

NACO National Association of Counties

CountyNews

The Voice of America's Counties

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES ■ WASHINGTON, D.C.

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President's FY14 budget targets key county priorities

BY LEGISLATIVE STAFF



WEB* CONTENT President Obama's \$3.6 trillion budget for FY14 includes proposals that would, if adopted by Congress, make big changes to the way counties do business across the country.

It recommends measures to achieve \$25 billion in savings in FY14 through eliminating and consolidating programs, and cutting spending in others. It proposes reducing discretionary spending through the annual appropriations process from 8.3 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in FY12 to 7.3 percent in FY14 and 4.9 percent by FY23. It lays out a plan to cut the deficit by \$1.8 trillion over the next 10 years, bringing it below 2 percent of GDP by 2023; when combined with the sequester, it would cut the deficit by \$4.5 trillion.

The budget's highlights — or lowlights — for counties include:

Cap on Municipal Bonds – It's Back

As in last year's proposal, the president's FY14 budget would impose a 28 percent cap on the value of certain tax benefits, including tax-exempt interest. This would have the effect of partially taxing otherwise tax-exempt municipal bond interest and would apply to taxpayers in the 33 to 39.6 percent tax brackets. As proposed, the cap would apply to both newly issued and outstanding bonds beginning in 2014.

NACo will continue to oppose this and any other proposals to change the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds, which would raise borrowing costs and undermine an essential financing tool for county governments.

As an alternative approach to infrastructure investment, the president proposes establishing the America Fast Forward (AFF) Bond program. Similar to the

See **FY14 BUDGET** page 6

Snow goes despite sequester's blow



Photo by Jim Peaco

Rotary plows clear Hayden Valley Road in Yellowstone National Park April 3.

BY BEVERLY SCHLOTTERBECK
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Alarm bells first went off for Scott Balyo after the Fiscal Cliff deal in late December. By mid-February at a governor's conference on tourism he was trying to

get a read on what would happen to the national parks if sequestration's automatic spending cuts kicked in. No one was entirely sure.

But about a week later, he received a phone call from Yellowstone Park Superintendent Dan Wenk who told the Cody, Wyo.

Chamber of Commerce executive that if there were no deal by March 1, the park would open late. Facing a \$1.8 million hit from the sequester to the park's budget, Wenk had

See **PLOWS** page 11

CountyNews Features

Complex path to reform unveiled in bipartisan immigration bill

BY MARILINA SANZ
ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

The Senate bipartisan group working on immigration reform unveiled its bill, called the Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act April 16.

NACo President Chris Rodgers praised the eight senators for their efforts in attempting to craft bipartisan immigration reform.

"On behalf of the nation's counties, NACo applauds the efforts of the so-called 'Gang of Eight' in

their sincere attempt to rise above the partisan divide and find a workable solution to one of the most important issues of our time," Rodgers said.

"How the United States protects its international borders, issues visas, grants legal status and citizenship, and governs our immigrant population today and in the future is critical to the U.S. economy and our quality of life."

The bill is 800-plus pages and was filed a day later than expected out of respect for those killed and injured in the Boston Marathon bombing.

Border Security

The provision appropriates \$3 billion for a Border Security Fund and Border Fencing Fund that would include surveillance and detention capabilities, additional border patrol and customs officers and unmanned aerial and other surveillance systems. It calls for a Southern Border Fencing Strategy and appropriates \$1.5 billion, but it is unclear if that figure is included in the fund or is additional money.

See **IMMIGRATION** page 5

INSIDE



Oklahoma County, Okla.'s SHINE Program is a bright light for low-level offenders and graduating students > **Page 4**

Messing with municipal bonds tax-exempt status not just a problem for the big guys > **Page 2**

Pioneering WIR, Colorado and public lands advocate Dale Sowards dead at 95 > **Page 7**

First-of-its-kind legislation in South Dakota makes recruiting attorneys easier in rural counties > **Page 7**

Losing muni-bonds tax-exemption hard on small counties

By CHARLIE BAN
STAFF WRITER

When the prospect of Congress’ revoking the tax-exempt status municipal bonds came up, Ottawa County, Ohio Commissioner Steve Arndt did the math.

Looking at a bond issue of \$100 million, he came up with a \$16 million increase, on top of the \$130 million it would cost to repay the bond over 20 years.

“That kind of money changes things,” he said.

Chief among them, a project’s financial viability.

“When that kind of cost increase is figured in, it changes the project’s cost-benefit ratio, and if it tips the scales, it could kill a project,” he said.

“If it’s too expensive, those things aren’t approved.”

His county of fewer than 42,000

on the shores of Lake Erie has done plenty of \$100 million projects.

“In the grand scheme of our budget, \$100 million is not that much,” he said. “When you add in \$16 million in unanticipated costs because of taxes, then it means a lot more. We don’t have that money to throw around.”

Arndt said for half of the counties in Ohio that don’t have a bond rating, the costs would be even greater.

Belmont County, Ohio, along the Ohio River, is about two warning letters away from being forced by EPA to upgrade its wastewater treatment plant.

Ginny Favede, president of the Board of Commissioners, said the project looks to cost roughly \$5 million, which will force the county to issue bonds to pay for the project.

The possibility that Congress could eliminate the tax exemption

on municipal bond interest is hanging over the commissioners’ heads, though, because of the additional costs it will entail.

“We’d be looking at an increase 3–4 percent tacked on over the life of the bond, and those projects are generally 20–25 years,” she said. “That’s almost \$4 million for a \$5 million project. That interest is astronomical for us, and no matter what, it makes the project cost-prohibitive.”

Favede said the county is poised for growth over the next few years, but infrastructure projects, and affordable financing, would be crucial.

“We don’t want to see our chances for growth — what we as a county can do to support that growth through infrastructure improvements — undermined by the loss of a crucial financing mechanism.”

Lycoming County, Pa. has issued more than \$30 million in municipal

bonds over the past 10 years to fund landfill and recycling center improvements, and is considering issuing at least \$5 million for a new waste transfer station.

“(Taxing municipal bonds) would certainly change the dynamics of putting together financing packages,” said Jeff Wheeland, County Commission chairman. “It’s a tax shift because the federal government would get their chunk from the bond holders and we’d be left paying more. So would the consumer, because we’d have to raise rates.”

The topic has been on the minds of government officials since the Simpson-Bowles Commission on Debt Reduction recommended eliminating all tax exemptions for all newly issued municipal bonds in 2010. President Obama’s 2014 budget proposes making the bonds subject to a 28 percent cap for individuals earning \$200,000 or more or couples earning \$250,000 or more. Such a cap would add three-quarters of a percent to borrowing costs for counties.

Meeting with his congressional representatives gave Arndt an opportunity to shock them with the numbers. “Their jaws dropped,” he said. “It was a lot for them to digest immediately, and they acknowledged that. We came away feeling positive about what they learned about it.”

Despite support from various members, including House Majority Leader Eric Cantor (R-Va.), all tax preferences are on the table according to Michael Decker, managing director and co-head of the municipal securities division of SIMFA.

“There’s a strong recognition from some members of Congress, and state and local officials that the tax exemption is important and that it is a vital means of financing infrastructure, but that doesn’t mean that in the context of tax reform it still might not get curtailed,” he said.

Getting the attention of investors would be the key problem for small counties, Decker added.

“Large counties would still have hardships in a case like that, they’d have substantially higher capital costs, but they would still be able to gain access to the capital markets,” he said. “If you’re issuing bonds in hundreds of millions of dollars, you’ll be able to attract the attention of big institutional investors that are active in the taxable bond market.”

“If you’re a small county or a school district or town that issues bonds just a few million dollars at a time — maybe you don’t come to market every year — large institutional investors, who really dominate the taxable bond market aren’t going to pay any attention to those kinds of transactions. It’s not economical and it’s not in their interests.”

Counties could turn to banks for money, but because their high end for long-term loans is seven-to-10 years, most county projects wouldn’t fit into that timeline.

“A lot of capital-intensive projects counties tend to fund in the bond market are long-term capital assets, projects with 30–40 years of usable life,” Decker said. “It would create a significant dilemma, particularly for small borrowers.”

Senate committee advances behavioral health package

Breaking News

Unlike the defeat of the background check amendment, the Harkin-Alexander behavioral health package was adopted by the Senate as an amendment to the gun policy bill (S. 649) on April 18 by a vote of 95–2.

Sen. Stabenow’s bill, Excellence in Mental Health Act, was filed on April 17 as an amendment to S. 649. Because the amendment uses a cut to Medicaid disproportionate share hospital (DSH) payments, NACo has withdrawn its support and is adopting a neutral position on the measure. It has not been scheduled for consideration.

Act (S. 689) in which Committee Chairman Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) and Ranking Member Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.) combined a number of related measures, which attracted bipartisan support from HELP committee members.

The behavioral health package was originally intended to be paired with the gun-control bill, but its future is now unclear.

The bill’s first title includes the Achievement through Prevention Act, introduced by Sen. Michael Bennet (D-Colo.) in the last Congress. It would allow schools to implement a program, “Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports (PBIS),” that helps educators to intervene appropriately for at-risk youth. According to a statement from Bennet’s office, suspensions have been reduced in schools implementing PBIS, which currently serves more than 300,000 students in Colorado.

Title II of the bill covers health programs, including the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act Reauthorization. This provision would authorize suicide-prevention centers to provide information and training for suicide prevention, surveillance and intervention strategies for all ages, particularly among groups at high risk for suicide. It would also reauthorize Youth Suicide Early Intervention and Prevention Strategies grants to states as well as the Mental Health and Substance Use

Disorder Services on Campuses grant program.

It reauthorizes grants to states, counties, Indian tribes and other organizations to train teachers, school employees and emergency services personnel to recognize the signs and symptoms of mental illness, to become familiar with resources in the community for individuals with mental illnesses and to safely mitigate crisis situations involving individuals with mental illness.

The bill reauthorizes the National Child Traumatic Stress Initiative (NCTSI), which supports a national network of child trauma centers, including university, hospital and community-based centers.

Title II also directs the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to educate providers, patients and other stakeholders regarding FDA-approved products to treat opioid pain-relief drug use disorders and calls for a report on such activities. It also encourages the secretary of Health and Human Services to disseminate information and provide technical assistance on evidence-based practices for mental health and substance-use disorders in older adults.

The bill encourages the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to improve the existing National Violent Death Reporting System, which only collects data from 18 states.

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Quick Takes

Counties with Largest Estimated Population* (April 2010 – July 2012)

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| 1 – Los Angeles County, Calif. | 9,962,789 |
| 2 – Cook County, Ill. | 5,231,351 |
| 3 – Harris County, Texas | 4,253,700 |
| 4 – Maricopa County, Ariz. | 3,942,169 |
| 5 – San Diego County, Calif. | 3,177,063 |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012
*does not include city-county consolidations

By PAUL BEDDOE
ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

Modest behavioral health legislation was passed out of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee by voice vote April 10, but without the NACo-supported Excellence in Mental Health Act (S. 264) sponsored by Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.), which would have set standards for federal certification of community behavioral health centers and provided Medicaid reimbursement for some services in certified centers.

It was dropped from the Mental Health Awareness and Improvement

Why Counties Matter



NACo recently produced Why Counties Matter to show how **COUNTY GOVERNMENTS PLAY A KEY ROLE IN AMERICA'S SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT.**

National County Government Month provides a great time to let your residents know about the responsibilities of counties. **DOWNLOAD PRINT-READY INFOGRAPHICS** from the NACo website and share them with community groups, schools and business leaders.



Use the printed piece to talk about the national role of counties, then get into the specifics of what your county does. Take this opportunity and spread the word and show **Why Counties Matter!**

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NACo *National Association of Counties*
The Voice of America's Counties

Counties build healthy, safe,
vibrant and resilient communities

SHINE's glow extends beyond Oklahoma County

By CHARLES TAYLOR
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Oklahoma County's SHINE Program is turning out to be the gift that keeps on giving. SHINE stands for Start Helping Impacted Neighborhoods Everywhere, and it began in the county in 2010 as a program to divert non-violent offenders to community service instead of jail.

Later, it was expanded to include a public service program that provides recognition for graduating students — SHINE for Students — and it has spurred two pieces of state legislation. One passed in 2012 helps to fund programs like SHINE in the state's counties; the other, passed this year, allows judges to sentence unemployed child support scofflaws to perform some form community service. That makes three offshoots of the program.

County Commissioner Brian Maughan has been its chief proponent and cheerleader. He said the program has reduced jail headcounts by up to 80 inmates per day, saving the county more than \$1 million annually.

SHINE has been recognized as one of 111 Bright Ideas in government by the Ash Center for Democratic Governance at Harvard University.

"We specialize in what I call problems that were decades in the making," Maughan said. "That's really our niche. We don't tend to do a lot of maintenance or routine patrolling of sites. We really go in and work on areas that people have just identified for years [as] gnarly and hairy and grown over."

SHINE offers low-level offenders the opportunity to perform community service and work on

structured crews to clean up litter, remove graffiti, clear brush, clean up illegal dumps, and perform tasks such as setting up and tearing down seating for community events. Crews range from 20 to 40 offenders each weekday, Maughan said, including those arrested for crimes such as shoplifting and intoxicated driving. Projects they've worked on include cleaning up a site where some 2,200 tires were illegally dumped.

Robert Ravitz, Oklahoma County's chief public defender said he originally took the idea to Maughan almost three years ago, and the commissioner "took the ball and ran with it," making it into much more than Ravitz ever envisioned.

Recently, Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin (R) signed legislation authorizing courts to require parents who owe child support and are "willingly unemployed" to work two eight-hour days per week in community service programs such as SHINE. It goes into effect later this year. "We are ready and eager to start enrolling any parent sentenced by the judges in SHINE as a way to encourage them to get to work and live up to their responsibilities," Maughan said.

Last year, the legislature passed another law inspired by the program. In 2012, Maughan said, state lawmakers passed a bill that will assure funding for SHINE and programs like it. The Safari McDoulett Community Service Act allows judges to add a fine of \$25 to \$250 to the sentences of convicted felons — to be used to fund personnel to supervise community service crews.

McDoulett, who was killed in a car accident last year, worked with



Photo courtesy of Oklahoma County, Okla.

Brian Maughan, Oklahoma County, Okla. commissioner, surveys a site to be cleaned up by non-violent offenders in the SHINE jail-diversion program.

Maughan to expand the SHINE Program into the schools. That program continues to flourish.

"Anybody who gives 100 hours of voluntary community service before they graduate either high school or college gets a distinguished graduate cord and a certificate from me," Maughan said. In the program's first eight months, students completed more than 100,000 hours of community service. It took the jail-diversion program 18 months to rack up as many hours. "So the students really became the rock stars of the entire program," he said.

Ravitz said programs that provide alternatives to incarceration are beneficial to offenders and to society. "Offenders that do the work for SHINE get a sense of pride in the community," he said, and the program provides judges and prosecutors with an additional tool in the administration of justice.

For counties interested in starting a similar program, Maughan said he's willing to share. "We have all of the documents; no sense in anybody having to reinvent the wheel."

He also offered this advice: "I would implore them to review an option like this in their county. It just costs so much money to incarcerate these individuals where they're not being productive. Now we're saving money by not incarcerating them and forcing them to be productive. So it's a win-win scenario."

Profiles in Service



» Patty O'Connor

NACo Board Member
Taxpayer Services Director
Blue Earth County, Minn.

Years affiliated with NACo: 20

Years in public service: 35

Occupation: taxpayer services director

Education: South Central Technical College

The hardest thing I've ever done: raised two sons

Three people (living or dead) I'd invite to dinner: Colleen Landkamer, Hillary Clinton and Gen. Wilma Vaught

A dream I have is to: spend my winters in Hawaii.

You'd be surprised to learn that: my ancestors were one of the first families to settle in Mankato, Minn.

The most adventurous thing I've ever done is: I went zip-lining, despite my fear of heights.

My favorite way to relax is: enjoying the 3 B's; books, beach and beer.

I'm most proud of: my family and my staff.

Every morning I read: *The Mankato Free Press* and emails.

My favorite meal is: any Sunday dinner.

My pet peeve is: people who whine.

My motto is: "Work hard but have fun!"

The last book I read was: *Who Moved My Cheese?*

My favorite movie is: *Lady Sings the Blues*.

My favorite music is: anything that you can dance to.

My favorite president is: Bill Clinton.

How SHINE Works

SHINE participants can be sentenced by Oklahoma County judges to perform as comparatively few as 40 hours of community service up to 2,000 hours, according to Myles Davidson, a county special projects coordinator.

SHINE supervisors know weeks in advance which projects will be undertaken — whether removing graffiti, setting up for county events or clearing overgrown areas. Davidson said many projects are suggested by schools, neighborhoods, residents and elected officials.

Each morning, those sentenced to community service gather near a local fast-food restaurant adjacent to two bus stops, to make it easier for those who depend on public transportation. The workers are told that day of what they'll be doing.

"We inform them to wear appropriate clothing and bring gloves," Davidson said in an email. "We provide other necessary safety equipment that may be needed according to the job."

Two 15-passenger vans transport crews to worksites, with one supervisor for about every 15 workers.

Immigration bill addresses security, opportunity, modernization

IMMIGRATION from page 1

In a move of interest to local and state governments, it calls for reauthorization of the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP), but the outline is silent on funding. The Obama Administration proposed eliminating SCAAP in its FY14 budget proposal.

The bill also includes funding for the purchase of radios for federal state, and local law enforcement agents and reimbursement for state, county, trial and municipal government costs associated with prosecution and pre-trial detention.

Employment Verification

The bill mandates use of the E-Verify system phased in over a five-year period. The compliance schedule is based on the number of employees, with larger employers being required to implement the system first. The outline seems to treat the public sector the same as the private sector and also seems to apply only to prospective employees. Some E-Verify bills in previous Congresses would have mandated the public sector to implement the program faster than the private sector and to apply the program to existing employees.

The legislation would also implement a photo-matching program that would be stored in the E-Verify system. Documents to be used would include biometric work authorization cards, biometric green cards, passports and driver's licenses if the state agrees to submit a photo to E-Verify. There would be a \$250 million reimbursement program for those departments of motor vehicles that agree to give access to driver's license information.

Path to Citizenship

There are multiple steps and requirements for the path to citizenship for the estimated 11 million unauthorized individuals. The process is expected to take a minimum of 13 years.

Registered Provisional Immigrant (RPI) Status

Individuals who have been in the U.S. since before Dec. 31, 2011 can apply for new Registered Provisional Immigrant (RPI) status. They must pay a \$500 penalty and other fees required to process the application and back taxes. Spouses and children or the principal RPI applicant can be included, but they must be present in the U.S. at the time. Individuals who have been granted Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals are eligible for RPI status.

RPI status lasts for six years and can be extended absent any reason

that would render individuals deportable. They would have to pay an additional \$500 at this time.

RPI immigrants would be unable to access means-tested programs other than emergency Medicaid, would be ineligible for the subsidies under the Affordable Care Act and could not buy into the insurance exchanges. They would be required, however, to purchase health insurance.

Adjusting to Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR) Status

After 10 years with RPI status, they will be able to progress to Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR) Status. At this time, they will need to show that they have paid all their taxes, have worked regularly or attended school full time, can demonstrate knowledge of civics and English and pay an additional \$1,000. The five-year waiting bar for means-tested programs will still apply.

They will not be granted lawful residence until the secretary of homeland security certifies that family-based and family visas are available for those who filed before the date of enactment. This is known as the "back-of-the line provision." Three years after they obtain legal permanent residency, they may apply for citizenship.

Additionally, RPI individuals cannot move to LPR status until the secretary of homeland security submits written certification to Congress that the Comprehensive Border Security Strategy is substantially operational; the Southern Border Fencing Strategy is substantially completed; the mandatory employment strategy is implemented; and the secretary is using an electronic exit system at air and sea ports designed to prevent visa overstay.

Exemptions

People who have DREAM Act status and eligible agricultural workers have a faster path to becoming citizens. They can get LPR status in five years. DREAM Act individuals do not have to pay any fees and would be eligible for citizenship immediately after they acquire LPR status. Undocumented agricultural workers who have "made a substantial prior commitment to agricultural work in the U.S." would be eligible for an agricultural card. They would have to show they have paid taxes and have not committed serious crimes, but their fine would be \$400 instead of \$500. Spouses and minor children would also be eligible.

Legal Immigration Reform

The current family preference system would move from four categories to two, would eliminate

the adult siblings category, and limit the married sons and daughters of citizens category to those under the age of 31.

The new merit-based visa system would come into effect five years after enactment and would award points based on education, length of residence, employment and other unspecified factors.

On the employment side, the legislation increases the percentage of visas for skilled workers to 40 percent, allocates 40 percent for individuals with advanced degrees and those who have master's degrees in science, technology, engineering or mathematics from a U.S. institution and excludes several categories from numerical limits.

The bill also includes provisions exempting physicians who practice in underserved areas from the employment visa numerical cap.

Temporary Visas

The base cap for the H-1B visa

program, which some hospitals use for doctors, would increase from 65,000 to 110,000. The cap could go as high as 180,000 but the most it can increase or decrease each year would be 10,000.

The H-1C category for nurses working in medically underserved areas, which expired in 2009, is reinstated. The Jobs Originated Through Launching Travel (JOLT) provision, which streamlines the tourist visa program in order to increase tourism is also included in the measure.

New Visa Programs

The W-Visa program for lower-skilled workers that was negotiated by the Chamber of Commerce and the AFL-CIO is included in the bill. Lower-skilled workers are individuals whose jobs don't require a bachelor's degree.

The W-Visas have a three-year limit, but could be extended. Spouses and minor children would

also be allowed into the country. There would be a cap on the number of visas, starting at 20,000 and increasing to 75,000 by the fourth year.

At that point, the number would be determined based on economic factors. The H-2A agricultural worker program would be replaced by a new agricultural guest worker system that would include a portable, at-will employment based visa (W-3) and a contract-based visa (W-2).

Education Provisions

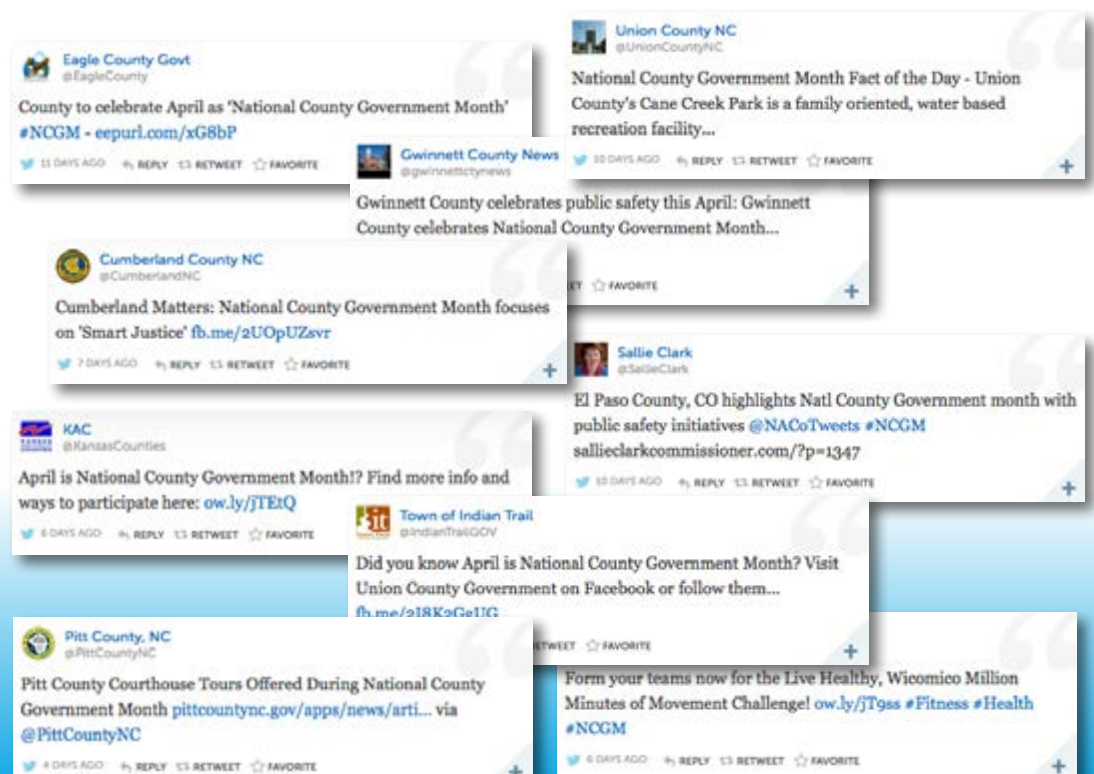
Local and state governments are eligible for a new, albeit small, competitive grant program for integration services, including English language skills and civics classes. There is a new program funded by the fees paid by employers who hire foreign science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) workers, which will be used to provide scholarships to U.S. STEM students and improve STEM education.

If the last thing you followed was the Yellow Brick Road, you need to pick up your pace!

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@NACotweets

Counties twitter about National County Government Month Social Media highlights from #NCGM on Twitter...



Learn more about NACo's social media, contact Matt Fellows at mfellows@naco.org or 202.942.4205.

Court weighs EPA's biomass exceptions rule

By JULIE UFFNER

ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District Circuit heard oral arguments in the *Center for Biological Diversity v. EPA* (D.C. Cir., No. 11-1101) on U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) authority to exempt biomass emissions from greenhouse gas (GHG) pollution requirements April 8. The case is based on a 2011 EPA decision to exempt biomass emissions from carbon dioxide (CO₂) air quality standards for three years.

The 2011 rule exempted facili-

ties that burn biomass and other sites that allow decomposition, such as landfills, manure processes on wastewater treatment, from Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) and Title V permitting requirements. The rule exempted "all types of wood and wood waste, forest residue, agricultural material, solid waste or biosolids, etc." until July 2014 to give EPA time to work out several technical issues to ensure any future rule is workable and sound.

However, the Center for Biological Diversity, along with several

other environmental organizations, challenged the 2011 rule. They argued the rule is counter to other agency rules on GHG and asked the court to overturn EPA's 2011 decision.

The debate centers on the impacts of biomass impact on GHG. The Center for Biological Diversity argues that, counter to traditional thinking, research shows burning biomass can actually increase CO₂ air pollution. Additionally, it argues EPA's 2010 rule on GHG emissions laid the groundwork for regulation and exempting biomass runs counter

to the 2010 rule.

The PSD program applies to preconstruction review and permitting for new and existing "major" stationary sources. Title V permits set the parameters for operation and include standards to ensure compliance with Clean Air Act (CAA) requirements.

Biomass is generally considered a renewable energy source since it is biological in nature, created from living organisms. Biomass can include wood (wood chips, saw dust), agricultural crops, landfill gas or alcohol fuels like ethanol, etc. There are numerous types

of processes — direct combustion, combined heat and power, gasification, anaerobic digestion, for example — to create energy through biomass. Concerns have been raised over balancing biomass production for energy, food crops and water supplies.

NACo supports the permanent exemption of emissions from renewable biomass combustion from the EPA's "Greenhouse Gas Tailoring Rule" and supports policy that recognizes the full carbon benefits of biomass combustion for energy consistent with established and well-supported science.

CDBG, SCAAP funding threatened; PILT program could see increase

FY14 BUDGET from page 1

Build America Bonds program that expired at the end of 2010, the AFF program would provide state and local governments that issue conventional taxable bonds with a subsidy payment equivalent to 28 percent of the interest on the bonds. The AFF bonds could be used for purposes currently eligible for tax-exempt bonds starting in 2014.

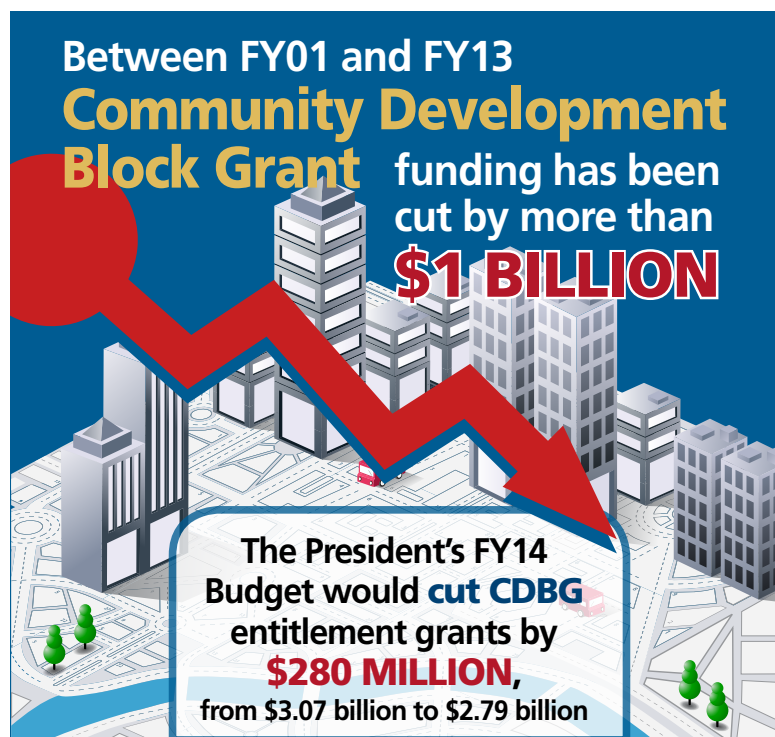
If AFF bonds are issued in 2014 and 2015 for school construction and new capital projects for 501(c)(3) nonprofit educational entities, issuers would receive a 50 percent subsidy payment. The AFF proposal does not address reduced subsidy payments due to sequestration, which is currently confronting Build America Bond issuers.

Community Development Block Grant – On the Chopping Block

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) budget proposes cutting Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) formula grants by \$280 million, from \$3.07 billion in FY13 to \$2.79 billion under the president's FY14 proposal. This is 37 percent below FY10, 17 percent below FY11 and 28 percent below FY12. It does, however, propose retaining the 20 percent for administrative costs. Additionally the budget proposes statutory changes to establish a minimum grant threshold for CDBG and eliminates the community-grandfathering provision for entitlement communities.

Who Needs SCAAP?

The Department of Justice budget proposes eliminating funding for the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP).



In FY13, SCAAP provided \$220 million (pre-sequestration) to help offset costs incurred by counties for jailing undocumented immigrants.

Public Lands County Payments Targeted for Reauthorization

The president's FY14 budget for the Department of the Interior proposes legislation to extend mandatory funding for the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program at \$410 million, an increase of \$8.8 million from the FY13 level. The budget also proposes an independent public evaluation of PILT to review the program, in both concept and practice, with the goal of developing options to put the program on a sustainable long-term funding path.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) budget proposes a five-year reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (SRS), starting in

FY13, with mandatory funding. The FY14 payment is proposed at \$278 million, a reduction of \$68 million from FY12 levels. The USDA Forest Service has recently announced that funds already distributed under the most recent SRS extension or payments based on revenue generated in FY12 are subject to the FY13 sequester, and the agency will be requesting repayment of \$17.9 million in SRS and "25 percent fund" payments that have already been disbursed. The National Governors Association, NACo and more than 50 members of Congress are pushing back against the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and USDA over the legal authority of applying the sequestration cuts to FY12 SRS payments.

Water Loans Levels Drop Some More

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) receives \$8.15 billion



under the president's FY14 budget numbers. This is a decrease of \$348.1 million over FY13.

In what's becoming a bad habit, the Clean Water State Revolving Funds (CWSRF) and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (DWSRF) continue to decrease under the proposal. For FY14, the budget proposes \$1.1 billion for CWSRF and \$817 million for DWSRF. This is a decrease of \$300 million and \$56 million for each program, respectively. SRF programs provide water grants to eligible communities based on state water priority projects. In the proposal, EPA stressed its increased focus on funding small, underserved communities for SRF funds.

Medicaid Mostly Spared

As predictable controversies swirl around the president's proposals to slow the growth of Social Security and Medicare, cuts to Medicaid appear to be off the table. The budget documents for the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) emphasize

a commitment to implementing the Affordable Care Act (ACA) fully in 2014, including the expansion of Medicaid to non-elderly, childless adults with incomes below 133 percent of the federal poverty level. Keeping Medicaid stable may reassure skeptical states that the Medicaid expansion is not a "bait and switch."

The budget does propose a few modest legislative proposals to trim the program, which would result in just over \$22 million in savings. These include extending the ACA's cuts to Medicaid disproportionate hospital share (DSH) payments into FY13. This is now a routine adjustment that prevents DSH payments from jumping back to pre-ACA levels at the end of the 10-year budget window, yielding a few billion dollars compared to current law.

The budget also asks Congress to delay the DSH cuts scheduled for 2014 to help states and county hospitals adjust to ACA implementation. The proposal calls for spreading the cuts out over 2016 and 2017 to maintain budget neutrality.

Transportation on Track

The budget proposes a total of \$76.6 billion in discretionary and mandatory funding for U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), an increase of 5.5 percent or \$4 billion above FY12. Highway funding is consistent with the authorization levels contained in MAP-21 (the federal surface transportation act) with a \$40.1 billion obligation level. Transit funding reflects the \$10.9 billion authorization level contained in MAP-21: \$8.59 billion for formula grants and \$1.98 billion for capital grants.

See FY14 BUDGET page 13

Public lands champion Dale Sowards dies

Former WIR president was 'instrumental' in passage of Payment In Lieu of Taxes Program

By CHARLES TAYLOR
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Thirty-seven years after its enactment in 1976, Payment In Lieu of Taxes — threatened though it frequently is — continues to be a valued asset for Western counties that contain millions of acres of tax-exempt federal land.

Within the NACo “family” and beyond, much of the credit for the PILT program owes to the advocacy of Dale N. Sowards, a former Conejos County, Colo. commissioner, who lobbied tirelessly for the legislation — on behalf of NACo and Colorado Counties, Inc. (CCI), the state’s association of counties.

Sowards, 95, died on March 29 in his home in Manassa, Colo. He is survived by two adult children, a brother, 10 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

“He was instrumental when PILT legislation was first passed by Congress during the Ford Administration and was a real leader in the public lands movement,” said Larry Naake, former NACo executive director who handled Western state issues during his early years with NACo.

Speaking at a U.S. Senate committee field hearing in Salt Lake City in 1975, on behalf of CCI, Sowards said the association “continues to support legislation which will provide for payments directly to counties and permit counties to use such funds received for any public purposes.”

John “Chip” Taylor, executive director of CCI, said, “Western state county commissioners, PILT county commissioners, and county commissioners who appreciate the benefits of strong state and national



Dale N. Sowards
1917 – 2013

associations all are benefitting from his example and from his legacy of service. He will be sorely missed.”

Taylor said Sowards was also “an instrumental player” in the formation of NACo’s Western Interstate Region (WIR), which represents the interests of 15 Western states with substantial amounts of federal public land holdings. Sowards served as its president in 1976, the first Colorado commissioner to do so. That same year, CCI named him Most Outstanding Colorado Commissioner.

Annually, WIR presents its Dale Sowards Award to recognize an individual who has demonstrated outstanding service to public lands counties, and to draw attention to their accomplishments and the public policies they represent.

Bob Bagwell succeeded Sowards on the Conejos County Commission and had known Sowards “all his life.” “Our county is about 66 percent federal and state owned, and without that payment in lieu of taxes, I don’t think we could continue to operate,”

he said. “Without that, we would be in a world of hurt.” The southern Colorado county, population, 8,200, borders New Mexico and its Rio Arriba County in the San Luis Valley.

During Sowards’ 24 years as a county commissioner, he was active in CCI, NACo and WIR. He served two terms as CCI’s president, 1974–76, and again in 1986. With NACo, he was a member of the then-Taxation and Finance Committee. He also served as chairman of the NACo Public Lands Committee’s wilderness subcommittee; in that role, he testified before the House Interior Subcommittee on Public Lands, seeking a compromise between groups who were against wilderness designation.

Another person who worked closely with Sowards in Colorado,

Bertha Montoya, called him “a very sensitive, caring person. He did a lot of things without grandstanding.” Montoya worked for Conejos County for 20 years, 16 of them for the County Board and with Sowards.

Montoya, who now lives in Denver, said she last saw him about five years ago. “At age 90 he had just had his driver’s license reissued for another five years.”

Sowards was born May 17, 1917 in Manassa. He later graduated from Colorado State University with a degree in forest and range management, followed by five years employed by the U.S. Forest Service. For nine years, he taught in Adams State College’s farm training program, where he saw to it that a group of disabled veterans were allowed to complete the program that was being phased out.

Prior to his election to the Conejos County Board of Commissioners, Sowards served on the Manassa school and town boards.

Bagwell described Sowards as “easy going.” “He loved ranching and running cattle in the mountains and stuff like that.” Bagwell said Sowards played a key role, while with the Forest Service, in introducing elk into the area, which has proved to be a boon for hunters.

One of Sowards’ proudest accomplishments as a county commissioner, Bagwell added, was the rebuilding of the county courthouse, which was destroyed in a suspected arson fire.

“He was chairman at that time, and they built a new courthouse and had it paid for in about a year,” Bagwell said — and PILT money helped fund the construction.

South Dakota strives to keep attorneys in rural counties

By CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON
EDITORIAL ASSISTANT



Small law practices in rural counties are becoming extinct with just 2 percent operating in rural areas where nearly a fifth of the country lives.

The shortage of lawyers in rural South Dakota was a big enough problem that the American Bar Association asked federal, state and local governments to do something to entice lawyers to work in rural areas.

South Dakota First in Line

Gov. Dennis Daugaard (R) signed the Rural Attorney Recruitment bill into law March 21, setting up a pilot program that will give graduating lawyers an annual subsidy to live and work outside of the state’s biggest cities as long as they make a five-year commitment. It’s being compared to similar programs that attract doctors, nurses and dentists to certain areas.

“This will help fill a very big void in these counties,” said Bob Wilcox, executive director, South Dakota Association of County Commissioners.

Currently, 65 percent of South Dakota attorneys are located in Minnehaha, Pennington, Hughes, and Brown counties. The law, which is the first of its kind in the nation, establishes a pilot program that has the participation of 16 lawyers.

The qualifying attorneys of the

University of South Dakota School of Law will receive an annual subsidy of \$12,000 a year if they are willing to practice in rural counties. The rural counties will pay 35 percent (\$4,200) of the incentive payment, the State Bar of South Dakota pays 15 percent (\$1,800) and the state will pick up the remainder (\$6,000). If an attorney breaks this contract, they have to repay the subsidy in full or face action by the state bar. The program begins in June.

The Long, Winding Road

In 2001, David Gilbertson became chief justice of the South Dakota Supreme Court. Shortly after settling in to the job, he decided to visit all 66 counties in the state to get a feel of how the judicial system was doing. As he went through 22 rural counties, he noticed a lot of the attorneys retiring or dying with no one left to replace them.

In his 2006 chief judiciary address, he mentioned the growing problem of rural attorneys disappearing and how residents and counties had to reach out hundreds of miles for legal help. It wasn’t until seven years later that the state Senate heard his call for action.

“Educating everyone in terms of the growing problem was the main reason it took so long,” Gilbertson said. “The good news is that it has become law and will start to help rural counties bridge the gap.”

National Trend

Legal deserts are not just confined to South Dakota.

In Georgia, the situation is worse. Nearly 70 percent of the state’s lawyers practice in the metropolitan Atlanta area, while 67 percent of poor Georgians live outside the metro area, according to AJC.com.

In Arizona, 94 percent of the state’s lawyers are in two of the largest counties — Maricopa and Pima, home of Phoenix and Tucson. Most of the young lawyers would start out in a rural county to gain their footing then leave. Texas has seen 83 percent of its attorneys work in the Houston, Dallas, Austin or San Antonio metropolitan areas.

Last year, the Iowa State Bar Association began encouraging law students to spend summers in rural areas in the hope they might put down roots. They have been watching the South Dakota program as a model that might be replicated.

“Anyone in a rural county is seeing this problem,” said Linda Langston, Linn County, Iowa supervisor and NACo first vice president. “The best thing we can do is come up with a solution before it gets much worse.”

**For more information on the South Dakota Rural Attorney Recruitment Bill, see this article online at www.naco.org/countynews.*

In Case You Missed It

News to use from past County News

» OSHA launches safety campaign to prevent falls

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health and CPWR – The Center for Construction Research and Training are launching the second year of a construction fall prevention campaign April 28.

Posters, fact sheets and other materials can be found on www.cdc.gov/niosh/construction/stopfalls.html.

» New NACo research blog: Timely analysis of issues of interest to counties

NACo’s Research Division has launched a new blog. County Research Connections will explore issues of interest to counties such as employee retirement policies, the effect of sequestration on agricultural products data and adult basic education.

Visit the blog at www.naco.org/research/CRC.

Crunching the budget numbers

President’s proposed FY14 vs. actual FY13

| Figures in millions | FY13 Budget | FY14 President’s Proposed Budget | Comparison |
|--|-------------|----------------------------------|------------|
| ► U.S. Department of Agriculture * | | | |
| USDA Rural Development Budget Authority | 2,080.96 | 2,289.00 | 208.04 |
| Total Operational Costs and Salaries and Expenses | 604.76 | 662.00 | 57.24 |
| ► USDA Rural Utilities Service | | | |
| Rural Water and Waste Disposal Program | | | |
| Water and Waste Disposal Program (Direct Loans) | 1,000.00 | 1,200.00 | 200.00 |
| Water and Waste Disposal Program (Guaranteed Loans) | 61.32 | 0.00 | -61.32 |
| Water and Waste Disposal Program (Grants) | 396.51 | 304.00 | -92.51 |
| Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grants | 23.08 | 25.00 | 1.92 |
| Broadband Direct Loans | 31.00 | 63.00 | 32.00 |
| Broadband Direct Loan (Subsidy) | 3.70 | 8.00 | 4.30 |
| Broadband Grants | 9.59 | 10.00 | 0.41 |
| ► USDA Rural Housing Service | | | |
| Section 502 - Single Family Housing Direct Loan (Program Level) | 900.00 | 360.00 | -540.00 |
| Section 502 - Single Family Housing Direct Loan (Subsidy) | 49.69 | 10.00 | -39.69 |
| Section 502 - Single Family Unsubsidized Loan Guarantees (Program Level) | 24,000.00 | 24,000.00 | 0.00 |
| Section 521 - Rental Assistance Program Grants | 838.97 | 1,015.00 | 176.03 |
| Rural Community Facilities Programs | | | |
| Community Facility Program (Direct Loans) | 2,200.00 | 1,500.00 | -700.00 |
| Community Facility Program (Guaranteed Loans) | 57.48 | 0.00 | -57.48 |
| Community Facility Program (Grants) | 12.02 | 13.00 | 0.98 |
| ► USDA Rural Business-Cooperative Service | | | |
| Intermediary Relending Program (Rural Development Loan Fund) (Program Level) | 18.89 | 19.00 | 0.11 |
| Intermediary Relending Program (Subsidy) | 5.55 | 4.00 | -1.55 |
| Business and Industry Guaranteed Loans | 741.00 | 741.00 | 0.00 |
| Business and Industry Loans (Subsidy) | 52.10 | 52.00 | -0.10 |
| Value-added Ag Product Market Grants (Discretionary) | 13.87 | 15.00 | 1.13 |
| Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program (Sec. 6022) (Program Level for Loans) | 0.00 | 22.00 | 22.00 |
| ► Food and Nutrition Service | | | |
| Supplemental Women, Infants and Children Feeding Program | 7,046.00 | 7,100.00 | 54.00 |
| ► Department of Commerce | | | |
| Economic Development Administration | 221.00 | 320.90 | 99.90 |
| Economic Development Assistance Programs | 185.50 | 282.00 | 96.50 |
| Salaries and Expenses | 37.50 | 38.91 | 1.41 |
| ► Department of Education * | | | |
| Grants to Local Education Agencies (Title I) | 13,770.00 | 14,516.00 | 746.00 |
| Grants to States for Special Education | 10,488.00 | 11,578.00 | 1,090.00 |
| Adult and Career Education | 1,066.00 | 1,123.00 | 57.00 |
| ► Environmental Protection Agency ** | | | |
| Clean Water State Revolving Loan Funds | 1,395.00 | 1,095.00 | -300.00 |
| Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Funds | 873.00 | 817.00 | -56.00 |
| Brownfields Infrastructure Projects | 89.85 | 85.00 | -4.85 |
| Nonpoint Source (Sec. 319) | 168.73 | 164.49 | -4.24 |
| State and Local Air Quality Management | 231.35 | 257.23 | 25.88 |
| Water Pollution Control Grants | 233.97 | 258.66 | 24.69 |
| ► Department of Health and Human Services * | | | |
| Administration for Children & Families | | | |
| Community Services Block Grant | 642.00 | 350.00 | -312.00 |
| Social Services Block Grant (basic grants) | 1,611.60 | 1,700.00 | 88.40 |
| Head Start | 7,570.00 | 9,621.00 | 2,051.00 |
| Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program | 3,298.00 | 3,020.00 | -278.00 |
| Child Care and Development Block Grant (Appropriations) | 2,164.00 | 2,478.00 | 314.00 |
| Refugee Assistance | 729.00 | 1,123.00 | 394.00 |
| Administration for Community Living (Formerly Admin. on Aging) | | | |
| Community-Based Supportive Services | 349.00 | 366.92 | 17.92 |
| Nutrition Services (Congregate Nutrition / Meals Services) | 417.00 | 440.00 | 23.00 |
| Nutrition Services (Home Delivered Meals) | 206.00 | 217.00 | 11.00 |

BUDGET TABLE *from page 8*

| | FY13 Budget | FY14 President's Proposed Budget | Comparison |
|--|-----------------|----------------------------------|---------------|
| Family Caregiver Support Services | 146.00 | 154.00 | 8.00 |
| Centers for Disease Control and Prevention | | | |
| Immunization and Respiratory Disease | 740.00 | 754.00 | 14.00 |
| HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STDs and TB Prevention | 1,056.00 | 1,177.00 | 121.00 |
| Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion | 718.00 | 620.00 | -98.00 |
| Environmental Health | 100.00 | 126.00 | 26.00 |
| Injury Prevention and Control | 131.00 | 182.00 | 51.00 |
| Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant | 76.00 | 0.00 | -76.00 |
| State and Local Preparedness and Response Capability | 624.00 | 658.00 | 34.00 |
| Health Resources and Services Administration | | | |
| Community Health Centers | 1,489.00 | 1,567.00 | 78.00 |
| Community Health Centers (ACA mandatory) | 1,500.00 | 2,200.00 | 700.00 |
| National Health Service Corps | 280.00 | 305.00 | 25.00 |
| Primary Care Training and Enhancement | 37.00 | 51.00 | 14.00 |
| Public Health Workforce Development | 8.00 | 8.00 | 0.00 |
| Public Health Workforce Development (Prevention Fund mandatory) | 24.00 | 0.00 | -24.00 |
| Nursing Workforce Development | 219.00 | 251.00 | 32.00 |
| Maternal and Child Health Block Grant | 607.00 | 639.00 | 32.00 |
| Healthy Start | 99.00 | 104.00 | 5.00 |
| Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program | | | |
| Emergency Relief - Part A | 633.00 | 666.00 | 33.00 |
| Comprehensive Care - Part B | 1,321.00 | 1,371.00 | 50.00 |
| Early Intervention - Part C | 204.00 | 225.00 | 21.00 |
| Children, Youth, Women and Families - Part D | 73.00 | 77.00 | 4.00 |
| Education and Training Centers - Part F | 33.00 | 35.00 | 2.00 |
| Dental Services - Part F | 12.00 | 13.00 | 1.00 |
| Rural Health Outreach Grants | 53.00 | 56.00 | 3.00 |
| Rural Hospital Flexibility Grants | 39.00 | 26.00 | -13.00 |
| National Institutes of Health | | | |
| National Institute of Mental Health | 1,405.00 | 1,466.00 | 61.00 |
| National Institute on Drug Abuse | 999.00 | 1,072.00 | 73.00 |
| National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Drug Alcoholism | 436.00 | 464.00 | 28.00 |
| National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities | 262.00 | 283.00 | 21.00 |
| Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration | 3,303.00 | 3,514.00 | 211.00 |
| Community Mental Health Services Block Grant | 437.00 | 460.00 | 23.00 |
| Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant | 1,710.00 | 1,820.00 | 110.00 |
| ► Department of Homeland Security ** | | | |
| State and Local Grants | 1,270.01 | 2,123.00 | 852.99 |
| National Preparedness Grant Program Consolidation | 0.00 | 1,043.20 | 1,043.20 |
| State and Local Formula Grants (SHSGP) | 346.60 | 0.00 | -346.60 |
| Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) | 500.37 | 0.00 | -500.37 |
| Emergency Management Performance Grants | 352.00 | 350.00 | -2.00 |
| Firefighters Assistance Grants | 679.13 | 670.00 | -9.13 |
| Disaster Relief | 7,080.14 | 6,196.91 | -883.23 |
| Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grants | 35.72 | 0.00 | -35.72 |
| Flood Map Modernization Fund | 149.00 | 154.30 | 5.30 |
| ► Department of Housing and Urban Development ** | | | |
| Community Development Block Grant | 3,070.00 | 2,790.00 | -280.00 |
| HOME Investment Partnership Program | 1,006.00 | 950.00 | -56.00 |
| Homeless Assistance Grants | 1,910.00 | 2,380.00 | 470.00 |
| ► Department of the Interior ** | | | |
| Payment in Lieu of Taxes (mandatory) | 401.20 | 410.00 | 8.80 |
| Land and Water Conservation Fund | 264.00 | 423.00 | 159.00 |
| Geothermal Lease Revenues, Payments to Counties | 4.08 | 0.00 | -4.08 |
| U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Refuge Revenue Sharing Program | 13.96 | 0.00 | -13.96 |
| ► Department of Justice ** | | | |
| State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance | 1,168.00 | 1,005.00 | -163.00 |
| Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grants Discretionary | 339.00 | 395.00 | 56.00 |
| State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) | 220.00 | 0.00 | -220.00 |
| Second Chance Act Programs & Research | 58.00 | 119.00 | 61.00 |
| Mentally Ill Offender Act Program *** | 8.00 | 0.00 | -8.00 |
| Drug Courts *** | 33.00 | 32.00 | |
| Prison Rape Prevention and Prosecution Program | 12.00 | 10.00 | -2.00 |

See BUDGET TABLE page 10

BUDGET TABLE from page 9

| | FY13 Budget | FY14 President's Proposed Budget | Comparison |
|---|-------------|----------------------------------|------------|
| Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) | 187.00 | 440.00 | 253.00 |
| Hiring | 122.00 | 257.00 | 135.00 |
| Juvenile Justice Programs | 264.00 | 332.50 | 68.50 |
| JJDP Title V Delinquency Prevention | 18.00 | 56.00 | 38.00 |
| Juvenile Accountability Block Grant | 28.00 | 30.00 | 2.00 |
| Violence Against Women Programs | 415.00 | 412.50 | -2.50 |
| ► Department of Labor ** | | | |
| Employment and Training Administration | 3,115.14 | 3,387.40 | 272.26 |
| WIA Adult Employment and Training | 770.17 | 791.64 | 21.47 |
| WIA Dislocated Worker Employment and Training | 1,009.05 | 1,045.49 | 36.44 |
| WIA Youth Employment and Training | 829.39 | 846.63 | 17.24 |
| Dislocated Workers Assistance National Reserve | 236.00 | 220.85 | -15.20 |
| Job Corps | 1,625.00 | 1,691.92 | 66.92 |
| Veterans Employment and Training | 264.43 | 300.51 | 36.08 |
| ► Department of Transportation* | | | |
| Federal Aviation Administration | | | |
| Airport Improvement Grants (Grants-In-Aid to Airports) | 3,343.00 | 2,900.00 | -443.00 |
| Essential Air Service | 183.00 | 246.00 | 63.00 |
| Small Community Air Service Development Program (under OST) | 6.00 | 0.00 | -6.00 |
| Federal Transit Administration | | | |
| Formula/Bus Grants | 8,478.00 | 8,595.00 | 117.00 |
| FTA Capital Investment Grants (New Start and Small Starts) | 1,856.00 | 1,982.00 | 126.00 |
| Federal Highway Administration | | | |
| Federal-Aid Highways | 39,620.00 | 40,256.00 | 636.00 |
| Amtrak | 1,346.00 | 2,700.00 | 1,354.00 |
| TIGER | 474.00 | 500.00 | 26.00 |
| TIFIA | 750.00 | 1,000.00 | 250.00 |

* Reflects Sequester Cuts

** Doesn't reflect sequester cuts

*** These programs would merge with veterans courts

DID YOU KNOW

\$500 MILLION
IN SAVINGS

40 MILLION
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SAVINGS UP TO
75 PERCENT

65 THOUSAND
PHARMACIES

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Wyoming counties help ensure Yellowstone entry roads open on time

PLOWS from page 1

decided to save \$250,000 by letting the sun do what NPS snowplows usually did this time of year, clear snow off the roads.

Snow can be as high as 10 feet in the passes leading into Yellowstone and clearing the roads involves heavy, industrial-sized equipment with rotary plows and blowers that shoot snow hundreds of feet in to the air.

Balyo immediately put the question to Wenk: If each of the gateway communities — there are five — could come up with \$50,000, could something be worked out? Eventually, the proposition morphed into a Cody and Park County, and Jackson Hole and Teton County solution. If they could raise \$100,000 to help with the plowing would the Park Service cooperate?

At stake were the May 3 opening of Yellowstone's east gate and the May 10 opening of its south entrance — one in Park County and one in Teton County. Without plows to clear the roads, the openings would be pushed back two weeks. Last year, 12,000 visitors entered the park at the east gate, during the first two weeks in May, pumping an estimated \$2 million into the economy, Balyo said.

Park County Wyo. Board Chair Loren Grosskopf was in the Capitol Hill office of Sen. John Barrasso (R-Wyo.) when he learned that Yellowstone would open weeks later than usual. In town for NACo's Legislative Conference, Grosskopf was taking advantage of time set aside for conference attendees to visit Capitol Hill and members of their congressional delegation. "As soon as we heard about it, the chambers and mayors, set up a conference call with the [Wyoming] governor's office, Grosskopf said. The governor's office suggested they talk to the park's superintendent. The governor also said the state would not assume responsibility for plowing the roads.

While Wenk, the park superintendent, wouldn't budge on his decision to let the roads go unplowed, he was open to hearing ideas about how the park might open on time.

A series of "fast and furious" phone calls went on during the first two weeks in March as Balyo and local leaders put together a "huge consortium at the table." They arrived at a three-pronged solution: the Park Service would allow outside entities to plow inside the park. "Something," Balyo said, "that had never been allowed before." The state,



Photo by Dan Hottle

Flying the Wyoming state flag, and bearing a Visit Yellowstone banner, WYDOT crews clear Yellowstone's South Entrance Road April 8.

Word Search

St. Louis County, Minn. Facts

Learn more about this featured county in 'What's in a Seal?'

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

- AITKIN (adjacent county)
CARLTON (adjacent county)
DOUGLAS (adjacent county in Wis.)
DULUTH (county seat)
IRON ORE (product of surface mining)
ITASCA (adjacent county)
KOOCHICING (adjacent county)
LAKE (adjacent county)
- LAKE SUPERIOR (connected by St. Louis river)
MINING (major industry in county)
NEWTON (part of county became St. Louis)
VOYAGEURS (national park in county)
- Created by Christopher Johnson

meanwhile, would provide the heavy snow removal equipment and crews, while the private side of the equation would provide the cash, \$100,000.

"We had two weeks to raise the money."

The chamber said it would match dollar-for-dollar any contributions up to \$50,000. Park County immediately kicked in \$10,000. The city of Cody, \$5,000. The fundraising began March 14, Balyo said. By the following Thursday, March 21, they had reached their goal.

On April 1 the plows started. Pulling everyone together was the only doubt Balyo had. "I knew once a solution was in play, I was pretty confident we could raise the money."

The really gratifying part, Grosskopf said, was the collaboration. "For the first time, the federal government — the Park Service — the state government, the city and county government and the chamber, the private sector, got together. Talk about a collaborative effort."

"We wanted to battle the negative

PR that stories about sequestration were giving the national parks, especially those flagship parks like Yellowstone. People would see headlines about Yellowstone's opening being delayed or threats of closing, and they might decide not to visit at all, no matter what season," Balyo said. And that would seriously impact the area's economy. "Yellowstone Park has 3 million-4 million visitors a year. That's a real kick-start to our economy," Grosskopf said.

Seventeen days and one snowstorm later, on April 17, the state plows and the park plows met. The east entrance would open on time.

"The way it unfolded, I'm glad it happened. It turned out fine," Grosskopf commented.

Wyoming's governor thought so too. In a release announcing the meet up of the Park Service and state snowplows at the east entrance, Mead said: "When we thought the federal sequestration was going to shut the public out of Yellowstone and slow down tourism in our gateway communities, Wyoming came together and solved the problem.

"The two crews have had great support in Park and Teton counties. I thank them and everyone in Cody and Jackson who have rallied to make it possible for Wyoming to welcome the world to America's first national park again this spring."

Meanwhile at the south entrance gateway in Teton County the plowing continues, funded in large measure by upfront money from the Jackson Hole Travel and Tourism Board, which promised an up to \$70,000 match to pay for plowing at the south entrance.



Photo by Charlie Ban

(l-r) Kenneth Schmutz, special agent, FBI Omaha Cyber Squad; Gary Blackburn, with USSTRATCOM; John Watters, chairman and CEO of iSight Security; and Chris Boyer, assistant vice president for public policy at AT&T, listen to a question from the audience during a panel discussion "Operating in Today's Cyber Environment: What is the Threat?" at the inaugural NACo National Cyber Symposium in Douglas County, Neb. April 18. Watch for a full report in the May 6 County News.

Model Programs

From the Nation's Counties

Colleton County, S.C.

Museum-Farmer's Market Combo Works Out for Both

By CHARLIE BAN
STAFF WRITER

By combining its museum with a growing farmer's market, Colleton County, S.C. created a hub of activity for the community and increased its residents' access to fresh produce.

The state awarded the county a \$150,000 grant in 2007 to buy a building to house the Clemson University Agricultural Extension Service, which would run the farmer's market. The building was perfect for it — it housed the old Colonial Supermarket in the 1950s in the county seat of Walterboro. The extension personnel helped the county secure almost \$200,000 in U.S. Department of Agriculture grants to build an outdoor pavilion.

Then, state budget cuts put an end to the project, decimating the extension services' staff and plans for the farmer's market. The county had the building, but no extension service staff to coordinate the farmer's market, and no means to hire staff for it. What to do with the unused extension office space?

Put the county's museum in there. Doing so expanded its space by five times, letting much of its collection come out of storage and onto display.

With more parking space and room for educational use when the farmer's market wasn't open, and a facility that could be rented out, the county had a full-fledged community center.

The farmer's market would then have a home base, after wandering the county's parking lots for years. It opened in Fall 2011 and is open Tuesday through Saturday from May to October, and Saturdays in November and December.

The location is prime for reaching a lot of residents, particularly those in a low-income retirement home nearby.

"It's brought in people who ordinarily wouldn't be thinking about healthy food or be able to get it easily," said Gary Brightwell, museum and farmers market director. "The community has been longing for a place to gather, and in return Walterboro gets a busy and exciting place where



Photos by Rusty Clark

(top) Customers check out vendors at the Heritage Days Festival at the Farmers Market in October 2012. (bottom) Two kids get acquainted with an antique tractor on display during the Harvest Fair last November, which also featured pony rides, face painting and games.

people want to be. If you're not here, then you feel like you're missing something."

Crucial to the project's success, investment from the community — in terms of attention people pay to it and how much they're willing to work — has been a source of ideas and labor.

"We had more than 100 people volunteer when we were opening," Brightwell said. "Painting, doing transportation, adding their creative input. The whole building radiates the community that put time and effort into it."

Next up is completion of a community garden and a continued expansion of the vendors who come to the market.

"Most of the time, if they start selling at 10 a.m. Saturdays, they're sold out by noon," she said. "Farmers are getting to know it's an easy place

to sell." The facility is also looking to partner with a rural electric company to open an incubator kitchen, which will allow Meals on Wheels volunteers to prepare food closer to Colleton County clients.

"The closest community kitchen is 75 miles away," Brightwell said. "This would relieve a lot of travel strain for the volunteers."

The county has increased the part-time staffing to allow the museum and market to be open six days a week in-season. It is mostly funded through the county's accommodations and hospitality taxes. Colleton County is 1,153 square miles with a population of about 39,000.

Model Programs from the Nation's Counties highlights award-winning programs.

Research News

Heads Up for Head Start Cuts

Head Start, a federally funded program that works to enhance the education of young children from low-income families, faces additional setbacks as a direct result of the sequestration. The program, which serves more than 30 million children, is slated for grant reductions of 5 percent and a subsequent drop of 70,000 children from its programs across the country.

Programs in all 50 states are scrambling to accommodate the budget cuts, an expected loss of nearly \$398 million, and are working hard to implement cost-saving measures. In Indiana, 36 children — chosen randomly, from a lottery drawing — were forced to de-enroll from their program last month. In Arkansas, the Fayetteville Head Start program in Washington County decided to close down for

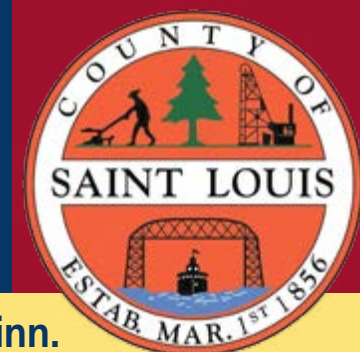
the summer 13 days early. In Texas, nine communities across the state will lose program classrooms at the end of this school year.

The cuts are being lamented by advocates for preschool preparedness because of the program's long-lasting impact for students. Numerous studies link participation with higher test scores, a higher likelihood of finishing high school, and even health benefits, as well as increased parent involvement.

This is only one example of how programs, locally and nationally, are affected by sequestration. The field of early childhood education now faces additional funding obstacles, and will have to work with limited resources to continue to perform effectively.

(Research News was written by Kelly Boggs, research intern.)

What's in a Seal?



» St. Louis County, Minn.
www.stlouisco.com

Located in northeastern Minnesota, St. Louis County was established March 1, 1856 from Itasca and Newton counties. It gets its name from the St. Louis River — the largest river entering Lake Superior — which flows through the county.

With total area of 7,092 square miles, St. Louis is the largest county east of the Mississippi. It is known for its natural beauty, including Voyageurs National Park, Superior National Forest, the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, four state parks including Minnesota's newest park on Lake Vermilion, hundreds of miles of rivers including many trout streams, and it is the gateway to Lake Superior's North Shore.

St. Louis County is the home of 200,226 people, living in small mining towns, farm communities, and in busy cities. Population is concentrated along the Mesabi and Vermilion Iron Ranges and in the Duluth area on the western tip of Lake Superior. The major industries in St. Louis County are mining, wood and paper products, aviation, higher education, shipping and transportation, health care and tourism. Duluth, the largest city, is an international seaport and also the county seat.

The seal shows the agriculture and mining aspects with a tree in the center symbolizing the many parks in the county. Surface mining of high-grade iron ore remains an important part of the economy. On the bottom is a boat and lake signifying the gateway to Lake Superior.

(If you would like your county's seal featured, please contact Christopher Johnson at 202.942.4256 or cjohnson@naco.org.)

NACo on the Move

» NACo Officers, County Officials

• NACo Executive Director **Matthew Chase** spoke about NACo's federal advocacy efforts and new "Why Counties Matter" campaign at the Utah Association of Counties 2013 Management Conference in Utah County (Provo) April 10.

• The Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO) recently named Story County, Iowa Sheriff **Paul F. Fitzgerald** a recipient of the APCO 2013 Leadership in Public Safety Communications Policy awards in the Advocacy category. Fitzgerald is a member of NACo's Justice and Public Safety Committee and Cyber Task Force. The awards commemorate the leaders in public safety communications who are outstanding advocates for the industry and advance all aspects of public safety policy.

» NACo Staff

• **Yael Lazarus** has been named the new project coordinator for the County Solutions and Innovation (CSI) Department. Previously, Lazarus was an intern working on the County Intelligence Connection (CIC) database. She received her undergraduate degree in american studies and cultural anthropology from Goucher College in Baltimore, Md.

• **Erik Johnston**, associate legislative director, spoke at the International Economic Development Council's 2013 Federal Economic Development Forum, during the workshop on federal rural development programs on April 16 in Alexandria, Va.

• **Paul Beddoe**, associate legislative director, participated as a panelist in a training conference on Healthcare Reform and the County Criminal Justice Systems hosted by the CSAC Institute in Sacramento County April 5. The panel discussed what counties can be doing now to prepare for implementing the Affordable Care Act in 2014.

• **Karon Harden**, director of professional development, education and training, and **Dan Gillison**, director, CSI, traveled to Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government in Cambridge, Mass. March 28–29 to discuss a partnership with NACo and Harvard. The partnership may include leadership and education collaborations.

» Coming Up

• **Kaye Braaten**, NACo past president, will be exhibiting on behalf of membership recruitment and retention at the Association County Commissioners of Georgia 2013 annual meeting in Chatham (Savannah) April 27–29.

On the Move is compiled by Christopher Johnson.



Photo by Deborah Cox

NACo Executive Director Matthew Chase and International Association of Emergency Managers CEO Elizabeth Armstrong met recently to discuss mutual assistance and coordination. IAEM is a NACo affiliate.

Financial Services News

U.S. Communities Unveils New Electrical Supplies, Services Contract

Graybar, a leading distributor of electrical, communications and data networking products, has been awarded a three-year contract to supply electrical commodities and services to the participants of U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Alliance. Los Angeles County served as the lead agency and awarded Graybar the contract after evaluating proposals from several other distributors.

Graybar is a Fortune 500 corporation and one of the largest employee-owned companies in the United States. Through its network of more than 240 North American distribution facilities, it stocks and sells products from thousands of manufacturers, helping its customers power, network and secure their facilities with speed, intelligence and efficiency.

This award represents Graybar's fourth term as the electrical provider through the U.S. Communities co-

operative purchase program. This three-year contract contains two additional one-year options and offers services that include: inventory control, technical support, eBusiness, contract compliance, emergency preparedness, engineering assistance, systems analysis, product replacement, system retrofits or upgrades, installation and integrated services.

By negotiating additional savings from its suppliers, Graybar has added additional savings for U.S. Communities participants while increasing the depth and breadth of products available through the program. Graybar also holds the Communication/Security contract for U.S. Communities.

U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Alliance is a government purchasing cooperative that reduces the cost of goods and services by aggregating the purchasing power of public agencies nationwide. U.S.

Communities provides world-class procurement resources and solutions to local and state government agencies, school districts (K-12), higher education and nonprofits.

NACo is a sponsor and founder of U.S. Communities. More than 55,000 government entities in the United States are registered to use the program. For 18 years, U.S. Communities has provided significant hard-dollar savings on commodities and services, as well as soft-dollar savings on avoided administrative costs, to public agencies nationwide.

For more information about U.S. Communities and the various products and services offered to local governments, please contact Jim Sawyer, NACo Financial Services Center, at 202.661.8868 or jsawyer@naco.org.

(Financial Services News was written by Jim Sawyer, director, NACo Financial Services Corporation.)

Obama's budget gives USDA rural development a 10 percent boost over FY13

FY14 BUDGET from page 6

The budget also proposes a new \$50 billion "fix-it-first" initiative for immediate transportation investments, including \$40 billion to improve existing infrastructure assets most in need of repair, \$10 billion to help spur states and local innovation in infrastructure development and leveraging state, local, tribal and private funds, and a \$2 billion competitive grant program that targets investment in roads, railways and runways. This is the fourth time the Administration has made a similar proposal.

Rural Business Programs Consolidated; Water-Wastewater Grants Chopped

The president's budget increases overall budget authority for USDA Rural Development by 10 percent to \$2.28 billion above the FY13 level. This increase returns the agency to a funding level slightly higher than the pre-sequester FY12 enacted level. However, most of the increase went to Salaries and Expenses (\$58 million or 10 percent) and

Rental Assistance Grants (\$177 million or 21 percent), while Water and Waste Disposal Grants (\$93 million or 23 percent) and Single Family Housing Direct Loans (\$40 million or 80 percent) were targeted for major cuts.

The deep cut in the Water and Waste Disposal Grants will make rural water projects cost-prohibitive for some rural communities, and the shift towards a reliance on direct loans is unsustainable in the long run as interest rates will eventually rise, which will dramatically decrease the water infrastructure loan financing available through USDA.

The most significant rural development policy shift is the proposal to consolidate six of the agency's rural business programs into the Rural Business and Cooperative Grant Program, funded at \$55 million. This shift would eliminate the Rural Business Opportunity Grants, Rural Business Enterprise Grants and Rural Microenterprise Investment Program, which are three programs that counties and their public and nonprofit partners use in their economic development efforts.

The new program will provide the benefit of one streamlined application, a focus on regional priorities and \$20 million in additional overall funding. However, NACo is concerned about public sector grantees being lumped into a program that will now directly serve individual producers, co-operatives, nonprofits and rural businesses as well through the authorities of the Rural Cooperative Development Grants, Grants to Assist Minority Producers and the Rural Community Development Initiative.

The budget no longer includes the Regional Innovation Initiative proposal, which NACo supports, and instead promises to concentrate on regional priorities through the new consolidated business program. NACo opposes the proposal to eliminate the Water-Wastewater and Community Facilities Guaranteed Loan Programs, High Cost Energy Grants and Economic Impact Initiative Grants.

**To see NACo's presentation on the president's FY14 Budget, read this story online at www.naco.org/countynews.*



News From the Nation's Counties

► CALIFORNIA

• Large, so-called “sober-living” homes in **SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY** will require permits and be restricted in certain neighborhoods under regulations backed by planning officials.

Complaints prompted the board to impose a moratorium on new alcohol- and drug-recovery facilities while county officials put together regulations for handling such facilities.

• **SAN MATEO COUNTY**'s request for money to **purchase a drone** was approved last month, but county officials' plans to deploy the controversial robot are not moving forward.

Though the grant to acquire a drone was approved by the Bay Area Urban Areas Security Initiative, the device will not be deployed anytime soon, according to a county spokeswoman. Efforts by other Bay Area law enforcement agencies, including the **ALAMEDA COUNTY** Sheriff's Department, to buy and deploy drones have been abandoned after public outcry.

Drones are used by first responders to gauge the severity of fires and other disasters. The machines can stay in the air for about 25 minutes and transmit high-quality video, including at night, using an infrared camera.

• Save Mart Supermarkets will pay more than **\$2.55 million in civil penalties** to 35 California counties after investigators found that the chain grocery store wrongfully disposed of hazardous waste.

The original court action was filed in **SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY** after environmental health investigators found that Modesto-based Save Mart Supermarket locations were tossing batteries, aerosol sprays, pool chemicals, electronics, toxic, reactive, ignitable or corrosive materials, and over-the-counter medicines. The settlement also concerns the improper storing and transporting of these items.

According to investigators in the counties involved, hazardous waste made its way to landfills for several years. Because of the settlement, Save Mart is now subject to



Photo courtesy of King County Parks

King County Executive Dow Constantine (r) and Robert Moser, president and CEO, Laird Norton Wealth Management, prepare to cut an elaborately decorated cake depicting popular activities in King County parks. They're celebrating a new public-private partnership to create a new parks foundation.

► WASHINGTON

KING COUNTY Executive Dow Constantine announced a new King County Parks Foundation in partnership with Laird Norton Wealth Management based on an initial gift of \$75,000 and a goal of raising \$7.5 million for legacy projects over the next decade. King County Parks is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year.

The parks foundation's mission is to attract private-sector investment to connect communities to regional trails, open space and parks and to support the resiliency of King County's parks and trails.

“I am grateful that Laird Norton Wealth Management has joined with us in an important public-private partnership so that all people in our region can enjoy parks, trails and open space for generations to come,” Constantine said.

In 2002, a task force of community members recommended as part of the parks' business plan, that it form a foundation for long-term financial stability.

an injunction prohibiting similar violations in the future. The stores must also adopt new procedures for storing and transporting the hazardous materials and waste, the *Tulare Advance Register* reported.

► FLORIDA

• **Vacant lots** donated to **CHARLOTTE COUNTY** will soon be up for sale.

People started donating the properties to the county about 25 years ago because it was easier to give the land away than sell it for a few thousand dollars, and that inventory is up to nearly 400 empty single-family lots. The proceeds,

according to NBC2, will go straight into the county's general fund, \$2.8 million through five semi-annual sales.

The 20 sales expected to close in mid-April should bring in close to \$80,000 and place that property back on the tax rolls, with mostly real estate and development firms buying the land. Owners donated so many lots that the county isn't accepting them anymore. It will only take a new property if it can be used for a specific county function in the future.

• **COLLIER, LEE and PALM BEACH counties** were recognized this month by Gov. Rick Scott (R) for having the **fastest annual job growth** rate in Florida in 2012. Commissioners from each county were presented the award at the Florida Association of Counties Legislative Meeting in Tallahassee.

• The **MIAMI-DADE COUN-**

TY Commission will ask voters to raise hotel taxes to 7 percent from 6 percent to pay for **renovations to the Miami Dolphins' stadium** May 14. The \$289 million payout, however, will only be paid if the National Football League decides on Miami as the host of a future Super Bowl. **SANTA CLARA COUNTY**, Calif., is also in the running to play host to the Super Bowl, and the decision will be made no later than May 22.

The vote set up what the county elections chief said would be the fastest referendum ever held by Miami-Dade, according to *The Miami Herald*.

Commissioners cast two votes: one to set the special election date and the other to give conditional approval to the renovation deal.

► MICHIGAN

WASHTENAW COUNTY may open a **new dental clinic** for individuals on Medicaid.

The reimbursement rate to dentists for care provided to Medicaid patients is much lower than the reimbursement rate for care for patients covered by private insurance, which often deters dentists from accepting Medicaid patients, county public health director Dick Fleece told *AnnArbor.com*.

About 20,000 Washtenaw County residents are on Medicaid with a dental benefit and have difficulty accessing services, and 43,000 residents don't have dental insurance.

The county's initial investment would be about \$1 million to build the clinic, which could be paid back over 10 to 20 years. The clinic would need to be associated with the local health department to be eligible for a higher reimbursement rate for dental services through the Medicaid program.

► MINNESOTA

In the eyes of the federal government, **LE SUEUR, SIBLEY and MILLE LACS counties** are now considered part of the Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington Metropolitan Statistical Area. What formerly was a 13-county Twin Cities MSA is now a 16-county entity. A county becomes part of an MSA when at least 25 percent of its workforce commutes to one of the abutting MSA core counties.

Le Sueur abuts **SCOTT COUNTY**, and Sibley borders **CARVER** and Scott. Officials told the *Free Press* that the change will have minimal effects on the counties.

► MONTANA

Montana officials are asking the Environmental Protection Agency to reconsider its designation of **YELLOWSTONE COUNTY** as violating federal standards on **sulfur dioxide pollution**.

The Billings Gazette reported that the Montana Department of Environmental Quality bolstered its request with an April 3 letter that included an analysis showing a trend for decreasing sulfur dioxide emissions. The federal agency in 2010 adopted a new national one-hour standard of 75 parts per billion for sulfur dioxide to protect health, particularly for people with asthma, children and seniors.

The EPA at the time said Yellowstone County had an hourly concentration of 77 parts per billion based on information gathered from 2007–2009.

David Klemp of the state Department of Environmental Quality said state officials believe the EPA used unrepresentative information in making its decision.

► NEW YORK

The **ONEIDA COUNTY** Board of Legislators voted 21–5 to approve a measure **banning hydraulic fracturing** — aka fracking — on county-owned land until more is known about its impacts, the *Observer-Dispatch* reported.

Fracking uses chemicals and millions of gallons of water to fracture underground rock formations allowing gas to be extracted.

The resolution cites the need for further study of potential long-term community and environmental impacts.

► NORTH CAROLINA

• **WAKE COUNTY** commissioners are considering opening **two free employee health clinics** in county buildings in a bid to lower health care costs.

Employees could receive free routine medical exams and check-ups instead of visiting their doctor, county officials said. Services offered would include blood tests, help with managing existing medical conditions or care for those who are sick, the *Raleigh Public Record* reported. The clinics would be open 40 hours a week during normal business hours.

The county is self-insured, Deputy County Manager Johnna Rogers said, and pays for all claims made by its employees and their dependents. She added that the

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See **NEWS FROM** page 15

The H.R. Doctor Is In

Waiting by the Mailbox

Spring is the season of hope, of joy and great expectations. It is the time of celebration of difficulties that have been overcome. This sense is reflected in our folklore and mythology as well as in our farming practices.

Here is a reprise of a well-received HR Doctor article to reinforce the point:

In our careers and lives, there are moments of key importance when long-expected news arrives.

The HR Doctor remembers as though it were yesterday, running

to the mailbox every day as a high school senior waiting for a letter from UCLA. Then the letter arrived and I recalled being paralyzed for several moments. Do I open it? What if I haven't been admitted? I have shared my hopes and dreams with friends and colleagues. I have waited for weeks and now the letter is in my hand. Do I open it now? I did.

I stared at the letter in silence as I read the words "Congratulations on your admission to the University of California, Los Angeles!" If it

had been bad news, I would have stared at it in silence in much the same way, though the later celebration and joy would have been absent.

The same feeling of impatience, worry, fear and hopefully joy is something we all experience. Sometimes that concern is reflected when we visit a doctor's office with a medical problem, and we wait for the doctor to come into the chilly, Spartan examining room to tell us the results of a test.

Sometimes at work, we wait

for the results of the performance evaluation. Every appointed official has waited, either impatiently, nervously or both, while the elected, County Commission, Board of Supervisors or City Council considers our recommendations and then says to the clerk, "Call the roll!"

The same scenario replayed itself a generation later in the Rosenberg family. Wonderful HR daughter Elyse, a county government senior management and budget analyst, applied for a promotion to manager. We all strive to advance our career,

even though it might mean leaving the comfort zone of a job we understand and working with people we respect, to risk the unknown of a new director, a new department, unfamiliar work and our first supervisory responsibility. Am I doing the right thing? Will this work out? How do I excel in supervision? How do I handle my first staff meeting with new subordinates?

Several years after the offer was finally made and accepted, Elyse and the rest of us look back on our careers and find that the answers to these questions were all inside of us already. We may have had self-doubts, but somewhere along the line a mentor or a sensitive executive understands that there is nothing to worry about except, to paraphrase the great Franklin Roosevelt, "Fear Itself."

It may be something like medical boards or getting a promotion. It may be good news from the doctor or good news about other people you work with or care very much about. The situation is the same. Every one of us faces these moments in our lives when we "wait by the mailbox" — literally or figuratively.

These moments of great importance mark the progress of our careers and our lives. While we believe that joy is far better than disappointment, the HR Doctor wondered — but only briefly — how the HR daughter would have reacted if the promotion went to someone else. How we handle disappointment and failure is, arguably, more important than how we handle success.

The "Seduction of Comfort" (see the HR Doctor article by that name at www.hrd.net) can be dangerous. The best bosses, colleagues, spouses and parents work through the process of recovery and growth out of disappointment with the ones they care about with equal passion and sharing as though it was joy rather than sadness.

Joy may not be as great a character builder as disappointment can be, but it is much more fun. The HR Doctor hopes that your time spent "waiting at the mailbox" produces equal joy to what has occurred recently in our house.



Phil Rosenberg
The HR Doctor • www.hrd.net

Lake County, Ill. plans for veterinary response team

NEWS FROM *from page 14*

county will save money over the long term because employees would be able to manage chronic conditions, that eventually lead to increased health care costs.

• Several Charlotte-area counties are supporting legislation that would **regionalize Charlotte's airport**.

Commissioners in neighboring **UNION, IREDELL, GASTON** and **LINCOLN counties** recently expressed support for legislation in Raleigh to take control of Charlotte Douglas International Airport airport from the city, according to the *Charlotte Observer*.

Lincoln County Board Chair Alex Patton said: "It's a regional asset that has grown so much; it's no longer just the city of Charlotte's."

Charlotte opposes a state Senate-approved regional authority bill passed last month. The House had yet to take action.

► OHIO

The **LAKE COUNTY** General Health District's volunteer Medical Reserve Corps recently received two grants totaling \$11,000 to develop a **veterinary response team** to ensure the safety of pets during natural disasters and other emergencies, *The Plain Dealer* reported.

The National Association of County & City Health Officials, a NACo affiliate, administers the grants. The county was one of 100 who received awards in 2013 out of 322 local Medical Reserve Corps that applied nationwide.

"During an emergency, it's been seen time and again that people will not leave their pets behind when

asked to evacuate," said Cathy Bevan, Lake County Medical Reserve Corps coordinator. "The veterinary response team will reassure people having to relocate to a shelter that their pets are being taken care of by trained personnel for peace of mind."

► PENNSYLVANIA

DAUPHIN COUNTY is working to open a series of **drop-in**

mental health centers around the county beginning in 2014, according to *The Patriot-News*.

In his recent State of the County Address, Commissioner George Hartwick III said the centers would give people better access to care and allow them to be treated as outpatients before their conditions worsen to the point that crisis interventions are needed.

The proposal is still in the

formative stages, he said, adding that for it to succeed, the county would need to shift some of the human services block grant money it expects to receive from the state for next year.

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



► PENNSYLVANIA

When rummaging around the attic space of her family's 1860s home in Titusville, Rhonda Clark looked closely at what appeared to be a pile of old window shades, but discovered one was actually a large wall map of **WARREN COUNTY**, dated the year 1900. Only a few copies of this map are recorded in library catalogs in the U.S., including one at the Library of Congress that eventually will be provided digitally through its website. Clark donated the map back to Warren County where it was added to the Warren County library's local history collection.

"This wall map is exceptionally rare and will be very useful for research," said Penny Wolboldt, Warren County reference librarian. "It is especially exciting that the wall size Official Map of Warren County, Pennsylvania, was compiled and published by N.B. Brakenridge in Warren, Pennsylvania, in 1900."

Holding the map are (l-r) Amanda Snyder, graduate student, Clarion University; Marti Swanson, reference assistant, Warren Public Library; James Maccaferri, associate professor, Clarion University; Penny Wolboldt, reference librarian, Warren Public Library; Rhonda Clark, assistant professor, Clarion University.



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