out of committee. The resolution urges members of Arizona’s House delegation

who aren’t already cosponsors to support the bill.

COLORADO

PUEBLO COUNTY calls it the “world’s first **marijuana tax-funded scholarship** program,” and it’s now accepting applications for this fall 2016 and next spring.

Voters statewide legalized the sale of recreational marijuana in 2012, which began in 2014.

Last November, county voters approved a ballot initiative to tax the export of marijuana grown in the county to other Colorado counties. Half of the tax proceeds go to the Pueblo County Scholarship Fund; the other half will fund capital projects.

The Pueblo Hispanic Education Foundation is the fiscal agent for the scholarships. It expects to make 25 awards of \$1,000 each for 2016–2017. Applicants must meet financial need and residency requirements, among other criteria.

FLORIDA

● The Department of Housing and Urban Development has awarded the **BROWARD COUNTY** Homeless Initiative Partnership more than \$6.8 million to support its **plan to end homelessness**.

Funding, through HUD’s Continuum of Care Program competition, will go to 17 renewal projects including support for permanent supportive housing for people with disabilities, transitional housing for youth, families and individuals, and to management information systems to address homelessness.

● **COLLIER COUNTY** commissioners have **rejected the Atlanta Braves’** proposal to build a spring training stadium in the county near Interstate 75. But the commissioners still hope they can get the Braves to play ball and consider other properties in the county. The issue could be moot, since the team is also eyeing sites in **SARASOTA and PALM BEACH counties**.

“I think it’s dead,” Commissioner Tim Nance, told the *Naples Daily News*. “They need really good access to I-75. Maybe if we had another interchange. But the Braves aren’t going to wait on us.”

LOUISIANA

ST. TAMMANY PARISH is taking its fight against a company’s **proposed fracking well** to the state Supreme Court. Last month, a state appeals court rejected the parish’s argument that local zoning laws should have blocked the state from issuing a drilling permit.

The nearly two dozen fracking opponents who attended the Parish Council meeting



CALIFORNIA

A federal court has ordered **LOS ANGELES COUNTY** to **remove a Christian symbol** from the county seal.

Over the years, versions of the seal have included a cross, which was once removed but was restored in 2014 by a vote of the Board of Supervisors. An earlier rendering showed the San Gabriel Mission without a cross on top — at that time the cross had been removed while work was being done to make the structure earthquake resistant.

The supervisors voted in 2014 to restore the cross to the seal after it had been reattached to the mission — for historical accuracy, according to the *Los Angeles Times*.

U.S. District Judge Christina A. Snyder ruled that: “Permitting such a change and the associated expenditure of public funds, places the county’s power, prestige and purse behind a single religion, Christianity, without making any such benefit available on an equal basis to those with secular objections or alternative sectarian views.”

broke into applause after the council voted 11–2 to appeal to the high court, *The New Orleans Advocate* reported.

MARYLAND

A dozen strip clubs in **PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY**

See NEWS FROM page 11



Supervisor Steve Gallardo, Maricopa County, leads a group of kids to a free Major League baseball game in Phoenix. Photo courtesy of Maricopa County, Ariz.

ARIZONA

As their reward for completing 5,000 hours of community service, about 1,000 **MARICOPA COUNTY** fifth and sixth graders got to enjoy America’s favorite pastime up close and personal.

Board of Supervisors Chairman Steve Gallardo led the group to Chase Field April 6 for one of the **Arizona Diamondbacks** season-opening games — the D-Backs, as they’re known locally, versus the Colorado Rockies. The event, in its 18th year, is called the D-Backs Jam.

“This program is so important because it teaches our children the value of community service,” said Gallardo, who had the honor of throwing out the first pitch. “This event allows innercity Phoenix youth, many of whom grew up in the shadow of the stadium, to see a game in person. For many of them, it will be their first game, but we hope not the last.”

The Rockies won the game 10–5.

the HR
DOCTOR
With Phil Rosenberg
Phil Rosenberg

The Joy of Life Renewed

Imagine an author dictating an article that looks exactly like this one while uncomfortably dripping with sweat. Sounds attractive, doesn't it? However, it is all worth it as I look out the window at a lovely job of mowing three-and-a-quarter acres of pasture with help from my friend John (John Deere, that is).

Later there will be a wonderful early evening walk through the pasture with the beautiful HR Spouse Charlotte and my two canines

demonstrating their boundless energy.

Hardly any mowing gets done during the winter in Central Florida. Last week though, a look outside the window and a check of the coming weather forecast led to the conclusion that the time had come. Spring has returned to beautiful "Sanctuary." The flowers were emerging everywhere, the bees rather loudly buzzing through our bottle brush trees, and there was a loud proclamation from Mother Nature that there was much more beauty to come.

What a glorious time the spring is. Throughout human

history the return of the signs of new life are times of magic. The almost-dead-looking vineyards in the northern hemisphere suddenly become incredibly beautiful and full of promise. The azalea bushes lined up along the side of our barn are vibrant. Our 50 rose bushes are vibrant.

The same may be said of the seasons of calving or lambing, of new puppies or even the birth of the next generation of rodents. Who could witness this renewal of life and not want to celebrate? However you look at the spring, it is truly a time of celebration and sharing with people you love.

We celebrate the miracles of nature as we have for thousands of years. It may call out memories of Greek or Roman mythology as well as the sagas and festivals which pre-date even those civilizations.

The rebirth of life is, and always has been, the cen-

terpiece of all of the world's religions. They all share concepts like a renewal or return of life after apparent death. Certainly Easter fits well into that tradition. Passover does as well in terms of a release from bondage and the promise of a bright homeland and a future.

As an avid astronomy buff, the HR Doctor recently enjoyed an email from a good friend reminding me that many techno-physicists would argue that reason for the season may be found in the tilting of the Earth's axis 23.44 degrees. While the earth orbits around the sun, the vernal equinox jumps out at us as the axis tilt gets us to the date when the length of daytime equals (approximately) the length of nighttime.

Having a good relationship with our average star gives us warmth and generates the chemical processes that allow us all to exist. It lets us return each year to the joy of spring as we watch things come to life around us. The equinox signals us that winter is fading into the distance and brighter, warmer times are ahead. We survived the cold and darkness of the winter.

Even in a bureaucracy, things can be reborn during the spring. As my fellow bureaucrats look ahead to the next budget season or plan for the last quarter or two of the fiscal year they are really looking ahead at what will be coming their way. This is a time of hope — which is the fundamental reason for

adopting a budget in the first place.

Of course, budgets do come with spreadsheets and auditors galore. Yet a budget is more than simply a collection of spreadsheet cells neatly filled in or a set of income tax forms prepared in a timely way. A budget is fundamentally a document of anticipation. It is an optimistic statement that the kind of services the government agency offers will continue, perhaps grow or shrink, but always providing opportunities to help other people in their lives, safeguard them or explore new, more efficient and more cost-effective ways to do business.

Perhaps it is a good time for public agency managers to gather the people they work with together, offer them fresh spring flowers (not bought at public expense, of course!), and conduct a Hope workshop. The session would focus directly on how those staff members might generate ideas to do things with more efficiency, more fun and more appreciation for the value of their work.

A Hope workshop sounds like something far more enjoyable to attend than another in a groaning series of weekly staff meetings.

On the other hand, it likely does not compare well to walking through a lovely pasture with someone you love, admiring the purple and yellow flowers and watching robust canines wrestling, frolicking and wagging their tails! **CN**



Heroin overdose deaths now tagged as murder in Pa. county

From NEWS FROM page 9

have closed their doors after a year of fighting the county.

“County officials are using violations of zoning laws to close the doors of the adult clubs that some residents consider to be nuisances,” said Susan Hubbard, a spokesperson for the county’s Department of Permits and Inspections.

Such adult entertainment venues should be located in light industrial or warehouse districts only, county officials said, according to NBC4 News.

MISSISSIPPI

The state flag no longer flies outside the **ADAMS COUNTY**

Courthouse.

County supervisors voted recently to **ban the flag** — which bears the Confederate battle emblem — from all county-owned buildings, WBRZ News reported.

OREGON

● A \$2 million grant from the office of **NEW YORK COUNTY, N.Y.** (Manhattan) District Attorney Cyrus Vance Jr. will fund the testing of 2,800 **sexual assault forensic exams** from **MULTNOMAH**, **MARION** and **LANE counties**.

The kits — prioritized for action because their cases are approaching statute of limitations for prosecution — will

be shipped to a private laboratory in Salt Lake City for examination. According to *The Register Guard* testing can cost \$1,300 apiece.

PENNSYLVANIA

Heroin overdose deaths in **LYCOMING COUNTY** will now be considered homicides, thanks to a policy change by the county coroner. Charles Kiessling Jr. will no longer mark those deaths as accidental.

“If you chose to sell heroin, you’re killing people and you’re murdering people.

“You’re just as dead from a shot of heroin as if someone puts a bullet in you,” Kiessling told *The Daily Item*.

Not all homicides are determined to be crimes, and the decision on whether charges should be filed is made by prosecutors.

SOUTH CAROLINA

CHESTER COUNTY has resumed its **inmate litter detail**, which sends inmates from the county detention center to county roadways a few days a week to pick up trash.

County Supervisor Shane Stuart said he began looking into restarting the program after residents voiced concern last year about trash on the county’s roadways.

All nonviolent offenders who already have been sentenced and are considered low-risk for escape, are included. Some state inmates serving time in the Chester County jail also participate.

The inmates are searched before they go out to a work site and again before returning to make sure they don’t pick up banned items and bring them into the jail. In late March, an inmate found a wallet with a driver’s license, credit cards and cash that officers were able to return to the owner, *The Herald* reported.

TEXAS

MCLENNAN COUNTY



OREGON

● **DESCHUTES COUNTY** Clerk Nancy Blankenship and **JACKSON COUNTY** Clerk Chris Walker have teamed up with professional basketball players—and Jackson County natives — E.J. and Kyle Singler to **encourage young voters** to participate in the electoral process.

Videos featuring the brothers will be aired in Central Oregon, Southern Oregon and northern California counties and promoted on social media platforms, KTVZ News reported.

MICHIGAN

It’s a neat stunt and a good way to encourage owners to make certain their **canine pets comply** with the state’s animal license laws. **OTTAWA COUNTY** Treasurer Brad Slagh is sponsoring the Top Dog pet photo contest for a chance to be named “Top Dog” by the Treasurer’s Office.

Along with bragging rights, the top five vote getters, a staff pick and a random entry will all receive gift cards and prizes. Local vets and retailers have donated over \$500 in prizes. There is no fee to enter the contest but there are some rules, including one that requires an up-to-date license for any entries.

Commissioners are determined to **keep guns out** of the courthouse and annex.

In response to Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton’s command to remove signs banning weapons, the Board of Commissioners directed county attorneys to take whatever action is necessary to protect the county from Paxton’s command, which could include defending or filing litigation. Paxton’s command is backed by financial penalties. The action the county approved could include conferring with Paxton, defending litigation or filing litigation.

Commissioners approved a new policy Dec. 23, 2015 to maintain the ban on guns in the county courthouse and annex by anyone but law enforcement, despite state law to the contrary, the *Waco Tribune Herald* reported.

WASHINGTON

A federal court judge has declined to permanently block the release of **KITSAP COUNTY** documents about

response plans to a nuclear emergency at the U.S. Navy’s Kitsap-Bangor base or other Navy facilities.

U.S. District Court Judge Ronald Leighton on Dec. 15, 2015 had issued a temporary injunction restricting the release of what was termed “sensitive and protected national security information” contained in these federal government documents.

Since then, public records requests to access the documents have been withdrawn, and the judge has found that most of the issues involved in the case have now been rendered moot. The case resulted from a dispute between the Navy and Kitsap County over what information could be released under state public records laws. **CN**

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

Opioid epidemic outpaces law enforcement

From TASK FORCE page 2

another epidemic.”

Addiction treatment was next on the agenda, focused primarily on medication-assisted methods such as methadone and Suboxone.

Treatment professionals have a nearly a 50-year history with methadone and a shorter time, 10 years, with Suboxone, but enough in both cases to know that mortality rates from all causes are reduced in half and the risk of HIV infection is also halved, said Melinda Campopiano, medical officer at the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), who led the discussion.

The presentation prompted a lively discussion about stressed capacity

“In Multnomah County, there are way more people seeking treatment than slots available,”

Multnomah County Commissioner Judy Shiprack said. Judge Moore said the methadone clinic in his county sees 1,000 to 1,100 people a day, and the community is beginning to push back, afraid that centralizing treatment will increase crime rates in the area.

Anne Arundel County, Md. Executive Steve Shuh offered three impediments to mounting treatment programs and “community resistance” was number one.

Ross County, Ohio Commissioner Doug Corcoran added another dimension to the problem of more demand than available slots. Inadequate capacity at one end means more people in jails, and more people in jail means more cost for counties as they pick up the tab for treatment, Ross said.

The final discussion took its color from the streets of Manchester, N.H., as Police Chief Nick Willard, who led the Pub-

lic Safety and Community Wellness discussion along with Kern County, Calif. Supervisor Leticia Perez, described his department’s efforts to stem the drug traffic in his city and the philosophy that guides it.

“Addressing opioid abuse is not just getting the bad guys off the street, but it’s providing social interventions as well,” he said. Willard also talked about his department’s child advocacy program that “circles back with services after a SWAT raid,” its recovery coaches and the importance of having peer-to-peer programs for children and youth in any prevention efforts.

Yet, getting the “bad guy” off the street was clearly an important objective as illustrated by Willard’s recitation of a long list of arrest and drug seizures numbers. In the end though, “despite law enforcement’s best efforts, we’re not winning.” **CN**

ON THE MOVE➔

NACO STAFF

Emilia Istrate, research director, was a featured presenter at the Economic Development Administration (EDA) Annual Conference, April 8. Istrate spoke about NACO’s third annual County Economies report.

Jessica Monahan, associate legislative director, briefed participants on the latest transportation legislation at the National Association of Development Organizations’ policy conference April 6.



Goldschmidt



Namey



Langston

COMING UP

Andrew Goldschmidt, membership marketing director, will represent NACO at the West Texas County Judges and Commissioners Conference in Burnet County (Horseshoe Bay), Texas, April 26–29.

Brian Namey, public affairs director, and **Linda Langston**, director of strategic relations, will be attending ACCG’s Annual Conference and Commissioners Training Program in Chatham County (Savannah), Ga. April 29–May 2.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION of COUNTIES **NACO**

register today

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

**NACO's WESTERN INTERSTATE
REGION 2016 CONFERENCE**

VISIT WWW.NACO.ORG/WIR2016 FOR
A COMPLETE LIST AND REGISTER TODAY!

JUST ANNOUNCED!
THOUGHT-
PROVOKING
WORKSHOPS
SUCH AS:

*Is Your County
Prepared?
Responding to
Active Shooter
Incidents*

*Creating Fire
Adapted
Communities*

*Strengthening
Local Road Safety*