

NACo National Association of Counties

# CountyNews

The Voice of America's Counties

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES ■ WASHINGTON, D.C.

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## Transportation bill set for conference committee

By ROBERT J. FOGEL  
SENIOR LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

The scene was set for a House-Senate conference on the federal surface transportation legislation when on April 19 the House of Representatives by a 293–127 vote passed H.R. 4348, an extension of the federal surface transportation program through Sept. 30. The vote in the Republican-led House was reasonably bipartisan, attracting 67 Democratic votes and 226 Republican votes.

The real intent of the legislation is to serve as a vehicle for the House to go to conference with the Senate on the larger surface transportation

reauthorization, S. 1813, which the Senate passed on March 14. Even though several transportation bills had been considered in House committees over the past several months, nothing was passed until now.

As soon as the House and Senate appoint conferees, the formal conference committee will begin to work on reaching a consensus multi-year reauthorization highway-transit bill. Few are making any predictions on the success of the conference since it seems to only have the Senate bill, S. 1813, as a point of reference.

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### QuickTakes

#### 5 Fastest Growing Counties

Population % increase

- 1 Charlton County, Ga. 10.3
- 2 St. Bernard Parish, La. 10.2
- 3 Williams County, N.D. 8.8
- 4 Franklin County, Wash. 6.8
- 5 Dallas County, Iowa 5.0

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, April 2010 – July 2011

### CountyNews Features

## Justice Sandra Day O'Connor headlines NACo annual speakers



Photograph by Dane Penland, Collection of the Supreme Court of the United States

Justice Sandra Day O'Connor

Retired U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor will headline a group of speakers at NACo's Annual Conference this July in Allegheny County, Pa.

O'Connor spent more than 25 years on the nation's highest court, the first female justice, and following her retirement in 2006 founded the nonprofit iCivics to aid in civics

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Photo by Charles Taylor

Deputy Assistant Secretary Kim Thorsen, U.S. Department of the Interior, and Deputy Under Secretary Butch Blazer, U.S. Department of Agriculture, trade notes at the Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC) meeting at NACo headquarters April 17. NACo hosted the two-day meeting of the council, which is finalizing a National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy. The strategy will address a significant number of issues critical to wildfire-risk communities such as public safety, public health, land management, environmental concerns and economic development.

## Counties deliver County Government Month message

By JIM PHILIPPS  
MEDIA MANAGER

In good times and tough times, county government is there to serve residents. As most *CountyNews* readers know, services span the spectrum from emergency disaster response to clean water running from the tap; from the county court and jail to parks and recreation.

But does the average citizen really know or appreciate the wide variety of services that are available to them from the county? Many county officials would agree that they do not and that it's up to counties themselves to educate the communities they serve about the services and programs available. That's why National

County Government Week — now National County Government Month (NCGM) — was created more than 20 years ago.

This month across the country, hundreds of counties are marking NCGM with outreach events, contests and proclamations, many wrapped around this year's theme: Healthy Counties, Healthy Families. The theme fits nicely with NACo President Lenny Eliason's 2011–12 "Healthy Counties" presidential initiative that is urging counties to promote healthy living and lifestyle choices.

For example, the lawn of the Pontotoc County, Okla. Courthouse

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# Two past NACo presidents will leave county government

Two past NACo presidents, Angelo Kyle, Lake County, Ill., and Don Stapley, Maricopa County, Ariz., will be leaving county government at the end of this year. Kyle, who served, as NACo president from 2004–2005, represents his hometown of Waukegan on the 23-member County Board. During his term as NACo president, Kyle focused on affordable housing and health care access.

He announced his decision not to seek re-election earlier this year. He has accepted a position as deputy director of the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Office of Regional Outreach. He began his new job in February. His term on the County Board ends in December.

In a statement announcing his retirement, he said he was grateful for the chance to serve in a leadership capacity. "It was especially an



Don Stapley



Angelo Kyle

honor and a privilege to serve as NACo president in 2004."

Kyle is also a pastor at St. Matthew Missionary Baptist Church in Waukegan and served as the president and CEO of the Lake County Urban League.

Supervisor Don Stapley, who was installed as NACo president in 2009, dropped his bid in March

to run for a seat in Congress. In a statement to the media announcing his decision to withdraw from the race, he said he intended to finish his term as Maricopa County supervisor, which ends in December. His chief of staff, Dave Johnson, said Stapley "has no intention of running for county or anything else."

While president, Stapley made green government a hallmark of his term. He also used his time in office to champion the use of public-private partnerships to solve the country's energy and environmental challenges.

During a recent trip to Washington, D.C. to attend the Large Urban County Caucus fly-in, Stapley talked about the impact NACo has had on his political career.

"In my 18 years of service as a county supervisor in Maricopa County, Ariz., NACo has played an invaluable role," he said. "First and foremost, it has given me leadership training opportunities I wouldn't have found elsewhere. The County Leadership Institute, NACo conference workshops and the Large Urban County Caucus provided networking and knowledge that developed my skills and information that has made me a

more effective county leader. I could not have found these opportunities elsewhere.

"Secondly, being elected an officer and becoming president of NACo gave me and my county tremendous opportunities for growth, and a platform to put forth ideas and initiatives we wouldn't have had otherwise," Stapley continued.

"Lastly, I have made friends all over the nation. Both Democrat and Republican, and including Independents. I found all county officials to be the 'salt of the earth,' the friendliest and most down-to-earth hard working people I know! I love and appreciate these relationships and have learned and grown from the grand diversity that is our nation. NACo has given Don Stapley and indeed all Arizona much," he said.

Before becoming NACo president, Stapley served as chair of the association's Large Urban County Caucus, Finance Committee and Strategic Planning Advisory Committee.

He was named "County Leader of the Year" in 2004 by *American City & County* magazine.

## Apply by May 25 for NCGM award recognition


NCGM from page 1

was center stage for the April 17 Family Fun, Health and Safety Fair. Booths were set up on the lawn with information on summer fun activities for families, ATV safety, sun safety, car seat safety, financial wellness, healthy eating, grilling safety and storm safety. In addition, the county hosted a blood drive during the event and offered free tours of the newly remodeled courthouse.

In Larimer County, Colo., residents are being encouraged to tell their friendly County Board representative to take a hike! As part of NCGM, residents can take a two-hour hike with a county commissioner in open space under the "Healthy Counties, Healthy Families" theme.

The Somerset County, N.J., public was invited to learn about the county through informational displays and activities at various county locations during NCGM. In addition to the informational displays, Somerset County youth in grades 7 to 12 were invited to enjoy an evening of fun at a "Safe Night" party hosted by the county youth council. The division of Solid Waste Management partnered with the Peapack Garage to collect old scrap tires. The health department presented talks on "Keeping Your Mind Sharp" to residents of local senior housing facilities. Many more events were planned as well.

Residents of Macomb County, Mich. are invited to attend County Government Expo Day on April 26 at the administration building.



### Celebrate National County Government Month

#### Healthy Counties, Healthy Families

#### Chatham County Health/Government Fair Day

Please join Chatham County in promoting the theme "Healthy Counties, Healthy Families" by celebrating National County Government Month. Learn more about how Chatham County is delivering essential healthcare services and wellness programs, as well as other important services such as public safety, transportation, employment, and parks and recreation.

**Where:** Oglethorpe Mall (Macy's Court)  
7804 Abercorn Street



**Date:** April 20, 2012

**Time:** 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

This event will include free health screenings, exhibits, Zumba and dance demonstrations, fitness tips, discussion on various health topics, blood pressure checks, entertainment and more.


This event is sponsored by Chatham County, St. Joseph's/Candler Health Systems, Memorial University Medical Center, Oglethorpe Mall and Community Cardiovascular Council.

For more information, please visit: [www.chathamcounty.org](http://www.chathamcounty.org).






[www.naco.org/NCGM](http://www.naco.org/NCGM)

Sponsored by the National Association of Counties to raise public awareness about the roles and responsibilities of counties



National County Government Month  
April ★ 2012

Participants will get to address county commissioners and learn about the functions of elected officials.

Monroe County, Ind. celebrated NCGM by passing a proclamation and holding a series of energy-conservation events across the county. The highlight was the Monroe County Community Energy Fair, which featured more than a dozen booths representing companies and

organizations that are contributing to the conservation of energy in Monroe County and demonstrating how everyone can contribute to energy conservation.

Morrow County, Ohio; Trumbull County, Ohio; Kitsap County, Wash.; Newaygo County, Mich.; Mohave County, Ariz.; Oakland County, Mich.; and Curry County, N.M. all passed NCGM proclamations.

A special feature of NCGM is the National County Government Month Award. The purpose of the award program is to encourage counties to participate in NCGM and recognize nationally counties that sponsor outstanding programs during the month of April. The National Association of County Information Officers (NACIO), a NACo affiliate, will judge the entries. Three counties will receive the top award in rural, suburban and metropolitan counties, and — new this year — second place awards will be presented.

All entries will be posted online to serve as a database of ideas for other counties to use. There is no cost to apply. Applications must be received by Friday, May 25 to be eligible.

Whether your county applies for an award or not, NACo wants to know about your county's NCGM activities and the programs you planned. A special online form is available on the NCGM Web page of the NACo website so you can inform NACo about your county's NCGM activities. There you will be able to upload your photos, flyers, calendars, proclamations, and other county government month materials so NACo can share this information with other counties to benefit from your experience. You may also send your activities and materials directly to NACo Media Relations Manager Jim Philipps at [jphilipps@naco.org](mailto:jphilipps@naco.org).

To learn more about the NCGM award program visit [www.naco.org/NCGM](http://www.naco.org/NCGM).

## CountyNews

The Voice of America's Counties

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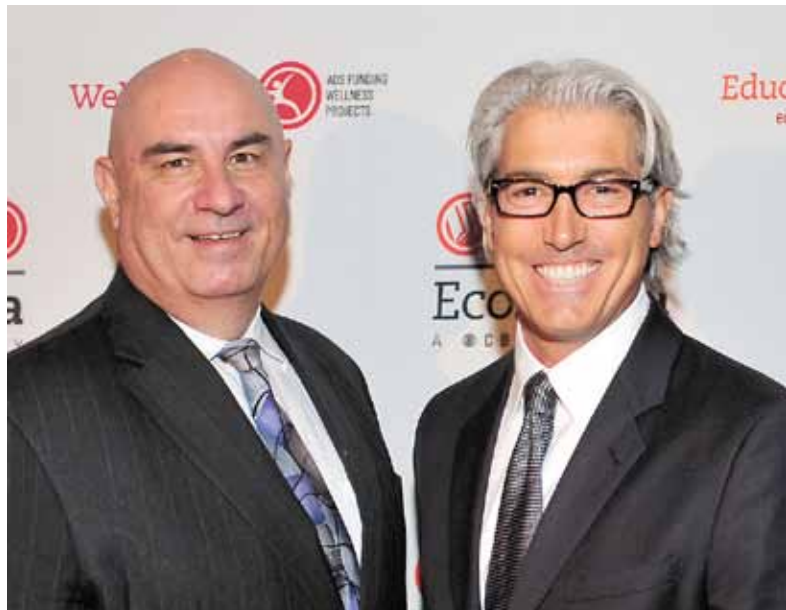


# CBS EcoMedia's ad model brings new green, health funding to counties

America's county governments now have a powerful new option for funding their environmental and wellness projects thanks to CBS EcoMedia's EcoAd and Wellness Ad programs and NACo's strategic partnership with the

media giant's EcoMedia division. These one-of-a-kind programs from EcoMedia bring financial support to initiatives in communities across the country from ad dollars,

See **ECOMEDIA** page 5



NACo President Lenny Eliason (l) and EcoMedia President Paul Polizzotto pause for an official photo at the launch of the new partnership March 27.

## Ecomedia Partnership with NACo

EcoMedia has been a NACo Green Government Partner for four years, even before joining forces with CBS. This alignment with NACo represents one of their first strategic partnerships. Through the partnership, EcoMedia provides valuable funding to America's counties to get their green projects moving forward and help them share positive environmental messages with their communities.

With EcoMedia as a new Healthy Counties Initiative partner and its expanded mission into the arena of health and wellness, the new partnership has the potential to provide much-needed funding for a wide range of health-focused projects in counties across the country. NACo's Healthy Counties Initiative supports innovative public-private partnerships within the many areas of health that counties are involved with and highlights county health best practices enhanced through collaboration with the private sector.

EcoMedia's leadership on both the Green Government and Healthy Counties advisory boards has been critically important. In 2011, NACo worked with CBS EcoMedia to host the County Forum on Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy at CBS Studios in Studio City, Calif. The event included an

overview of cutting-edge strategies in county energy management, but what made it special was the tour of the studio and 12 videos produced highlighting county energy-conservation success stories. The videos have been viewed widely across the country and have proven to be incredible illustrations of the great work being undertaken by counties.

They can be found here: <http://bit.ly/18PGgq>. Next month, NACo is looking forward to EcoMedia's engagement in a conference on innovative waste management issues in Broward County, Fla.

EcoMedia's involvement with the Healthy Counties Initiative began this year and to learn more about how their efforts can support local health initiatives, go to [www.naco.org/webinars](http://www.naco.org/webinars) to register for the May 9 webinar, "Increase the Impact of Your County's Health Initiatives and Projects."

For more information about EcoMedia's partnerships, contact Anita Cardwell, Healthy Counties Initiative, [acardwell@naco.org](mailto:acardwell@naco.org), 202.942.4267 and Jared Lang, Green Government Initiative, [jang@naco.org](mailto:jang@naco.org), 202.942.4224; or visit their Web pages on NACo's website: [www.naco.org/greenEcoMedia](http://www.naco.org/greenEcoMedia) and [www.naco.org/healthycountiesinitiative](http://www.naco.org/healthycountiesinitiative).

How did  
Franklin County, PA,  
**Standardize 36  
Departments**  
onto one ECM System?

When Franklin County implemented Laserfiche enterprise content management, it quickly discovered that **one technology could transform staff productivity and cut costs across the county**. What started as a niche application in the County Commissioner's office grew into a critical foundation for business processes in 36 diverse business units.

"Laserfiche is hands down the most expansive technology in our county," says Ed Yonker, Application Software Support. "We can bring all of our activities from across the county together instantly. We're comfortable using it to streamline every single business process we've got."



Visit [laserfiche.com/franklincounty](http://laserfiche.com/franklincounty) to download the Franklin County case study white paper.



# Counties, regions cultivate businesses poised for growth

By CHARLIE BAN  
STAFF WRITER



Several county governments are helping medium-sized businesses learn to walk, so they can someday be up and running on a booming scale.

Economic gardening, a term coined to describe government support of medium-sized businesses poised for growth, is catching on throughout the country, most recently in Hillsborough County, Fla., though regional and state programs are becoming the norm.

Florida coordinates all economic gardening on a statewide level, through the University of Central Florida's Economic Gardening Institute.

"They've crossed a barrier and are operating in a different world than the mom-and-pops," said Chris Gibbons, Littleton, Colo.'s business and industrial affairs director, who is lauded as the father of economic gardening. He tried the method in the 1980s when layoffs at an aircraft manufacturing plant left hundreds out of work.

"The narrow approach on the right kinds of companies is the key to its success," he said, contrasting the program with looser business assistance programs.

The National Center for Eco-

nomics describes the ideal business for economic gardening as employing between 10 and 100 people, generating \$1 million and \$50 million, and being oriented toward growth.

Participating businesses get access to sophisticated data analysis about their industry, their location and demographics of their customers, including access to more than a dozen high-caliber databases.

Becky Nelson manages Douglas County, Colo.'s four-year-old program that is trying to get its message out to businesses, including the value of these services.

"We want to bring the kinds of business tools that large companies have and bring them to medium-sized businesses," she said. "What we do isn't rocket science, but finding the right match for our services can be the difficult part."

At this point, Nelson is accepting all businesses who ask her office, of which she is the only staffer, for help. Approximately 50 businesses approached her program for help, though in some cases it was just for a referral to another service.

"You really can't turn anyone away because it's public money," she said of the program's \$100,000 budget. "Meanwhile a lot of businesses that might be just right don't know the program exists, or might think we're literally gardeners."

Some real gardeners, though, did get some help when Douglas County's program helped a lawn care company expand into new areas.

"We were able to look at their customer profile, identify their ideal client and find the neighborhoods in new territory where they could target their marketing effort," she said. "Their additional business meant they had to hire more employees."

Many counties, especially in rural states, may find the software, database and personnel demands too expensive to support, Gibbons said, which is driving more counties to adopt a regional or statewide approach to economic gardening, particularly in northern Arizona and western Colorado. The programs' boundaries are still drawn around county borders, and services are often delivered through county economic development departments.

"There's less risk involved in the investment for those counties, and with sparse population in some areas, it's just a practical use of resources," he said. "It works almost everywhere — Kansas, Michigan, Florida — all kinds of different places."

After two years, the Sauk County, Wis. Development Corporation's program is at a crossroads. The nonprofit hired consultants with grant money in 2010, which allowed

the organization to provide service at little-to-no charge. Now, with the money gone, Executive Director Gene Dalhoff is not sure what will become of the program.

"Our challenge is to transition it to a market-rate system," he said. "For the most part now, we're referring businesses directly to consultants, but that's not the spirit of the program."

Douglas County's Nelson said the difficulty in continuing an economic gardening program is showing results.

"It's hard to measure return on

investment, because if we help a company now, it might not be to the point where it can hire more people until a few years down the road," she said.

Failing more immediate measures, she relies on word-of-mouth, and testimonials might be the best measure.

"In the end, it's an investment to keep the jobs in the county," she said.

*\*To see a map of economic gardening projects throughout the United States, visit this story online at [www.naco.org/countynews](http://www.naco.org/countynews).*

## Profiles in Service



» Christian Y. Leinbach

NACo Board of Directors  
Chairman, Board of Commissioners  
Berks County, Pa.

**Number of years active in NACo:** 4 1/2 years

**Years in public service:** Nearly 20 years

**Occupation:** Full-time county commissioner. Prior to that, vice president of a regional advertising firm for 11 years

**Education:** B.A. in history from Bob Jones University

**The hardest thing I've ever done:** Deal with the death of my father-in-law in 1991 and the death of my aunt Alyce in 2010. Both were major influences in my life.

**Three people (living or dead) I'd invite to dinner:** Abraham Lincoln, Ronald Reagan and Louis L'Amour.

**A dream I have is to:** visit Vienna, Austria with my wife Jennifer and dance to the Vienna Waltz like Robert Donat and Greer Garson in "Goodbye, Mr. Chips." (Need to learn to dance first.)

**You'd be surprised to learn that I:** sing, yodel and play the violin... not at the same time.

**The most adventurous thing I've ever done is:** whitewater rafting several times on class 4 and 5+ rapids.

**My favorite way to relax is:** hiking, gardening, splitting wood or watching a classic movie with my wife.

**I'm most proud of:** my wife as a mother and a professional, as well as our three adult children, Matt, 28, USAF; Laura, 24; and William, 21.

**Every morning I read:** The Bible and the *Reading Eagle* newspaper.

**My favorite meal is:** grilled steak, homemade mashed potatoes, snow peas, tossed salad with homemade peach pie and ice cream.

**My pet peeve is:** people who do not take responsibility for their actions.

**My motto is:** When making any decision, my process is simple — I pray for guidance, and then ask myself: Is this constitutional; is it ethical; is county government best suited for this role; can we afford it; am I able to look at a taxpayer and say this is a proper use of your tax dollars?

**The last book I read was:** *Reality Based Leadership* by Cy Wakeman.

**My favorite movie is:** "Meet John Doe" starring Gary Cooper.

**My favorite music is:** Marty Robbins — western, Jim & Jesse — bluegrass; with a touch of Sinatra and Johann Strauss.

**My favorite president is:** Abraham Lincoln.

## NTSB makes recommendation to counties to prevent rail accidents

By ROBERT FOGEL  
SENIOR LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR



The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), an independent Federal agency charged by Congress with investigating transportation accidents, determining their probable cause and making recommendations to prevent similar accidents from occurring, has requested that NACo inform its members about the circumstances of a Canadian National Railroad Company (CN) accident and its recommendation to counties concerning how to prevent similar accidents.

On June 19, 2009, an eastbound CN freight train traveling at 36 mph derailed at a highway-rail grade crossing in Winnebago County (Cherry Valley), Ill. The train consisted of two locomotives and 114 cars. All of the derailed cars were tank cars carrying ethanol, a

flammable liquid. Thirteen of the derailed tank cars were damaged or lost product and caught fire. At time of the derailment, several motor vehicles were stopped on either side of the grade crossing waiting for the train to pass.

As a result of the fire that erupted after the derailment, a passenger in one of the stopped vehicles was fatally injured, two passengers in the same car received serious injuries, and five occupants of the other cars waiting at the highway-rail crossing were injured.

The NTSB determined that the probable cause of the accident was the washout of the track structure that was discovered about an hour before the train's arrival, and the CN's failure to let the main crew know about the washout.

Also contributing to the accident was CN's failure to work with Winnebago County to develop a comprehensive storm water management design to address previous

washouts in 2006 and 2007. When a storm water management detention pond is breached or otherwise loses its structural integrity, damage can occur downstream with regional consequences.

The NTSB recommends, although maintenance of a detention pond is usually the responsibility of the property owner, that local storm water management authorities, including county and other local governments recognize the importance of periodically inspecting storm water management detention ponds (both private and public). These inspections are to ensure that no deterioration has occurred that would result in the failure of a pond to function as designed.

*\*For a synopsis of the NTSB report, including the probable cause, conclusions, and a complete list of all the safety recommendations, read this story online at [www.naco.org/countynews](http://www.naco.org/countynews).*



# EcoMedia ads benefit NACo green, health initiatives

**ECOMEDIA** from page 3

thereby turning advertising into an engine for social change.

EcoMedia's Janice Sakamoto serves as a member of NACo's Green Government Initiative Advisory Board. EcoMedia introduced the EcoAd program in 2011 along with the groundbreaking concept of offering corporate advertising clients the opportunity to fund critical, tangible social improvement projects through the ads they buy on CBS TV, radio billboards and online platforms.

Since then the EcoAd program has funded a number of significant yet underfunded environmental projects, including lighting and other energy-efficiency retrofits, solar power installations, organic gardens and tree plantings in communities from coast to coast.

The success of the EcoAd advertising program has led to the launch of EcoMedia's "WellnessAd" along with "EducationAd" advertisements, which now join the EcoAd program as new options for corporations looking to make a positive impact in the communities in which they advertise.

That positive impact translates into available financial support for NACo members participating in the Healthy Counties Initiative, which aims to enhance public-private partnerships in local health delivery, improve individual and community health, and assist counties to effectively implement federal health reform. EcoMedia is also a member of NACo's Healthy Counties Advisory Board.

CBS is encouraging its viewers to look for the new, EducationAd and WellnessAd program logos on commercials presented across its many video and online platforms. These icons signify that the advertiser has provided funding for projects including mobile health clinics, family comfort programs, fitness zones, education scholarships, school supplies and nutritious meals for school children in underserved communities — projects that might not happen without the financial support made possible through the EcoMedia public-private partnership model.

The WellnessAd funding goals align with NACo's Healthy Counties Initiative goals to enhance coverage, access to and coordination of health care for vulnerable populations in the community, including health services in hospitals, community health and promoting community public health, prevention and wellness programs, as well as increased physical activity and healthy eating.

"We set out to design a business

model that could harness the billions of dollars spent annually on advertising to support projects championed by America's counties and leading non-profits," said Paul Polizzotto, president and founder, CBS EcoMedia Inc., at the launch of the new program. "Our county partners are tackling the most serious social issues

of our time — pollution, disease, educational inequality — and we're helping them do it, by aligning them with advertisers looking to make a difference."

NACo President Lenny Eliason added, "CBS EcoMedia Inc. has played an important role in our Green Government Initiative. We

are delighted to participate in this launch and expand our alliance in the health area with our Healthy Counties Initiative."

Support for EcoMedia's patent-pending EcoAd, WellnessAd and EducationAd programs has been significant not only among advertisers and ad agencies but throughout

CBS internally as well.

To find out more about EcoMedia's funding programs and how your county's projects might participate contact Janice Sakamoto, vice president of Strategic Partnerships and New Business Development, at [janice.sakamoto@ecomediabcbs.com](mailto:janice.sakamoto@ecomediabcbs.com) or 310.374.8212



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# Consulting raises revenue for county training program

By CHARLIE BAN  
STAFF WRITER

Despite not having any athletic teams, Chesterfield University is gaining a reputation for performing well on the road.

The sophisticated training program for county employees in Chesterfield County, Va. is gaining a number of consulting clients across the commonwealth and even into North Carolina. And, it has raised a bit of revenue for the county.

The employment-development “university” started in 1996 as a human resources department project focusing on quality control, then expanded with a partnership with the public safety department. It is not a degree-granting institution. In 2002, the university became its own entity, and its Dean and Chief Learning Officer Kevin Bruny reported directly to county administration.

“When we moved out on our own, I felt like we were more of an organizational resource, not just an HR program,” he said.



Photo courtesy of Chesterfield County, Va.

County Administrator James Stegmaier congratulates a student who earned a certificate from Chesterfield University.

When fiscal pressures in 2008 forced the university, which had been independent of the human resources department for six years, into the county’s Center for Organizational Excellence, an edict followed to find more ways

to generate revenue. Bruny said its identity makes it uniquely qualified to help clients.

The university now comprises six schools, all touching on different facets of county employee development. Classes meet in the

county administration building’s basement. Each school offers certificate curricula and recently, the university started holding an annual formal graduation ceremony, attended by the county administrator and supervisors.

“For some employees this is the first big deal that is beyond completing GED or high school,” Bruny said. “It’s endearing to see what it means to employees, they bring their families and take pictures and it really represents personal growth for many of them.”

So, far nine county governments and numerous other clients, including the Virginia state government have used Chesterfield’s consulting services.

“We add a particular value because our instructors work in government and understand the culture and challenges that come with that environment more than consultants in the private sector would,” he said. “We try to create training programs to fit their specific needs, rather than delivering instruction straight off the shelf.”

A staff of 12 creates, delivers and markets the classes. The most popular classes for consulting clients have been how to work within federal guidelines and customer service training.

Some clients, including Prince

## Chesterfield University Schools of Learning

- Leadership and Personal Effectiveness
- Health, Environment, Safety and Security
- Quality and Continuous Improvement
- Policy and Practice
- Public Safety
- Applied Business Skills and Technology

William County, Va., have purchased individual curricula to deliver themselves.

County residents can take courses that have space, but all classes are oriented around training employees, though some, such as leadership courses, have a more general application. Chesterfield is the only county with a training program this sophisticated, Bruny said.

*Training Magazine* has ranked Chesterfield University in its top 125 programs for the past six years, number 16 in 2012, ahead of MetLife and slightly behind the U.S. Navy.

*\*For more information about contracting with Chesterfield University, read this article online at [www.naco.org/countynews](http://www.naco.org/countynews).*

## Bill language forces approval of Keystone Pipeline, which would provoke veto

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The House bill included almost none of the language of H.R. 7, which was the reauthorization bill approved by the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. That bill was never able to attract support from the majority of House members, and for that reason the extension legislation was the strategy chosen by House Speaker John Boehner as a way to start a House-Senate conference.

Other than the three-month extension, the major provisions include language to force the Obama administration to approve the Keystone Pipeline; project streamlining language; and the Restore Act that would send funds paid to the federal government by BP for oil spill damages to the Gulf Coast region.

In effect, the conference is technically between a Senate-passed 1,000-page-plus bill that authorizes the highway-transit programs for two years at \$109 billion, and a House bill that contains a three-month extension, no funding sections, no highway and transit provisions comparable to the Senate bill, the Keystone

Pipeline language, the Restore Act and several other provisions.

It is hard to predict how this unusual scenario will play out. The Keystone Pipeline issue is pivotal since it is obviously important to House Republicans, but the Senate, during consideration of S. 1813, rejected several Keystone amendments and President

Obama has stated that he would veto any bill including Keystone language.

Also at stake in the Senate bill are several NACo-supported provisions that provide funding for the off-system bridge program and a one-year extension of both the PILT program and the Secure Rural Schools program.

## County Veterans Service Officers Association applies to become NACo affiliate

The National Association of County Veterans Service Officers (NACVSO) represents county veterans service officers, defined as any person employed by or funded by any county, parish, borough, territory, or Native American Nation, whose job it is to assist veterans and their dependents in applying for benefits, administration of programs, or receipt of federal, state, or county benefits.

NACVSO has submitted all the information requested to support its application. The NACo Board will vote on the application for affiliation at its WIR meeting May 16–18 in Santa Fe. If approved, the application will then be referred to the membership at the NACo Annual Conference Business Meeting for a vote on whether to approve the affiliation.

A NACo affiliate is allotted one slot on the Board of Directors. NACo currently has 23 affiliates.

## Word Search

### City-Counties

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

ANCHORAGE (Alaska)  
BRONX (N.Y.)  
BROOMFIELD (Colo.)  
DENVER (Colo.)  
HONOLULU (Hawaii)  
INDIANAPOLIS (Ind.)

JACKSONVILLE (Fla.)  
JUNEAU (Alaska)  
KINGS (N.Y.)  
LOS ALAMOS (N.M.)  
NANTUCKET (Mass.)  
NASHVILLE (Tenn.)

NEW ORLEANS (La.)  
NEW YORK (N.Y.)  
PHILADELPHIA (Pa.)  
QUEENS (N.Y.)  
RICHMOND (N.Y.)  
SAN FRANCISCO (Calif.)

Created by: Christopher Johnson



# Model Programs From the Nation's Counties

San Diego County, Calif.

## Program Looks for Intergenerational Opportunities

By CHARLIE BAN  
STAFF WRITER

On either side of the working world of San Diego, like many places, two groups of people were slipping out of focus. Children whose parents were working long hours and maybe getting home in time to go to bed—if they had parents.

Retirees resigned to hours of daytime television and in all likelihood, obsolescence. The county's 12-year effort to build an intergenerational community has launched a variety of programs to mix the energy and vitality of its youth with the maturity and experience of the county's older residents to empower the youth and give lasting meaning to the lives of its longtime citizens.

Pamela Smith, San Diego County's Director of Aging and Independence, services says the several trends over the past century have led to the point where intergenerational programming has become necessary.

"One hundred years ago, when



Photo courtesy of San Diego County, Calif.

San Diego County, Calif.'s intergenerational programming gives seniors and youths opportunities to learn from each other.

life spans were shorter, all generations were living together," she said. "People started living longer and living on their own or in retirement homes, where their lives became more solitary. If seniors' aren't engaged, they disappear. They stay home and essentially become isolated from society, and they still have so

much to offer."

In the meantime, as nuclear families became two-income households or the number of single-parent households increased, children got short stick and were sent elsewhere for attention.

"Children have fewer caring adults around," she said. "But they

don't need them any less than they did before."

In 2000, Smith and her department saw the paucity of intergenerational opportunities, after learning about the benefits to that kind of age-mixing from a Temple University seminar. Seniors had a lot to offer the youths, and both groups were hungry for involvement. The first step was hiring a full-time intergenerational coordinator. Her informal job description: "Care about those kids."

The department looked at programs individually, for opportunities to link members of the two age groups. That piecemeal approach has continued.

"In some instances, we weren't sure if the kids would go for it," she said. "In some of these situations, we're talking about foster children who aren't exactly cuddly and excited to get to know people, but in almost every circumstance we've seen enthusiastic reception from the kids."

Intergenerational programming runs the gamut. From projects as

straightforward as recording oral histories to involved as San Pasqual Academy, a residential high school for foster children, staffed in part by retiree volunteers. Another program that lasted for several years trained teens to serve as respite caregivers for the elderly.

Donna Butts, the executive director for Generations United, a nonprofit

that named San Diego County one of the Best Intergenerational Communities last month, said the county's Workforce Academy for Youth stands out to her. The program pairs older adults with minors who are about to age out of the county's foster system. They serve as mentors as the youths perform six-month internships.

"It addresses the future workforce, a population that ages out and ends up homeless because they don't have a leg up or an open door to find work, and it involves the older adult popula-

See **GENERATIONS** page 8

## Smaller counties show innovation in maintaining economic growth

By CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON  
EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

It is widely accepted that larger counties beat their local counterparts as drivers of the economy and innovation. In some cases, however, size doesn't matter.

Smaller counties are achieving and sustaining economic growth in the face of economic volatility and the exportation of jobs. With five key criteria of investment being talent, sustainability, place and diversity as the metrics for evaluation, Fourth Economy, a Pittsburgh-based economic development consultancy, ranked communities according to their ability to achieve and maintain economic growth.

Clarke County, Ga.; Monroe County, Ind. and Johnson County, Iowa are at the top of the list, with Tompkins County, N.Y. and Lee County, Ala. rounding out the top five communities with 100,000 to 150,000 people.

"It is not surprising to see the leading Fourth Economy counties blend both rural and urban character, offering their residents diverse living and working options," said Stephen McKnight, Fourth Economy vice

president of community and market assessments.

The Fourth Economy Index (FEC) scores for the small county listing ranged from zero to 4.5. They included only counties with a population of 100,000 to 150,000, education attainment above 25 percent and average travel times less than 20 minutes. Beyond the core FEC Index measures, the analysis also considers the capacity for a community to support innovation. The FEC Index expresses an innovation capacity score as a letter grade, determined by the online source Stats-America. This grade considers factors such as human capital, state policy context and productivity. Fourth Economy Consulting produces FEC Index listings for micro, small, medium and large counties.

The Fourth Economy Index serves as a foundation for future economic success to include wage and employment growth, education levels, drive times, home values, minority business ownership, agricultural capacity and population density. The measures are weighted based on the level of influence they have on both internal and external investment decisions.

If there was a theme to this year's small category list, it is community relationship and commitment to education and growing diverse economies. Home to the City of Athens and the University of Georgia, Clarke County, Ga.'s economic base includes higher education, manufacturing healthcare, the arts and entrepreneurship. It led all small counties with an FEC Index score of 4.37.

"The university's international reputation attracts students, researchers, faculty, and business partners from around the world," said Mac Brown, president, Economic Development Foundation of Athens-Clarke County. "Research and technology transfer are a large part of the county's economic impact."

Monroe County is home to Indiana University as well as Ivy Tech Community College-Bloomington with tech-sector employment growing by 80 percent in recent years. However, it's not all high-tech sector research.

With an FEC Index score of 2.16, the county is proud that General Electric (GE), which began making refrigerators in Monroe County

(Bloomington) in 1967, announced in 2010 it had reversed its decision to close the facility and instead opted to invest more than \$160 million and create 200 jobs by 2014. It will become a "center of excellence" and help revolutionize GE's appliance portfolio.

Johnson County, Iowa's FEC Index score of 1.80 shows its very diverse mix of companies and industries. While it is a national hub for educational measurement with ACT

and Pearson, the county also has a booming manufacturing sector in consumer products with Proctor and Gamble and Oral B. The University of Iowa also adds a major asset for driving a level of knowledge, talent and technology.

\* For more information on Fourth Economy and links to the 2012 small, mid and large community winners, visit the online version of this story at [www.naco.org/countynews](http://www.naco.org/countynews).

### Fourth Economy 2012 Top 10 Small Sized Communities

- 1 – Clarke County, Ga. (FEC Index Score: 4.37; Population: 116,714)
- 2 – Monroe County, Ind. (FEC Index Score: 2.16; Population: 137,974)
- 3 – Johnson County, Iowa (FEC Index Score: 1.80; Population: 130,882)
- 4 – Tompkins County, N.Y. (FEC Index Score: 1.79; Population: 101,564)
- 5 – Lee County, Ala. (FEC Index Score: 1.67; Population: 140,247)
- 6 – La Crosse County, Wis. (FEC Index Score: 1.66; Population: 114,638)
- 7 – Olmstead County, Minn. (FEC Index Score: 1.65; Population: 144,428)
- 8 – Warren County, Ky. (FEC Index Score: 1.47; Population: 113,792)
- 9 – Wood County, Ohio (FEC Index Score: 1.46; Population: 125,488)
- 10 – Randall County, Texas (FEC Index Score: 1.29; Population: 120,725)

## The H.R. Doctor Is In

# Doctor Rachel's Positive Prescription

The beautiful HR Doctor Daughter Rachel is a busy family practice physician in Brevard, N.C. She sees dozens of patients a week that include new babies and people close to 100 years old. She also sees young and strong athletes as she helps Brevard College as a sports team physician and at the Transylvania County, N.C. Health Department clinic. Finally, she sees people who are no longer in a position to ask for her advice. These are the coroner cases she is called out to examine in performing the duties of county medical examiner.

The wide variety of fellow humans she encounters has given her a broad perspective along with strong diagnostic and treatment skills. Any parent, let alone the HR Doctor, would be very proud of her accomplishments.

Employers certainly recognize the strong connection between worker physical and mental health and productivity. A healthy workforce is more productive, suffers from less absenteeism and has better co-worker relationships. The result is less liability and cost for the employer. The benefits for the workers are equally obvious.

Many employers, however, do little or nothing to follow through on the nexus between health and productivity. This failure of the obvious may include not having an employee assistance program or even a rudimentary wellness program.

Others have minimum-strength programs, perhaps aimed as much at being able to proclaim that they are a "modern" employer as at promoting a healthy workforce. Many will focus only on a few issues, such as weight management and diabetes control, which although quite important, are not the only components of a caring place to work.

However, Doctor Rachel offers a prescription which I am pleased to share. The following concepts do not involve co-pays or increased insurance premiums, regardless of preexisting conditions and regardless of your political opinion about the Affordable Care Act:

### ■ Be optimistic

View the world as being full of dreams and opportunities which are within your power to seize. There is a research-established connection between brain activity and positive thought as opposed to the rejection of positive thoughts which are among the hallmarks of pessimism.

### ■ Use and continue to develop a sense of humor and irony

Appreciate the joys in life. Appreciate fun and humor without directing it as an attack against any individual. The better your sense of humor, the more likely you are to have a well-developed social network, be optimistic and already incorporating the concepts outlined by Doctor Rachel into your life.

### ■ Have a network or develop one of family and friends

Engage with these people. Perhaps they share more than the genetic commonalities of family. Perhaps these folks share common interests and face common challenges. There may be religious organizations, social or service clubs like Rotary, or hobby groups to become part of. There is no shortage of opportunities for positive networking.

### ■ Have diverse interests and hobbies

A life well lived is about far more than what you do at work. The HR Doctor recommends that you imagine that you are creating a resume for that dream job. The characteristics and depth of capabilities reflected in that resume will be judged by others who will want to hire the most resilient, knowledgeable colleague they can find. Include quiet, introspective activities, such as reading, poetry or coin collecting. Add interests which portray you as outdoor-oriented and active, such as hiking, tennis, biking or travel.

Don't forget a technical and scientific side to you as a renaissance person. Astronomy, birding, health and more are examples. Show community leadership through volunteer and charitable activities. Playing music, painting, sewing, photography, and many more such



activities are readily available. Put all these together and you will find a person more adaptable, and more sought after by others as a friend and colleague.

### ■ If you love your work, keep working

Reject artificial thoughts or restrictions to continuing doing what you love to do. Even after "retiring" think about volunteering, teaching and mentoring, part-time work, or, dare the HR Doctor say, consulting.

### ■ Be a civic-engaged person

Have neighbors over for dinner, do charity work, clean up the litter on your street. Work to improve

your community, nation and world. You'll improve your own health and outlook at the same time.

### ■ Practice the 80/20 principle, otherwise known as "The Rule of the Vital Few"

Most things in life are trivial. Few things are vital. Have a serious discussion with yourself and those around you about what it is in life that you spend a lot of time doing with little return? What truly important activity would you love to do more often? Perhaps it is something seemingly simple, such as more time with the family.

Work time is not as important as family time — no matter what your job may be. Working on important compelling projects at work is better than counting paper clips. Once you identify what is important, make a plan to jettison the trivial and focus on the vital few.

### ■ Practice a daily act of random kindness

Even in small ways, that act of kindness sets an example and may cascade into a great many good things happening for a very long

time. It is more than simply being polite, saying thank you or holding open a door, though these things are also positive markers about your character. Do something unexpected and pleasant for someone you love, or for that matter a total stranger. Surprise your partner tonight with a special dessert or an evening out.

See that sheriff's deputy eating lunch alone in the restaurant? Ask the server to bring you the officer's bill, and then pay it as you leave without identifying yourself to the officer. The deputy will talk about that for days and remember it for years. Spend time with someone who needs advice or a shoulder to lean on.

### ■ Reduce the amount of TV-watching

Not only is the quality of television programming in serious decline, but there is a special risk to our children. By abandoning the kids to sit in front of the TV for hours at a time, they are learning behaviors, such as how to resolve disputes, from "reality" shows

See H.R. DOC page 11

## Humorist Dave Barry to speak at NACo annual

**SPEAKERS** from page 1

education. NACo partnered with iCivics to create Counties Work.

O'Connor will speak at the Opening Session July 15, along with Jay Wilkinson, and author, motivational speaker and son of famed University of Oklahoma football coach Bud Wilkinson.

At the July 16 General Session, political journalists Mark Halperin and John Heilemann will look ahead to this fall's presidential election and review the 2008 election, which the pair chronicled in their book *Game Change*.

Humorist Dave Barry, who spent 25 years writing a syndicated column in newspapers nationwide, will share with the attendees the wit and insight that led to his 1998 Pulitzer Prize for commentary.

For more information on the conference or to register, visit [www.naco.org/annual](http://www.naco.org/annual).

## County named 2012 best intergenerational community

**GENERATIONS** from page 7

tion by giving them an opportunity to impart their wisdom," she said. "It pairs the area's human resources in a way that makes it a win-win-win for the county." San Diego County was the only county to be named a 2012 Best Intergenerational Community.

"San Diego has been visionary in how they've approached this," she added. "The way they design programs, address issues, uncover ways of funding the projects." For the most part, the funding is not a huge barrier. Most staffing is done by volunteers, with minimal administrative costs, though some programs include stipends, reimbursements or discounted housing for the senior participants.

The programs have taken advantage of a variety of funding from various levels of government, but the major coup recently was a \$16.1 million dollar Centers for Disease Control Healthy Works grant that supported Safe Routes to School,

Breakfast in the Classroom, community gardens, and other community engagement projects that were all intergenerational. It also represented a point where the programs stopped being a fad and saw a real future develop.

"That was a turning point for us," Smith said. "That's when we knew we were more than a collection of similarly-themed programs. What's more is that the intergenerational dimension is now a mainstay of county policy decisions."

Non-county entities are getting in on it, too. A 13-unit development is in the works will served grandparents who are raising their grandchildren. This June, county agencies, non-profit organizations, for-profit agencies and faith communities will conduct a summit: Live Well, San Diego! Building a Healthy Community for All Ages. Speakers and activities will focus on how to make healthy choices and create living environments that encourage safe, active lifestyles.

Keep up with NACo online ...

**[www.naco.org](http://www.naco.org)**







# News From the Nation's Counties

## ► ALABAMA



Taking a cue from Montana, **LAUDERDALE COUNTY** is introducing **Hope Cards** with information about people who have been targeted in protection-from-abuse orders.

The county partnered with a domestic violence shelter to provide the cards which include the description and photo of the person against whom the order has been issued, and the names of everyone protected by the order. The card is the size of a driver's license and will provide easier access to information needed to be presented to law enforcement.

Within the next couple of weeks, people who have been granted a final protection-from-abuse order will be instructed how to get a Hope Card.

Lauderdale will be the first county in the state to use the program.

## ► ARIZONA

Hundreds of **MARICOPA COUNTY** employees caught fibbing to their health insurer about not smoking or who refused nicotine testing will now pay **higher health-insurance premiums** under a new county policy.

The county will collect an additional \$327,360 in health-insurance premiums, with the money going into an employee-benefits fund.

Controversial mouth swabs began a year ago, when all county workers were told to submit to saliva testing for nicotine or lose an annual insurance-premium discount of \$480 offered to those who do not use tobacco products.

Of the 11,089 employees covered by health benefits, 682 declined to take the saliva test or took the test and failed. In either case, they lost the premium reduction.

Prior to the swabs, employees self-reported on tobacco use by filling out paperwork declaring they did not use. But the number of employees reporting themselves as smokers was too low compared with national statistics, the *Arizona Republic* reported.

Employees who passed the test will not be swabbed again this year. They likely will be tested every three years.

## ► ARKANSAS

The Arkansas Court of Appeals ruled that a private club operating in dry **COLUMBIA COUNTY** was properly issued a **permit to serve alcohol** as a way to enhance the experience of customers at its restaurant, a finding that the court said conforms to a broader alcohol law the Legislature passed in 2003.

A group of citizens sued to challenge the state Alcoholic Beverage Control Board's decision to issue a permit for a club within a restaurant. Opponents argued that the club didn't conform to the state law that allows private clubs because its sole purpose would be to serve alcohol, the *Northwestern* reported.

But the appeals court, in a 5-1 decision, ruled that serving food constitutes entertainment and that serving alcohol would enhance the experience.

The majority found that the law that enables the control board to issue permits includes "entertainment" as a permitted reason for serving alcohol and that "food service" is a form of entertainment.

## ► CALIFORNIA

Spring, when a county Board of Supervisors' fancy turns to love.

Such was the case for the **RIVERSIDE COUNTY** board when it voted to back a state bill giving supervisors the power to **perform marriage ceremonies**.

Besides religious leaders, judges, members of Congress and state lawmakers are among those who can marry couples in California without first getting permission from a county clerk.

The county resolution notes that supervisors represent large constituencies on par with state legislative and congressional districts. Supervisors "are highly visible members of their communities and are frequently invited to attend and participate in all manner of local events," the resolution read.

"Often, they are asked to perform marriage ceremonies, but due to current law, are unable to do so."

Supervisor Jeff Stone said the



Photo courtesy of Ulster County, N.Y.

Michael Hein, Ulster County executive, announces his first executive order of the year banning the county from buying or using brine from hydraulic fracturing wells.

## ► NEW YORK

One byproduct of hydraulic fracturing won't be hitting the icy streets of **ULSTER COUNTY**. County Executive Michael Hein issued an order banning the purchase or use of "**fracking waste brine**" by any county government agency. Some communities in other areas use the super-saline liquid as a cheaper way to treat icy roads in the winter.

The order is designed to give the County Legislature time to develop an ordinance permanently banning fracking brines.

Legislator T.J. Briggs said, "This Executive Order sends a very clear and specific message to the hydrofracking industry, that until we are absolutely certain that their products are 100 percent environmentally safe, they are not welcome in Ulster County."

state bill would help people who want to control wedding costs. He told the *Press-Enterprise* that supervisors can't charge to officiate weddings.

"I can't think of a higher honor than a couple having the confidence that you can join them in marriage," he said.

## ► FLORIDA

• The Florida Supreme Court heard oral arguments on the constitutionality of **term limits for county commissioners** in a pair of cases that potentially could affect the state's 20 charter counties, the Associated Press reported.

The attorney for the plaintiff cited a 2002 Supreme Court ruling that struck down term limits for county constitutional officers: sheriffs, court clerks, supervisors of elections, tax collectors and property appraisers. That 4-3 decision was based on the Florida Constitution's "Eight is Enough" amendment, which sets eight-year term limits for legislators, the governor, lieutenant governor and Cabinet members but does not cover county officials.

Ten charter counties currently have term limits, including **BRE-**

**VARD, CLAY, DUVAL, HILLSBOROUGH, ORANGE, PALM BEACH, POLK and VOLUSIA.**

In January, voters in **MIAMI-DADE COUNTY**, rejected term limits linked to a pay raise for commissioners. A new proposal without a pay raise will be on the November ballot.

Joni A. Coffey, a lawyer for **BROWARD COUNTY**, said that the opinion on constitutional officers' term limits does not apply to county commissioners because their positions are established by a separate constitutional provision.

• The **FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES** is fighting a new state law that would dump millions of dollars in **disputed Medicaid bills** on counties. FAC announced April 12 that it is pursuing legal action against H.B. 5301, the so-called "Medicaid bill" signed into law March 29. It requires counties to pay nearly \$320 million, which the state claims is past due, for the health care program.

Counties in Florida split long-term hospital care and nursing home bills for Medicaid patients with the state. They claim the overdue bills are the result of billing errors.

A report in the *Orlando Sentinel* said **ORANGE COUNTY**, for example, had its bills audited and found that bills totaling \$3.5 million sent by the state were duplicates. It also found \$2 million worth of billings for Medicaid recipients who are not Florida residents.

Since FAC announced its intention to file a lawsuit, several of Florida's 67 counties are also considering joining the suit.

## ► HAWAII

**MAUI COUNTY** Council members have established new regulations for **short-term rentals**.

The legislation strikes a balance between protecting residential areas from disruptive guests at vacation rentals and creating a permit process that would not be too onerous for owners, the *Maui News* reported.

A property manager would have to live within 30 miles of the rental's location and be able to respond to a complaint in an hour; each vacation rental would be limited to six bedrooms; and properties would be required to provide off-street parking for renters.

Applicants for a vacation-rental permit also would be required to display a 4-foot-square sign informing passers-by that an application had been submitted, and neighbors within 500 feet would have to be notified directly of the application.

The bill also would set a cap on the number of rentals in certain areas.

## ► IDAHO

Hoping to pay off the remainder of a \$5.4 million legal judgment, **BOISE COUNTY** commissioners have authorized a **suit against the Idaho State Tax Commission** to be able to raise taxes above what the state allows.

A federal judge told the commissioners to take on the tax commission to pay the judgment on schedule. State legislators rejected a new law that would have allowed taxing districts facing large legal judgments to raise taxes above a state cap without a public vote.

Boise County Commission Chairman Bob Fry told the *Idaho Statesman*, the county had no other options left to meet its obligation to pay the remaining \$3.1 million of the judgment that found the county violated the Fair Housing Act.

Earlier this year, the tax commission said it would not authorize the levy.



## Research News

# Counties Stand against Child Abuse

Throughout April, communities across the nation have been coordinating workshops, hosting educational fairs and hanging pinwheels. All of this and more is being done to increase public awareness of child abuse.

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month, a tradition that began in 1983 as a month-long recognition of abuse-and-neglect prevention activities on the local and national levels.

In 1989, a grandmother in Virginia tied a blue ribbon around the antenna of her car as a tribute to her grandson who died as a result of child abuse. This act not only honored her grandson, but it helped raise awareness of child abuse in her community and eventually expanded into the National Blue Ribbon campaign. Along with blue ribbons, pinwheels have also come to symbolize a nationwide effort to prevent child abuse and

neglect. This year, Prevent Child Abuse America (PCAA) launched a campaign called Pinwheels for Prevention.

On April 2, 258 pinwheels were placed in front of the Dempsey Building in Floyd County, Ga. Each pinwheel represents a documented case of child abuse in the county this past year. Along with this symbolic representation, public awareness events are taking place throughout the month, which include spotlighting the issue at sporting events and encouraging residents to wear blue on Mondays to show support.

Similarly, Erie County, N.Y. has designed a "pinwheel garden" at the Edward A. Rath County Office Building and branches of the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library system are prominently displaying books on child abuse, and providing parent-resource handouts and posters to raise awareness.



"Victims of child abuse are more likely to be in poor physical health, have difficulty forming emotional and social relationships, and are more likely to engage in high-risk behaviors as they grow into adolescence," said Mark Poloncarz, Erie County executive.

Broome County, N.Y. is hoping to raise awareness of child abuse and endangerment through education. Every Tuesday, beginning April 17, a free program is being offered

for parents on safe discipline skills at a local mall. Additionally, the Broome County Family Violence Prevention Council is airing a public service announcement that deals specifically with abuse of Broome County children.

"Funding the Family Violence Prevention Council and Youth Bureau are among the most important dollars the county spends, but I look at this spending as an investment in our future," said Debbie Preston, Broome County executive.

In some counties, existing programs such as the Family Violence Prevention Council spearhead National Child Abuse Prevention month activities, but in Jackson County, Ill., a special committee was formed to plan events to raise public awareness.

On April 30 at 10 a.m., the Jackson County Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Month Committee is encouraging all residents

to observe a moment of silence in honor of those who have suffered child abuse as well as for all who work to prevent it. The CAP Month Committee will be participating in an Early Childhood Fair as well as distributing blue lapel ribbons.

Blue ribbons will be seen all over this month in Tehama County, Calif., where the second annual Create a Blue Ribbon Tree for Your Community event is being recognized. Last year Tehama County was the first county in California to sponsor this event, but this year it has spread to surrounding counties.

The Tehama County Child Abuse Prevention Council encouraged everyone in the community to display blue ribbons on their trees during the month of April as a symbol of their commitment to prevent child abuse.

*(Research News was written by Sarah Sunderman, research associate.)*

## Curry County, Ore. declares financial emergency status

NEWS FROM *from page 9*

### ► ILLINOIS

The COOK COUNTY State's Attorney's office launched a month-long initiative to educate residents about **victim rights**.

Volunteers in the Victim Witness Assistance Unit and Community Justice Centers are holding presentations and using public service announcements to promote services available to crime victims.

State's Attorney Anita Alvarez will hold a Victim Service Awards ceremony to coincide with National Crimes Victims' Rights Week, beginning April 22, to recognize those who work on behalf of crime victims.

Resources for crime victims and witnesses are available in 15 locations throughout the county. These resources include information on the Illinois Bill of Rights for Crime Victims and Witnesses.

### ► NEW MEXICO

DONA ANA COUNTY officials are on the lookout for an unwelcome arrival — **feral hogs**. The animals have spread from two New Mexico counties seven years ago to 17 today and have been spotted in neighboring SIERRA COUNTY to the north, the *Las Cruces Sun-News* reported.

The hogs are a cross between domestic pigs and Eurasian hogs that were introduced by hunters into the U.S. They can weigh to 300 pounds, carry a number of diseases, eat young livestock, and destroy farm fields and ecological habitat.

### ► OHIO

Governments in LICKING and KNOX counties and three townships have negotiated a **road use and maintenance agreement** with Devon Energy, a company that plans to drill a hydraulic fracturing well in Knox County.

"They seem to want to be good partners," said Licking County Engineer Bill Lozier, adding the agreement goes beyond legal requirements. "They want to do it the right way."

The company has agreed to maintain the roads and bridge along two routes; it has bonded the roads at \$250,000 per mile and the bridge at \$450,000, the *Newark Advocate* reported.

### ► OREGON

• CURRY COUNTY has "**self-declared**" a financial emergency as it struggles with the loss of federal forest payments money. Due to the end of Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (SRS) funding, the county will

need to cut about \$2 million from the discretionary-funds portion of its \$5.1 million general funds budget effective July 1.

The commission's resolution stops short of asking the governor to declare a "fiscal emergency," a designation the State Legislature approved earlier this year that Gov. John Kitzhaber (D) signed.

A fiscal emergency requires the designated county to pay half the costs of a Fiscal Assistance Board to help create a restructuring plan. The cost to Curry County would be at least \$75,000.

"To contemplate taking that amount of money when we're short patrol officers is inconceivable," County Commission Chairman David Itzen told Oregon Public Broadcasting. Commissioners said in their resolution that county services already have been reduced "below responsible levels" in many departments, most critically the Sheriff's Office, juvenile department and planning.

• Facing similar financial problems, LANE COUNTY plans to shed two deputy medical examiners, several part-time employees and rented morgue space on May 19 because of the **loss of timber payments**, according to *KMTR.com*.

"When the money goes away,

the operation goes away," District Attorney Alex Gardner said. "It's disheartening and it's frightening." His office oversees the medical examiner and the morgue.

While Gardner said a state physician will be available, there won't be a morgue for him or her to work in, nor will there be anyone to respond to death scenes.

Currently, the medical examiners cover a 24/7 operation identifying the cause of death for more than 1,000 people a year.

### ► VIRGINIA

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY has been exempted from Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. It becomes the largest local government (pop. 402,000) in the nation to receive a so-called "bailout" from provisions of the act after demonstrating 10 years of **unbiased voting practices**, *The Washington Times* reported.

The act requires that all or parts of 16 states — mostly in the South — "pre-clear" any voting changes, including redistricting, with the U.S. Justice Department because of past discrimination at the polls.

Board of Supervisors Chairman Corey Stewart said, "This shows how far we have come in the past 45 years."

### ► WASHINGTON

KING COUNTY is considering creating **county internships for veterans**. The County Council's Government Accountability, Oversight and Financial Performance Committee recently endorsed the proposal, the *Issaquah Press* reported.

"The unemployment rate for our returning heroes from Iraq and Afghanistan has remained much higher than the national average," Councilman Reagan Dunn said. "The veterans internship program will take important steps at the county level to train, place and employ our veterans and help reverse this trend of higher unemployment among returning members of the armed forces."

The proposal's backers called on county staff to evaluate existing county employment policies and practices for veterans, explore potential costs to operate the internship program and identify possible funding sources. The legislation also calls for analysis of comparable veterans internship efforts in other jurisdictions.

*(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](mailto:ctaylor@naco.org) or [cban@naco.org](mailto:cban@naco.org).)*



## Financial Services News

# Network of Care for Healthy Communities Wins National Award

The Network of Care for Healthy Communities, a partnership among NACo, Trilogy Integrated Resources and National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), has won a national award from the U.S. department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Office of the National Coordinator (ONC). This award, the Healthy People 2020 Leading Health Indicator Challenge, acknowledges outstanding innovation in using health data for decision making at the personal and public policy levels.

HHS has undertaken a significant project called the Community Health Data Initiative which brings a variety of national health data sources together into one place — the National Data Warehouse. The idea is to creatively make data available for greater awareness, decision support and positive change in the health of Americans. HHS and ONC have been particularly interested in applications of this information that would help policy makers at the local level.

The Network of Care received

this award because of its effort to gather population health data from the data warehouse and from all over the country, and customize it into a local Web portal of health indicators at the county level. More than 150 indicators are assembled into an easy-to-use “living report card” of the health of that county. Health indicators track data such as cancer rates, incidence of diabetes, obesity in children and air quality. Each indicator is connected to all proven interventions from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and model practices from NACCHO. This becomes a detailed view of the status of a given county on a wide variety of health issues and provides a creative interactive tool for local officials to develop initiatives, implement policy and improve community health. It also serves as a major step in gaining the Public Health Accreditation and IRS 990 needs assessment requirements now sought by many counties and hospitals.

Trilogy President Bruce Bronzan accepted the award from the Obama administration’s chief technology

officer.

To learn more about the Network of Care for Healthy Communities, or to schedule a demonstration of the capabilities of the site, contact Bronzan at 415.458.5900 or [bbronzan@trilogyir.com](mailto:bbronzan@trilogyir.com). You can also see a short demonstration of the project at <http://youtu.be/V5a20PJHB1o>.

NACo launched the Network of

Care in 2009 to provide consumers, community-based organizations and local and state governments access to a wide variety of information relating to health and human services. The Network of Care, powered by Trilogy Integrated Resources, is a highly interactive, single information Internet network offered through a nationally solic-

ited RFP from Fairfax County, Va.

To receive additional information about the NACo program, please contact Jim Sawyer, NACo Financial Services Center, at 202.661.8868 or [jsawyer@naco.org](mailto:jsawyer@naco.org).

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

## Prescription for good health includes dog-walking, wearing seatbelts

H.R. DOC from page 8

instead of from mom or dad. Instead of spending more than four hours a day in front of the hi-def monster, how about reducing the time by an hour a day?

Imagine investing that hour in learning a second language, playing music or being more in the life of a loved one. Instead of being sucked into the negative reporting on the nightly news-and-commercial festival, watch some these programs with your kids as an educational or coaching opportunity. Discuss

what you would do in a situation like the one being reported. How would you react? Is there a better dispute-handling technique that could have been used before the gun was fired? It’s amazing that we have access to hundreds of channels, but so little seems to be on them with any compelling value.

### ■ Always wear your seat belt and stop smoking

These are not only among the most important bits of health advice a physician can give you. The lives of people who ignore these two

bits of advice are diminished and shortened. The opportunities for them and those around them are lost as a result.

### ■ “Don’t walk by something wrong!”

When you see something that is not quite right, don’t ignore it or think you don’t have time, or are too important. Instead, take a moment to assess what is going on and take some action which begins to fix or solve the problem.

This doesn’t mean, of course, that if you see that the convenience store at your gas station is being robbed, you should rush in and tackle the perpetrator. It may mean that you simply dial 9-1-1 and take note of as many details about what is happening as you can.

Not walking by means that you stop to comfort a person in obvious distress whether that person is a member of your own family, a co-worker or a total stranger.

### ■ Find yourself a pet (preferably a dog.)

Dog owners walk significantly more than non-owners. Regrettably for the tens of millions of cat owners in our country, this walk benefit doesn’t apply to carnivorous felines.

Thank you for your indulgence on this last point. My dog is sitting next to me, staring at the computer to make sure I include her contribution.

And thank you, Doctor Rachel, for advice which is powerful, effective and doesn’t involve controlled substances.

*Phil Rosenberg*

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## What's in a Seal?

» **Fulton County, N.Y.**  
[www.fultoncountyny.gov](http://www.fultoncountyny.gov)



Fulton County was created on April 18, 1838 by a partition of Montgomery County, resulting in a county with an area of 550 square miles. The creation of Fulton County was engineered by Johnstown lawyer Daniel Cady, whose wife was a cousin of Robert Fulton.

Shortly after the American Revolutionary War, the manufacture of gloves and leather became the primary industry of the area. At one point, Johnstown and Gloversville were known as the glove and leather capitals of the world. The largest rise in population and growth came as a result of the fruits of these businesses.

Many residents of Fulton County can trace their ancestry back to the glove and leather trades. Today few glove makers, tanners and leather dressers remain, although some have adapted to survive in the modern times.

The seal shows the Fulton County Courthouse, the oldest operating courthouse in the state of New York.

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

## Job Market & Classifieds

### ► BOROUGH MANAGER – KODIAK ISLAND BOROUGH, ALASKA

Salary: DOQ plus benefits.

Kodiak Island Borough, Manager Position. Seven-member assembly. \$25 million budget; 36 FT employees. Incorporated in 1963, second largest island in U.S., and home to nation’s largest Coast Guard base. Situated in northern Gulf of Alaska, picturesque island enjoys maritime weather influence. Commercial fishing, seafood processing, rocket launch, recreational hunting, fishing, tourism, and government largely make up economy.

Requires bachelor’s degree, prefer M.A., in business/public administration/closely related field from accredited college/university, and five (5) years’ municipal administrator experience; strong financial background and experience with grants and legislative matters. Alaska experience a plus. Combination of education and experience considered in lieu of educational requirement. Serves as CAO and enforces laws and ordinances, administers policies of assembly, manages budget and capital improvements program. Residency

required.

For application packet, contact Nova Javier, MMC, Borough Clerk at 907.486.9391 or email [njavier@kodiakak.us](mailto:njavier@kodiakak.us). Submit application and supplementing documentation to Kodiak Island Borough, Attn: Nova Javier, MMC, 710 Mill Bay Rd., Kodiak, AK, 99615. Deadline Friday, May 25. EOE.

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