

Hawai'i's Riki Hokama leads new NACo executive team

By BEVERLY SCHLOTTERBECK
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Maui County, Hawai'i Council Member Riki Hokama took the leadership reins as the new NACo president in elections held at the annual business meeting, July 14. Leon County, Fla. Commissioner Bryan Desloge won the only contested race for NACo office and takes over as second vice president.

In remarks after his election, Hokama said that re-investing in America's infrastructure would be the overriding theme of his presidential year, principally, but not exclusively, focused on transportation infrastructure.

"My presidential initiative will focus on transportation and infrastructure. A top priority is for reauthorization of MAP-21, a surface transportation bill, and to set in place funding for the Highway Trust Fund," he said.

Hokama described the gridlock in Washington, D.C. as a

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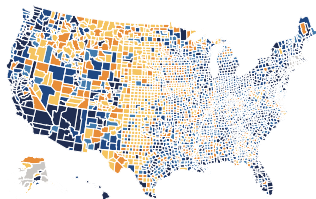


Photos by David Hathcox

NACo's new executive leadership team takes center stage (l-r): Second Vice President Bryan Desloge, Leon County, Fla.; First Vice President Sallie Clark, El Paso County, Colo.; President Riki Hokama, Maui County, Hawai'i; Immediate Past President Linda Langston, Linn County, Iowa. Joining them is Matt Chase, NACo executive director.

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Child immigration crisis rallies counties pro and con

By CHARLES TAYLOR
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The crisis of unaccompanied Central American children crossing illegally into the U.S. has its origins along the 1,900 mile U.S.-Mexican border — and, initially, farther south. Its ramifications, however, reach like thousand-mile tentacles into states as far removed as Maryland, Massachusetts and Virginia.

From Oct. 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014, more than 57,500 "unaccompanied alien children," the federal term for the immigrants, unlawfully made their way into the United States, according to U.S. Customs and Border Protection. That's more than twice the number in FY13.

The growing influx has inflamed passions — pro and con — in counties in California and Texas that were either entry points or have temporarily housed the children.

Supervisor Lenore Stuart, Yuma County, Ariz. — a border

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The new NACo presidential friends and family portrait: Nephews Trent (l) and Jordan Helle (r); President Hokama (center) is flanked by his mother, Kiwae Hokama and Maui County Council Member Elle Cochran.

Workforce bill now law; review of federal training released



President Barack Obama signed the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) into law July 22. WIOA updates the rules governing federal employment and training programs.

It maintains local governance authority while adding needed flexibility for training opportunities to meet the needs of business and jobseekers. Both the House and Senate overwhelmingly passed the bipartisan and bicameral legislation. The previous workforce legislation expired in 2003.

The act takes effect on July 1, 2015, the first full program year after enactment, unless otherwise noted. The U.S. Department of Labor



Official White House Photo by Amanda Lucidon

Pens to be used by the president are set on the signing table with the bill prior to President Barack Obama's signing H.R. 803, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building July 22.

(DOL) will issue further guidance on the timeframes for implementation of the changes and proposed regulations reflecting the changes in WIOA. DOL must publish a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking no later than Jan. 18, 2014 (180 days after enactment). DOL will be reaching out to stakeholders, including NACo, to receive input on this process.

On the same date, Vice President Joe Biden also released his report, *Ready to Work: New Actions to Expand Job-Driven Training and Broaden the Pathway to the Middle Class*, which reviews federal training programs. Under Biden's leadership, Secretary of Labor Tom Perez, Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker and Secretary of Education Arne Dun-

can, the Administration reviewed programs to identify and to begin implementing new executive actions to make training programs more job-driven.

Biden and others have visited states, counties and cities across the country to view what's working in federal employment and training programs. Further findings have been summarized in a DOL report, *What Works in Job Training: A Synthesis of the Evidence*.

* Check out the online version of this article at www.countynews.org for links to *Ready to Work: New Actions to Expand Job-Driven Training and Broaden the Pathway to the Middle Class*, and *What Works in Job Training: A Synthesis of the Evidence*.

NACo supports renewable energy development, revenue sharing on public lands

By TOM WOLFE

ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR



Legislation that would provide revenue sharing with counties from renewable energy development on public lands was the focus of two recent congressional hearings, where NACo presented testimony.

In remarks before the House Committee on Natural Resources' Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources July 29, La Paz County, Ariz. Board Chairman D.L. Wilson, praised the Public Lands Renewable Energy Development Act of 2013 (H.R. 596) for provisions that would speed the process to create renewable energy projects and share their revenue with public lands counties.

"H.R. 596 will help counties by creating a straightforward permitting process tailored to the unique characteristics of renewable energy projects that can be used by public land management agencies," Wilson said. "It will also establish a revenue sharing mechanism that ensures fair compensation to help make up for the millions of acres that the U.S. government pays no local taxes on."

Wilson also emphasized that any revenues from renewable projects should supplement, not replace PILT funding.

"As long as we have federal land within our borders, we will continue to rely on PILT funding," he said. "PILT is a critical program for our county and nearly 2,000 counties nationwide as it provides payments to



Photos by Matt Fellows

Nye County, Nev. Commissioner Lorinda Wichman offers comments at the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee hearing titled, *Breaking the Logjam at BLM: Examining Ways to More Efficiently Process Permits for Energy Production on Federal Lands*.

counties and other local governments to offset losses in tax revenues due to the presence of substantial acreage of federal land in their jurisdictions. Therefore, we must be assured that any funds that are derived from H.R. 596 will supplement and not displace PILT funding."

The hearing was led by subcommittee Chairman Doug Lamborn (R-Colo.) and Ranking Member Rush Holt (D-N.J.).

On the Senate side, Nye County, Nev. Commissioner Lorinda Wichman appeared before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee at a hearing titled, "Breaking the Logjam at BLM: Examining Ways to More Efficiently Process Permits for Energy Production on Federal Lands."

The hearing, led by committee Chairman Mary Landrieu (D-



La Paz County, Ariz. Board Chairman D.L. Wilson, testifies before the House Committee on Natural Resources' Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources.

La.) and Ranking Member Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska), sought to understand the obstacles in permitting more energy projects on federal lands and to consider S. 279, the Public Land Renewable Energy Development Act of 2013, and S. 2440, the BLM Permit Processing Improvement Act of 2014, and related issues.

Wichman spoke in support of S. 279, whose chief sponsor is her home state senator, Dean Heller (R).

"S.279 provides for a more equitable and efficient path to the development of our nation's diversified energy portfolio... Ninety-eight percent of Nye County is owned or managed by the federal government," she said. "Our operating revenues have steadily declined since 2008 due mostly to the assessed values of property which is one-third of the pre-2008 values. The county operating budget for 2014/2015 is now only \$30 million. We have reduced our workforce by 15 percent, unfortunately a large part in law enforcement," she said. We have consolidated services and restricted the purchase of non-essential supplies.

"Payments in Lieu of Taxes provide us with \$2 million to \$3.5 million a year, or \$.33 per acre." Wichman continued, "Our private property taxes are collected on 2 percent of Nye County. Yet all Nevada counties are required to provide essential services to 100 percent of their residents and visitors. It is easy to understand why Nye County and the state and national associations are encouraging the revenue sharing."

* See this story online at www.countynews.org to access Chairman Wilson's and Commissioner Wichman's written testimony and webcasts of both hearings

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Oil spill task force becomes 70-member Gulf Coast Caucus

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significant threat to local governments. “Gridlock in Washington D.C. has major consequences for counties’ long-term planning and progress on critical capital improvement projects. Gridlock also poses threats to public safety and economic development,” he said.

Rounding out the executive team in new leadership positions were El Paso County, Colo. Commissioner Sallie Clark as first vice president and Linn County, Iowa Supervisor Linda Langston, NACo immediate past president.

NACo members also adopted nearly 100 new policy positions, including ones on the immigration of unaccompanied minors and the minimum wage that prompted a rare display of vigorous floor debate and amendment before adoption.

The Annual Business Meeting is traditionally held during NACo’s Annual Conference and Exposition. This year’s “Annual” in New Orleans was the most well attended in five years and featured dozens of policy committee and affiliate meetings, as well as three mobile and 30 onsite workshops. (See stories on pages 6 and 8) The mobile workshops explored post-Katrina restoration efforts and pipeline safety.

Two general sessions featured remarks from the Louisiana’s two U.S. senators, Mary Landrieu (D) and Dave Vitter (R). The Awards Luncheon highlighted the 2014 Best of Category Achievement Award winning counties (see list, page 13) and served as the venue for the presentation of the Public Leadership in the Arts award to Clayton County, Ga. by Americans for the Arts, a sponsor of NACo’s Arts and Culture Commission.

The presidential scholarship award winners were McKenna Silburg and Collin Powell. The presidential scholarships are sponsored by David Davenport and CH2M Hill and awarded to students selected by the outgoing NACo president.

New to this conference were onsite podcast recordings that will be released over the coming weeks, and drop-in roundtables for informal, networking discussions on county-level transportation funding and financing, and health care and counties as employers.

At its Annual Conference meeting, NACo’s Board of Directors officially recognized the Gulf Coast Caucus, initially created as a task force in the aftermath of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill by then-NACo President Glen Whitley. Its purpose was to ensure adequate federal help for the coun-

ties impacted by the spill. The task force has since expanded its scope beyond the BP spill and now includes 70 members, representing the states of Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas.

The host parishes spared no effort in welcoming attendees and

celebrating a successful conference at the Mercedes-Benz Superdome, complete with a mini-Mardi Gras parade.

Next year’s Annual Conference and Exposition will be held in Charlotte-Mecklenburg County, N.C., July 10–13. See you all there.



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Quick Takes

LARGEST COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN THE U.S.

- Miami-Dade County, Fla.
347,366 students
- Clark County, Nev.
314,059 students
- Broward County, Fla.
256,472 students
- Hillsborough County, Fla.
194,525 students
- Orange County, Fla.
176,008 students

Largest School Districts by Enrollment, Wikipedia.org

Texas county uncertain about federal reimbursement

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county — who chair’s NACo’s Immigration Task Force, calls it a “humanitarian crisis,” as do many other officials from the White House to statehouses to the county courthouse.

“This is who we are; we are a nation of receiving people and helping people, and we can’t forget that,” she said. “It doesn’t make any difference who it is, but when you have children...”

Still, she added, the counties receiving these youngsters have legitimate concerns. “What happens if counties have out-of-pocket expenses for finding housing or whatever?” Stuart asked. Will the federal government reimburse them?

NACo members adopted a resolution at the 2014 Annual Meeting in New Orleans calling on the Obama Administration and Congress to ensure that “the costs of the care provided to these children are not transferred to counties” and that they work with the affected Central American nations to address conditions causing the illegal immigration.

Hidalgo County, Texas — one of the state’s southernmost counties — has been a major point of entry into the U.S. for many of the children. It lies across the border from where kids who have hitched a ride on the freight train known as *La Bestia* (The Beast) disembark “close to our county line,” according to County Judge Ramon



Photo courtesy of Hidalgo County, Texas

Reporters interview Hidalgo, Texas County Judge Ramon Garcia after a June 23 briefing on the child immigration crisis co-hosted with the mayor of McAllen, the county’s largest city.

Garcia. There, county officials know the costs thus far.

He said his county has spent about \$40,000 to date on items such as portable toilets and bath facilities for the children to use, and on salaries of employees providing assistance.

“We don’t know how much longer it’s going to last and how much more it’s going to cost us,” he added, “so we’re hopeful that those dollars that are being talked about by either the state or federal government that we’ll get some reimbursement for the expenditures made with local tax dollars.”

Garcia also sees the problem as one that can be addressed by Washington if it funds the resources needed to provide the hearings and due process that a 2008 law passed by Congress and signed by President George W. Bush requires to assess eligibility for refugee status.

“They’re not drug dealers, they’re not terrorists,” Garcia said. “They’re

out here seeking either refugee or asylum status or wanting to come into the country for a better life.”

Hidalgo and McAllen, its largest city, have been more of a way station than final destination — providing stays of two-to-five-days — for the minors until they can be transported to other facilities. Most children who arrive with adult family members are “sent back almost immediately” to their country of origin, he said, and there’s been no local public health or safety crisis.

Questions of health and safety are what led the Prince William County, Va. Board of Supervisors to ask why the federal government didn’t inform them that a local nonprofit organization was housing some of the children in the county.

After learning of their presence, board Chairman Corey Stewart asked county staff to research their impact on the county. Stewart was traveling abroad and couldn’t be reached for comment, but in July 16 radio interview, he explained his concerns.

“What we’re concerned about ... is that the federal government

has relocated these children here in Prince William County. They didn’t even bother to notify the local government here,” Stewart said. “They didn’t notify our school system; they didn’t notify us or our social services systems.”

The reaction was much the same in Carroll County, Md. The Board of Commissioners announced its opposition to the federal government’s “sending non-citizens en masse into our area because this may expose our citizens to associated health and safety risks” — after learning that the federal government was considering a former Army Reserve building in the county to house unaccompanied minors.

Stewart worries that providing even temporary sanctuary sends the wrong message:


“All you have to do is make it to the United States and you’re going to be allowed to stay,” he told WAMU-FM. “That is going to lead to many more children making that dangerous trip to the United States.”

See IMMIGRATION page 5

State-by-state Placement of Unaccompanied Children with Sponsors (January 1, 2014 – July 7, 2014)

State	# Released	State	# Released
Alabama	407	Montana	1
Alaska	5	Nebraska	192
Arizona	186	Nevada	122
Arkansas	166	New Hampshire	13
California	3,150	New Jersey	1,504
Colorado	221	New Mexico	18
Connecticut	325	New York	3,347
Delaware	117	North Carolina	1,191
District of Columbia	187	North Dakota	4
Florida	3,181	Ohio	360
Georgia	1,154	Oklahoma	212
Hawaii	8	Oregon	50
Idaho	8	Pennsylvania	386
Illinois	305	Rhode Island	119
Indiana	245	South Carolina	350
Iowa	122	South Dakota	21
Kansas	179	Tennessee	760
Kentucky	237	Texas	4,280
Louisiana	1,071	Utah	67
Maryland	2,205	Virginia	3
Maine	8	Washington	4
Massachusetts	773	West Virginia	10
Michigan	92	Wisconsin	50
Minnesota	173	Wyoming	6
Mississippi	179	Total	30,340

Source: US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Refugee Resettlement



Profiles in Service

Glenn Osborne

NACo Board of Directors
County Director of Social Services
Wilson County, N.C.

Number of years active in NACo: six

Years in public service: 33

Occupation: human services director

Education: master of arts and master of social work

The hardest thing I’ve ever done: say goodbye to my grandmother

Three people (living or dead) I’d invite to dinner: Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King, Jr. and Dean Smith

A dream I have is to: travel the world and see the great landmarks.

You’d be surprised to learn that I: have been ranked as an expert chess player and played the drums in a band.

The most adventurous thing I’ve ever done is: hiked the challenge trail at Grandfather Mountain, N.C.

My favorite way to relax is: watch a good movie and work out.

I’m most proud of: my sons, wife, staff, agency and county.

Every morning I read: my email.

My favorite meal is: steak, seafood and turtle cheesecake.

My pet peeve is: folks not open minded enough to consider all points of view.

My motto is: “Work Hard – Play Hard.”

My favorite movie is: *The Fugitive*.

My favorite music is: The Beatles and The Monkees Greatest Hits.

My favorite president is: John F. Kennedy.

I am a member of NACo because: NACo provides an opportunity to network with county officials and learn innovative ideas which I can use to benefit the citizens of my county.

NACo testifies on building economically resilient counties

By Daria Daniel

ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR



Bath County, Va. Supervisor Claire A. Collins testified on local and regional approaches to economic resiliency before the U.S. Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs' Subcommittee on Housing, Transportation, and Community Development July 22. Collins' testimony focused on how counties, especially rural counties, have bolstered their ability to thrive amid shifting physical, social and economic conditions and what more can be done at the federal level to support local economies.

Collins discussed how counties play a distinctive role in economic resiliency as stewards of their local communities and are an integral part of the nation's intergovernmental system. She highlighted how Bath County — located in the Allegheny Mountains with a population just over 4,600 — is focused on improving transportation systems, developing infrastructure, providing affordable housing opportunities and building and sustaining a skilled workforce that can help her community be globally competitive.

She noted the county uses its convening powers to engage business as part of the Shenandoah Valley



Photo by Sylvia Johnson

Bath County, Va. Supervisor Claire A. Collins testifies before U.S. Senate Banking Subcommittee on July 22 highlighting what rural counties are doing to build economically resilient communities.

Partnership (SVP), which includes six neighboring counties. Through this regional partnership, the public and private sector work together to promote new investment, strengthen existing businesses and guide labor force development to ensure a healthy economic future for the region.

Collins testified how improving transportation systems, housing options and job opportunities are critical to enhancing local economic development and resiliency. Counties can facilitate economic growth by leveraging transportation and infrastructure assets to forge private

sector partnerships and attract new businesses, she said. She also noted that federal and state highway funding for county transportation projects is not meeting local needs.

Collins closed emphasizing the importance of federal-state-local partnership to local economic resiliency. She said state and local governments have increasingly borne the cost of public infrastructure improvements, making it even more critical for the federal government to assist rural communities and regions with cutting-edge, asset-based regional innovation strategies and in-

vestments. She also gave a nod to the important role that the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program has played in assisting her county to provide affordable housing for its workforce and younger population. CDBG is also helping Bath and a neighboring county plan for a broadband expansion to attract new business and development to the region as well as enhance existing businesses and residents.

Subcommittee Chairman Robert Menendez (D-N.J.) held the hearing to get local perspectives on how communities are building resilient

communities utilizing housing, transportation and environmental conditions. Menendez plans to reintroduce legislation, the Livable Communities Act, which provides federal funding to states and localities that work in partnership across regions to build more resilient communities. Currently the U.S. departments of Housing and Urban Development, Transportation and the EPA have partnered and awarded funding to states and localities that are planning for creating economically resilient communities through their Partners for Sustainable Communities Initiative. NACo supports the federal initiative and also serves as a technical assistance partner for award grantees.

*Check out this article at www.countynews.org for links to NACo resources on economic resiliency.

States take different stands

IMMIGRATION from page 4

A report from county staff to the supervisors found that the nonprofit, Youth for Tomorrow, has been participating in federal program since 2012 and has housed "hundreds of children" during that time. No local, state or Medicaid funds are being used to support the children and there are "no plans to ask for services from the local government to any kind," the staff report said.

While localities continue to seek answers, states are taking differing approaches to relieving the crisis. In Massachusetts, Gov. Deval Patrick (D) has offered two locations to temporarily house up to 1,000 of the children.

Texas Gov. Rick Perry (R) has deployed 1,000 National Guard troops to the U.S.-Mexican border. Officials said it will cost the state \$12 million per month.

Yet, even where the children aren't particularly welcome, county leaders are stepping up to help. In Carroll County, north of Baltimore, Commissioner Richard Rothschild, who staunchly opposes the children's being allowed to remain in the U.S., has been publicizing a list of charities where local residents donate money or volunteer.

"The United States is filled with compassionate and generous people," he said. "This may be another one of those times where that aspect of the American spirit will shine."

NACo: Resource revenue sharing essential to counties

By Tom Wolfe

ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR



Lafourche Parish, La. President Charlotte Randolph testified before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee July 22 at a hearing titled "Leveraging America's Resources as a Revenue Generator and Job Creator." Randolph's testimony focused on how revenues generated from the nation's natural resources should be shared with parishes, counties and boroughs.

The hearing focused on the employment and revenue-generating benefits of natural resource production to state and local governments. With Secure Rural Schools (SRS) and PILT program funding having expired, and the Land and Water Conservation Fund set to expire next year, the committee is looking at options to address ways to share natural resource revenues. Securing SRS and PILT funding remains a top national priority for NACo.

At the hearing, Randolph presented an overview of the role



Photo courtesy of Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

Lafourche Parish, La. President Charlotte Randolph testifies before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee about revenue sharing from natural resources.

revenue sharing plays in county finances.

"Revenue sharing — whether for oil and gas production, timber, renewable energy or other types of natural resources — can be an essential component of a county's revenue stream. Whether counties are allotted revenue from natural resources may depend on state laws," she said.

"Additionally, how counties can

use natural resource revenues can vary widely. For example, in some states, the counties must use revenues for construction and maintenance of county roads. Other states dictate that local governments must use natural resource revenues for public schools, transportation, retirement funds or a county's general fund," she said.

Randolph's parish has benefited

significantly from its oil and gas production industries. She said median household income in her parish (between 2008 and 2012) was 13 percent higher than the state average (\$50,573 vs. \$44,673).

"This is clearly a net positive for our community, but you must remember that people require services that the parish provides — including law enforcement and courts, emergency management, infrastructure maintenance and development and environmental protection, to name just a few," she continued.

"While to some degree or another, most counties provide these basic services, there are additional services we provide that directly relate to our natural resource industries. It is critical that the federal government share natural resource development revenues proportionally with the counties that support and are affected by that development — as they are responsible for the needs of the citizens they serve."

*Check out this article at www.countynews.org for links to Randolph's written testimony and the hearing webcast.

2014 Annual Conference Wrap-up

Planners showcase water's role in rebuilding New Orleans-area parishes, economic development

By CHARLES TAYLOR
SENIOR STAFF WRITER



Almost nine years after Hurricane Katrina, everyone knows how water can “work against” New Orleans. Now, Orleans and its neighboring parishes are increasingly making water “work for” them, as participants in a mobile workshop at NACo’s Annual Conference learned.

“We, pretty much since the turn of the last century, have excluded water in the city. We’ve walled it off; we’ve covered it up and we pump it out and we deny it,” said Ramiro Diaz, an architect and urban planner with the firm Waggonner & Ball at a stop along the Mississippi River.

Since Katrina — given the opportunity to “reimagine the city” — planning has taken a more water-aware approach, he said, along with a focus on longer-range planning that can boost economic development. The tour was a show-and-tell of how the hurricane-impacted region is rebuilding smarter and more sustainably — with lessons for other flood-prone areas built on land that’s sinking, as it is in New Orleans.

The three-hour guided bus tour, Integrating the Built and Natural Environment for a More Resilient New Orleans, was led by Diaz and Robin Barnes, executive vice president of Greater New Orleans Inc. (GNO Inc.), a regional economic development agency for 10 parishes on July 13. Using a \$2.5 million state planning grant, GNO Inc. hired Waggonner & Ball, who worked with an international team of experts — including the Dutch — to develop the Greater New Orleans Urban Water Plan, Barnes explained. It covers the east banks of Orleans and Jefferson parishes, and St. Bernard Parish.

“The other interesting thing about the Greater New Orleans Urban Water Plan,” Barnes said, “is that it was put together by an economic development organization, and we very much brought the economic interests into this. So, we have three goals: to increase safety for residents, to increase the quality of life, to [incentivize] the economic vitality of the region and economic opportunity.”

Since 2009, GNO Inc. has participated in a series of workshops called the Dutch Dialogues that included experts in spatial

planning, water management and policy from the low-lying Netherlands, she said. During visits to New Orleans, the Dutch worked alongside local stakeholders and planners to reconceive the city as a more sustainable place that “works with water instead of against it.”

More than half New Orleans is above sea level, but many areas are well below it. Large swaths of the city are built on drained swamp land or marsh, and have subsided significantly since they were walled off, and levied and pumped out.

Subsidence is the sinking of the ground, which can damage buildings, streets, and other infrastructure and is a global problem. In the United States, more than 17,000 square miles in 45 states have been directly affected by subsidence, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

In the New Orleans area, current drainage systems have created a destructive cycle in which pumping and low water levels cause the land to sink, which then requires increased pumping capacity in order to keep dry, which, in turn, leads to further subsidence, says GNO Inc.’s Urban Water Plan. The problem will cost the region an estimated \$2.2 billion in damages to structures over the next 50 years.

“One of the things we’ve learned from the Dutch is to look at the soils first,” Diaz said — because they often guide what should be built, and where.

Along the tour bus route on Napoleon Avenue, Diaz pointed out a drainage canal upgrade that he described as “an interstate system for the water” to move drainage overflow out as fast as possible.

Yet allowing a rush of waters from the neighborhoods only worsens the subsidence problem. “So our argument is that we need to be slowing the water down a bit more in the neighborhood and hold on to it and get it into the ground first before taking it to this big pipe, because that’s going to exacerbate the subsidence problems because we’re taking the water out too quickly.”

One strategy to accomplish this is the creation of rain gardens, two examples of which were seen along the route. As if on cue, it began to rain heavily during the tour, which provided an object lesson in one of the gardens’ effectiveness in retaining water at the Rosa F. Keller Library and Community Center. The rain garden was added when the



Photo by Charles Taylor

Ramiro Diaz, and architect who worked on the Greater New Orleans Urban Water Plan, gestures while making a point along the banks of the Mississippi River. It was one of several stops on a mobile workshop tour of infrastructure.

facility was repaired and expanded after having been damaged by Katrina. “This is a great demonstration of what we’re talking about when we say integrative water management,” Diaz said. “All of that rainwater is being stored and kept out of the drainage system.”

Barnes said the now challenge for GNO Inc. is to get buy-in from the area’s municipalities, since the

water plan is the agency’s brainchild, and parishes don’t have to follow it. “What we’re working on right now is getting the plan adopted. That is a combination of advocating for pilot projects and demonstration projects, but also looking at policy changes and helping our municipalities figure out the financing challenge.

“What we really need to look

to here is how we do public-private partnerships,” she added, “and how do we engage communities and businesses and homeowners in investing in water management because it’s to everyone’s benefit.”

(*See this story at www.countynews.org for links to the Urban Water Plan and to an iPhone/iPad app version of the plan.)



Photo courtesy of Waggonner & Ball

This rain garden, built by the New Orleans Redevelopment Authority in the Filmore neighborhood, was inspired by the Greater New Orleans Urban Water Plan. It can temporarily hold up to 500 gallons of rainwater — on what formerly was a vacant lot — before it gradually flows into the city’s drainage system.

2014 Annual Conference Wrap-up

Senators Vitter, Landrieu highlight general session

General sessions at NACo conferences are lively showcases often with inspirational guest speakers, top politicians, opportunities to recognize member achievement, present awards and thank association supporters. All of that happened at this year's conference in New Orleans, and more.

Speakers included the popular "human potential coach" and Food Network regular Chef Jeff Henderson; comedian and impersonator Frank Caliendo of *Fox NFL Sunday* fame, New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu and Louisiana's two U.S. senators, Mary Landrieu (D) and David Vitter (R). Landrieu also spoke at the Western Interstate Region (WIR) Board meeting held July 12.

Here's some of what the senators had to say.

Sen. David Vitter (R-La.)

Speaking at the opening general session, Vitter, ranking member, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, underscored the critical link between economic growth and the country's transportation network — calling it "the backbone of the economy." Vitter outlined the key components of the Senate measure to reauthorize MAP-21.

The bill, passed unanimously in his committee, would provide the certainty of stable, long-term funding, an emphasis on bridges and bridge safety, accelerated project delivery; and most importantly, "re-establish the trust in the Highway Trust Fund," which, he said, has wandered off course from its original purpose.

However, the transportation bill has more masters than just the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. Three other committees are involved, Vitter said. And most important of those is the Senate Finance Committee. The Finance Committee, he said, is looking at a 10-month extension. "That's not the long-term fix we need, but I expect it's the next step."

Vitter hopes that work on a long-term MAP-21 reauthorization doesn't stop with a 10-month extension. "I hope we keep on working on a true, long-term extension."

Sen. Mary Landrieu (D-La.)

Sen. Landrieu spoke to NACo members twice in her hometown. On July 11, she pitched a plan to fully fund Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) and Secure Rural



Sen. Mary Landrieu (D-La.) is greeted by members and staff attending the Western Interstate Region Board meeting.

Schools and increase revenue sharing with resource-producing states to a receptive audience at the Western Interstate Region's

board meeting.

She has led the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources since February and stressed that

the benefits coming from oil drilling three miles off the Louisiana shore often leave the state, but environmental challenges remain.



Photo by David Hathcox

Sen. David Vitter (R-La.)

"In my view, the country has not quite figured out how to give back what we take," she said. "We just need a portion to restore our coast. It's the most threatened coastline in America."

She points to individual revenue sharing deals that other states have — New Mexico, Wyoming and Colorado — and wants to advocate for that across the board.

"Without cooperation and support, (private companies) couldn't access those resources," she said.

"We could take a portion of those offshore drilling revenues, reinvest them and fully fund the Water Conservation Fund. Every year we have to either fight for (conservation money) or get zeroed out."

During the Closing General Session July 14, Landrieu thanked NACo members for their help in lobbying for the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act, which delayed dramatic rate increases for National Flood Insurance Program policy holders.

"In less than a year, when NACo stood up with 16 parish presidents from Louisiana and led an effort to say to Congress that this bill, that charges people \$20,000 a year to live in place they've been living for more than 300 years, is not going to work for us," she said, "we got it done when very few things could pass (Congress)."

(Charlie Ban and Bev Schlotterbeck, County News staff, contributed to this report.)

Cybersecurity, Google Glass featured in Technology-Innovation Summit

By CHARLIE BAN

STAFF WRITER

AND

CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT



Applying innovative technologies to protect data and using assessments to improve IT departments were some of the topics discussed at NACo's 2014 Technology-Innovation Summit. It featured county CIOs and officials discussing issues ranging from enhancing cybersecurity to health care delivery for counties and their employees. The summit is held twice a year preceding NACo's major conferences.

Phil Bertolini, CIO, Oakland County, Mich., Ralph Johnson, chief innovative security and privacy officer, King County, Wash. and Chris Rodgers, NACo immediate past president and commissioner, Douglas County, Neb., opened the summit with a discussion on cybersecurity and how counties, no matter their size, need to invest in protecting crucial data from hackers.



Photo by Jack Hernandez

Wayne Chizek, Director of Geographic Information Services, Marshall County, Iowa, introduces the Iowa counties panel on technology resources.

"We have seen the cyber landscape change dramatically," said Bertolini. "Counties need to collaborate and share cybersecurity methods in this never-ending battle against cyber hackers."

The panel concluded with a discussion on cyber insurance, a

form of insurance counties are considering that protects them in the event of a cyber-attack.

Continuing the theme of counties helping counties, the next panel included speakers from the

See **TECH SUMMIT** page 12

2014 Annual Conference Wrap-up

Workshops include health care, county-wide issues

NACo's Annual Conference and Exposition provides excellent opportunities for learning timely and relevant information about issues important to county government. The following report highlights educational sessions from the Orleans Parish, La. conference.

(Several workshops were recorded with audio and slides from the presentations are available at NACo's Conference Learning Center — free to conference attendees or for a fee to non-attendees. Visit www.naco.org/education/Education/Pages/CLC.aspx.)

Sunday, July 13

■ Enrolling Pre-adjudicated Individuals into Health Coverage

Who spoke?

- **Lore Joplin**, principal, Lore Joplin Consulting, Portland, Ore.
- **Nancy Griffith**, director of corrections health, Multnomah County, Ore.

What participants learned:

The increased access to health care, thanks to the Affordable Care Act, has prompted counties to start using their criminal justice systems to help enroll offenders in some form of insurance.

Speakers advocated keeping nonviolent offenders out of jail while awaiting trial and getting them signed up for Medicaid or a health insurance exchange so they could access health care.

Joplin illustrated the costs of community health care versus emergency room care and health services provided in jails.

"It's a notable opportunity to save money," she said. "Last year, four million people who spent time in jail got medical intervention. If we can get them covered by insurance and treated in the community, it will save money in the long run."

There are opportunities to enroll people at every step in the judicial process. San Diego County, for example, has health insurance enrollment staff in their probation offices, making them a step in the process for offenders.

She added that desire to access medical care may even cause recidivism among offenders who have had care in custody.

"People are committing crimes to get into jail to see doctors, get their medications," she said. "If we can hook them up with that in the community, there's a good chance we can break that cycle."



Photos by David Hathcox

Carol A. Clark, Essex County, N.J., comments during the Q&A at the Employee Wellness Programs: Return on Investment workshop.

Griffith said the ACA's implementation is opening the door between health care and criminal justice systems for the first time and changes what both do by requiring that they talk to each other.

Multnomah County diverted many of its nonviolent offenders and was able to dramatically cut its number of offenders sent to the emergency room in 2013 and saved nearly \$500,000.

"When it comes to the bottom line, we don't feel as much of a budget crunch," she said. "And it improves the health outcomes for offenders."

(Staff contact: Maeghan Gilmore, mgilmore@naco.org, 202.942.4261)

■ Keeping Cool When the Heat Is On

Who Spoke?

- **Todd McGee**, communications director, North Carolina Association of County Commissioners

and NACIO president

- **Courtney Greve**, communications director for clerk David Orr, Cook County, Ill.

- **Rossana Seitter**, public information officer, Mecklenburg County, N.C.

- **Rebecca Carter**, public information officer, Mecklenburg County, N.C.

- **David Rose**, public information officer, El Paso County, Colo.

What participants learned:

Elected officials are under more scrutiny than ever by a suspicious press and skeptical citizens. In a packed workshop, Todd McGee, along with a panel of speakers, provided county officials with tips on media-related issues such as how to handle media inquiries and how to avoid ambush interviews.

Greve provided step-by-step tips on how officials should be a resource



Henry Nickson, Tunica County, Miss., is a study in the title of the workshop he's attending, Keeping Cool When the Heat Is On.

for reporters and make information accessible and transparent.

"How you respond to the media is how you and your office are perceived," said Greve. "Responding quickly, honestly and thoroughly creates a more positive relationship between media and officials."

Seitter and Carter, PIOs for Mecklenburg County, N.C. demonstrated tools they use from iPhone videos to board bulletins that keep citizens and the media informed.

The workshop concluded with McGee and Rose acting out an ambush interview. McGee shared the five steps to survive an ambush interview: stop walking; face the reporter; take off sunglasses and let them see your eyes; stay calm and agree to an interview inside while thinking of responses to their inquiry.

(Staff contact: Tom Goodman, tgoodman@naco.org, 202.942.4222)

■ Employee Wellness Programs: Return on Investment

Who spoke?

- **Jane Hague**, councilmember, past NACo president, King County, Wash.
- **Tim Lee**, chairman, Board of Commissioners, Cobb County, Ga.
- **David Young**, Healthstat, Inc., Charlotte, N.C.

What participants learned:

Wellness programs for county employees and their families pay off in reduced health care costs, less absenteeism and better morale, said panelists from Cobb County, Ga. and King County, Wash.

In King County, wellness programs have accounted for 2,000 employees losing 19 tons; 800 employees who have quit smoking health care cost savings of \$46 million dollars.

A labor-management team designed the basic template for the King County programs, which includes incentives for employees to take annual health assessments and complete programs designed specifically for any issues uncovered in their assessments.

Planning for Cobb County's onsite clinic made convenience and a comfortable atmosphere key goals. The county also used consultants to help in the effort and Board Chair Tim Lee stressed the importance of getting help when setting up a clinic facility.

(Staff contact: Emmanuelle St. Jean, estjean@nao.org, 202.942.4267)

See **WORKSHOPS** page 9



At the Enrolling Pre-adjudicated Individuals into Health Coverage workshop, Nancy Griffin, Multnomah County, Ore., corrections health director, said the county saved nearly half a million dollars in health care costs by diverting many of its non-violent offenders to the community.



Kitty Barnes, Catawba County, N.C., shows off a newsletter highlighting innovations in her county during the Learn New Strategies for Your County Economy workshop.

Rural broadband, ethical behavior among workshop topics

WORKSHOPS from page 8

■ Bring Broadband to Your Rural County

Who spoke?

- **Mike Smith**, commissioner, Sherman County, Ore.
- **Bob Fox**, commissioner, Renville County, Minn.

What participants learned:

Two rural county commissioners shared their experiences — both hurdles and successes — in bringing broadband Internet to their communities, one in Minnesota, the other in Oregon.

Smith described the process that resulted in his county's helping to make broadband more widely available in his sparsely populated "frontier" (two people per square mile) county of 1,760. It was largely a tale of not giving up or being thwarted when commercial providers said the costs weren't worth the effort.

The county used extra bandwidth on its 911 system, paid farmers to set up antennas on grain towers and used other infrastructure to provide wireless Internet, working with an existing ISP.

He said they chose to build a basic system and allow users to expand its reach by providing them \$150 per household. The result is a system that covers 900 square miles that cost the county about \$40,000.

He likened the approach to the county providing the roads and the ISP driving the truck to move the cargo.

Fox explained Renville County's project with neighboring Sibley County to create a utility

cooperative to provide broadband service to rural customers (He noted this might not be possible under other states' laws).

(Staff contact: Yejin Jang, yjang@naco.org, 202.942.4239)

■ Identifying Multiple Forms of Wealth for Lasting Growth and Prosperity

Who spoke?

- **Melissa Levy**, senior associate, Yellow Wood Associates, St. Albans, Vt.

What participants learned:

Levy and attendees discussed what resources in each county could yield different types of wealth and how to identify them.

"I don't see counties building value chains, but I do see counties could be facilitators who could build value chains," she said.

Those types of wealth include:

- individual (the stock of human skills)
- social (trust in relationships)
- intellectual (knowledge, innovation and creativity)
- natural (environmental assets)
- built (infrastructure)
- political (power and goodwill that groups hold)
- financial (monetary assets), and
- cultural (the stock of practices that reflect values rooted in place, class and ethnicity).

"This isn't always about attracting industry to come in and exploit the resources," she said. "It's about building something from the ground up; it's more likely to stay, something organic."



Photos by David Hathcox

Jason Anderson, Saguache County, Colo., addresses the panelists at the Bring Broadband to Your Rural County workshop.

She hammered home that reinvestment in a region is crucial and often under-represented.

"So many statistics are about flows, what's coming in and out, and you need to measure the stock—the aggregate quality," she said.

Levy also implored attendees to look for underutilized potential that could make resources more efficient.

"It could be something you might not even realize is a resource," she said.

(Staff contact: Jen Horton, jhorton@naco.org, 202.942.4274)

■ Maintaining Ethical Behavior in the Spotlight and Under a Microscope

Who spoke?

- **Virginia Delegal**, general counsel, Florida Association of Counties

What participants learned:

After establishing the basis for moral values that elected officials share as the starting point, Delegal provided a framework to help elected officials work through ethical dilemmas.

"Obedience to the enforceable is the easy part," she said.

She presented Gallup poll results that showed an improving view of local office holders by the general public, as opposed to members of Congress and governors, whose esteem has fallen.

She pointed out that public corruption was the FBI's top priority among criminal investigations, but also explained that not following



Virginia Delegal, general counsel, Florida Association of Counties, presents ways to work through ethical dilemmas at Maintaining Ethical Behavior in the Spotlight and Under a Microscope.

the letter of the law could cause waste.

"You could be three years into an RFP process and right before a decision is made you violate your state's open meeting law," she said. "Now, whatever action you take will be voided and you're back at square one. You want to talk about wasting taxpayer dollars...that's right up there."

She recommended elected officials rely on their staff because of the balance that relationship strikes.

"You're change-oriented and they're seeking security," she said. "They're dramatically different roles, but you need each other. They protect each other."

(Staff contact: Amanda Odorimah, aodorimah@naco.org, 202.942.4225)

Monday, July 14

■ County Public Defender Delivery Systems Reform

Who spoke:

- **Dan Chadwick**, executive director, Idaho Association of Counties
- **Tanya Greene**, advocacy and policy counsel, American Civil Liberties Union

What participants learned:

Pointing out the constitutional right to counsel, and appropriately enough, the lack of a right to prosecution, Chadwick outlined challenges facing counties that provide indigent defense.



Rod Sullivan (l), Johnson County, Iowa, and Orlando Trainer, Oktibbeha County, Miss., team up to discuss their counties' assets during the workshop, Identifying Multiple Forms of Wealth for Lasting Growth and Prosperity.

See **WORKSHOPS** page 10

Counties share economic development success stories

WORKSHOPS from page 9

Most states delegate the responsibilities for providing indigent defense to counties, who end up financing both prosecution and defense in cases in which there is a threat of incarceration.

Idaho renamed its public defenders, calling them defending attorneys, and defined indigent as 187 percent of the federal poverty level.

Chadwick said that while counties fulfill these responsibilities, they should appreciate the work that the American Civil Liberties Union does to fight for individual rights.

"We might not like some of what they accomplish, but the work they do is important," he said.

Among other reforms, Idaho has also required its defending attorneys to provide annual reports.

"I don't know how you manage your system if you don't have that data," he said.

Greene advised against hiring public defenders on flat-fee contracts.

"It might be easy for your budget, but sometimes doing the job well means more resources that are allocated in a flat-fee contract," she said. "If those restrictions end up leading to an appeal or retrial, the county's going to be paying more anyway."

She also underscored the importance of having experienced public defenders: too many are new attorneys who don't have much experience.

Chadwick pointed out that Idaho is seeing some success from having larger counties manage their own finances in terms of providing indigent defense, while the smaller counties work with the state.

Greene agreed. "Figure out as a county what role you want to have," she said. "If you don't want it as your role, make it part of your advocacy."

(Staff contact: Landis Rush, arush@naco.org, 202.942.4236)

■ Cybersecurity Risk Management: Accountability and Best Practices

Who spoke?

• **Ralph Johnson**, chief information security and privacy officer, King County, Wash.

• **Andrew Dolan**, director, governmental affairs, Multi-state Information Sharing and Analysis Center (MS-ISAC), East Greenbush, N.Y.



Photo by David Hathcox

Andrew Dolan, Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center, goes over the points of vulnerability for security breaches during Cybersecurity Risk Management: Accountability and Best Practices.

• **Lucie Huger**, officer, Greensfelder, Hernker & Gale, P.C., St. Louis, Mo.

• **Steve Hurst**, director, security services and technology, AT&T, Wayne, Pa.

What participants learned:

County officials have a vested interest in protecting their local government from all threats, including cyber threats. Led by Johnson, a panel of information technology experts offered their expertise to equip officials with the knowledge needed to better understand cybersecurity.

Huger spoke about the possible types of cyber breaches county governments may have such as phishing, along with how to handle such a breach when it occurs.

"Being proactive in your cybersecurity now helps tremendously when a breach does occur," she said. "Everyone in a county is responsible for information security."

MS-ISAC's Dolan continued the theme, speaking about criminals and what they're looking for when they hack a government site. He touched on three examples of organizations getting hacked and how they were not prepared beforehand.

The panel concluded with a discussion on cyber insurance, a new type of insurance counties are looking into. In the event of a cyber attack, policies try to help the county recoup most of their data and monetary losses.

(Staff contact: Mary Bell, mbell@naco.org, 202.942.4242)

■ Learn New Strategies for Your County Economy

Who spoke?

• **Tony Hyde**, commissioner, Columbia County, Ore.

• **Kitty Barnes**, commissioner, Catawba County, N.C.

• **John O'Grady**, commissioner, Franklin County, Ohio

• **Paula Brooks**, commissioner, Franklin County, Ohio

What participants learned:

This session featured a round-

table of commissioners from counties profiled in the new NACo research report, *Strong Economies, Resilient Counties: The Role of Counties in Economic Development*. It was moderated by Robert H. Wilson, Ph.D. of the LBJ School of Public Affairs, NACo's research partner.

Speakers from counties in three population categories (small, medium and large) discussed their involvement in economic development initiatives, the challenges they faced and successes achieved. The report,

part of the Why County Matters series, found that counties are important sponsors of local economic development initiatives (81 percent), have workforce challenges and work best when they collaborate with public or private partners.

Hyde provided details of Columbia County's (pop. 49,300) involvement in a Forest Health-Human Health Initiative, in which timber farmers can sell carbon credits in exchange for credits towards health care benefits. Barnes, related how Catawba County (pop. 154,300) transitioned from a declining textiles and furniture hub to attracting an Apple computer data center. Grady and Brooks, shared, respectively, Franklin County's (pop. 1.2 million) experiences in regional cooperation and international economic development. Brooks chairs NACo's International Economic Development Task Force.

Their firsthand accounts bore out the study's findings that unemployment or underemployment is a major challenge. Case studies on these three and more than 30 other counties can be found in the report, which is available at www.naco.org/strongeconomies.

(Staff contact: Emilia Istrate, eistrate@naco.org, 202.942.4285)

Charlie Ban, Christopher Johnson, Beverly Schlotterbeck and Charles Taylor, County News staff, contributed to this report.



Kay Cashion, Guilford County, N.C., workshop moderator, poses with Dan Chadwick, Idaho Association of Counties, and Tanya Greene, ACLU, as they show off certificates of recognition as speakers at the County Public Defender Delivery Systems Reform session.

2014 Annual Conference Wrap-up

Policy development attracts key federal officials

Policy development is among the core purposes of NACo conferences. With a common venue, county officials from across the country can learn more about the issues that affect their communities and become involved in the NACo policy process. Following is a snapshot of those efforts.

Waters of the U.S. Discussion

In a session not limited to committee members, NACo's Environment Energy and Land Use Committee gave the EPA's Nancy Stoner a platform to explain proposed changes in the definition of "Waters of the U.S." (WOUS).

It's a topic of broad interest because of its potential to expand federal jurisdiction over bodies of water nationwide. Stoner, EPA acting assistant administrator for water, credited NACo with helping to secure a longer comment period on the rules, which extends to Oct. 20, to help iron out issues of concern to local governments.

In April, EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of engineers released a definition of WOUS that has created uncertainty over whether waters in conveyances such as roadside ditches could be subject to federal regulation (Stoner says, generally, "no").

"I think that it's important that we continue to try to find common ground," Stoner told a sometimes-skeptical audience, who were provided more than an hour to ask questions. "I think that there's a lot of improvement that can be made in terms of our understanding of each other's points of view ... to make sure that it does what we think it does and not what some have feared."



Photo by Jack Hernandez

Nancy Stoner, EPA, talks about the agency's recent proposal to change the definition of "waters of the U.S." at a meeting open to all NACo members.

During the Q&A, audience member Vincent Gin of Orange County, Calif.'s public works department summed up counties' concerns. "We're very sensitive to how these terms that are meant to apply nationally affect us in our region," he said. "We're concerned about how these rules can be applied and misinterpreted by others."

Immigration Task Force Meeting

Brad Johnson, Office of Intergovernmental Relations at DHS, characterized the current flood of unaccompanied children from Central America as a "humanitarian issue as well as an issue of border security."

Johnson was briefing members of NACo's Immigration Task Force on the rapidly politicizing plight of the 57,000 unaccompanied minors, mostly from Honduras, Nicaragua

and El Salvador, who are expected to cross the nation's borders by the end of September. The number is more than double the amount in FY13, Johnson said.

At the federal level, a coordinating council of federal agency representatives, headed by FEMA Director Craig Fugate, is leading the response.

The departments of health and human services, justice, and defense in addition to homeland security and its ICE and FEMA agencies, among others, are engaged in dealing with the unprecedented influx of undocumented minors.

They are building additional capacity to house the children, where they are initially processed by HHS. DOJ is assigning temporary immigration judges to begin processing their immigration status.

Meanwhile, DOJ and ICE are adding more capacity to hunt down and dismantle the groups, "coy-



Photos (unless noted) by David Hathcox

Brad Johnson, Office of Intergovernmental Affairs at the Department of Homeland Security, takes questions from members of the Immigration Reform Task Force about the surge of unaccompanied minors crossing into the U.S. from Central America.

otes," that are bringing the children into the U.S. "We are surging resources to the border," he said.

Community, Economic and Workforce Development Committee Meeting

Committee members heard from a variety of federal officials with overlapping jurisdictions including representatives from HUD, the Labor and Commerce departments,

and USDA Rural Development.

Cliff Taffet, HUD acting assistant secretary, Community Planning and Development, covered funding for the CDBG and HOME programs and outlined threats in an era of decreased funding. Ending family homelessness by 2020 could be "a bridge too far" given available resources, he said.

HUD needs \$2.4 billion to

See COMMITTEES page 12



Mike James (r), Maricopa County, Ariz., member of the Justice and Public Safety Steering Committee, participates in the committee's policy discussion. Looking on are Patty Weeks, Nez Perce County, Idaho, and David Hudson, Sebastian County, Ark.



Brenda Holt, Gadsden County, Fla., questions a speaker at the Community, Economic and Workforce Development Steering Committee meeting.

CDBG, Justice and Public Safety grants important county issues

COMMITTEES from page 11

accomplish that goal. In their respective budgets, the Senate would fund the program at \$2.145 billion, the House at \$2.1 billion. Both fall short of the Administration's request of \$2.4 billion.

Portia Wu, assistant secretary of the U.S. Department of Labor's (DOL) Employment and Training Administration, said the agency has a number of initiatives that address job

training and workforce development.

Over the last six months, she said, the agency has made about \$1 billion in grants available for programs such as reintegrating ex-offenders into the labor force through partnerships with public schools, community colleges and businesses. This fall, it will provide about \$100 million dollars to support registered apprentice partnerships.

Jay Williams, assistant secretary, Economic Development, U.S.

Department of Commerce, noted that the Economic Development Administration is the only federal agency "dedicated" to economic development. A former mayor of Youngstown, Ohio, he shared examples of that city's rebound, thanks in part to EDA programs after the collapse of the steel industry decades ago.

Colleen Landkamer, Minnesota state director, USDA Rural Development, discussed, among other issues,

the Administration's Made in Rural America program, noting that rural America has much more to offer than its agricultural products.

Justice and Public Safety Committee

Kenneth Polite, U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Louisiana, advocated on behalf of the "Smart on Crime" movement, which recommends a focus on incarcerating only violent offenders and takes a more

rehabilitative approach to low-level offenders.

"We want to reduce the time they spend in prison, make them productive citizens instead of hardened criminals trapped in a revolving door of recidivism," he said of nonviolent offenders.

A former New York City prosecutor, he has taken the "strike force" method of combating organized crime and adapted it to the gang activity in New Orleans.

He said the federal government has been slow to adopt the various diversion programs that have gained traction in states and local governments, including drug courts and veterans' courts.

Polite also lauded a program at work in Michigan and New Orleans, "30-2-2," which recruits 30 businesses to commit to hiring two nonviolent ex-offenders for two years.

"One of the most significant ways to combat recidivism is with employment," he said.

Ron Davis, director of the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), gave updates on the most recent grant cycle and encouraged counties with innovative community policing programs to apply for the Department of Justice's Community Policing Development grants.

"If you've cornered the market on fighting a problem in your county and just need a little funding bump, this is the program for you," he said. "It won't be enough to run a (law enforcement) department, but it will be a little something that will help finish the job."

He was optimistic for federal funding for the COPS program, which is pegged at \$209 million in the House Appropriations Committee and \$224 million in the Senate Finance Committee.

"Last year we had zero from the House, so this is a big improvement," he said. "When the numbers are this close between the chambers, they usually split the difference, so I feel pretty good about where we'll be."

He talked about the community reform model that helped the Clark County, N.V. Sheriff's Office reduce officer-involved shootings, and a partnership with the Department of Health and Human Services that will apply public health analysis to violent crime in eight pilot cities.

"We'll analyze where incidents start, how they spread, the participants' social networks," he said. "It will help us understand how everything is connected."

CIC 2.0 captures more data about counties

TECH SUMMIT from page 7

state of Iowa talking about using technology resources to help each other. CoSTAR, in conjunction with the Iowa State Association of Counties, is a county strategic advisory resource to help bring improvements to technology in Iowa. CoSTAR works with Paying IT Forward, a program that assesses the state of technology in any given county.

With a remote presentation, Eric Guth, IT director, Winnebago County, Iowa, discussed the issues his county had with information technology and how they overcame them.

NACo Research Director Emilia Istrate debuted the County Intelligence Connection (CIC) 2.0, a private, managed online community for local government leaders and staff that will enable users to benchmark against other counties. To get the most out of CIC 2.0, of-

ficials were encouraged to sign up for the County Innovation Network (COIN) that would allow access to additional indicators that provide information on items such as CDBG fund allocation.

The lunchtime presentation included a demonstration of Google Glass, a wearable technology that recognizes voice commands giving the user the ability to accomplish a variety of tasks, such as taking photos or asking for directions, hands-free. Zoe Jerchow of Google spoke about how "explorers" (Google Glass testers) help work out the flaws of the technology while developing apps everyone with Google Glass will be able to use.

After lunch, the summit shifted to county health care delivery after the implementation of the Affordable Care Act. Clarence Williams, vice president of client strategy for Aetna, said the evolution of health care from a clinical-based



Photos by Jack Hernandez

Zoe Jerchow, Google Glass Guide, demonstrates how the hands-free device is helping those with disabilities.

orientation to a consumer-based one would involve putting the right information in the consumer's hand and making it "actionable."

"People will be looking for

the Uber of health care," he said, referring to the popular on-demand ridesharing app.

Derek Feeley, executive vice president at the Institute for Healthcare Improvement, said the vast amount of publicly available health care data is less than two years old, and not all of it yields useful knowledge.

Nick Macchione, San Diego County's director of health and human services, emphasized using technology to cut health care delivery costs.

"Health care spending is crowding out general services budgets, parks and recreation, road maintenance money," he said. "We have to play a leadership role, perhaps the most we've ever played in this arena in health and human services."

A new feature at this year's summit was the NACo Tweet Wall where officials and participants could live-tweet during each session. Tweets included quotes, comments and helpful information that everyone could use.

**Resources and presentations from the 2014 NACo Technology-Innovation Summit are available on the COIN website at www.countyinnovation.us.*



NACo Research Director Emilia Istrate speaks with Terrence Farrell, commissioner, Chester County, Pa. about the benefits of CIC 2.0 as Ralph Johnson, CIO, King County, Wash., listens in.

(Charlie Ban, Bev Schlotterbeck and Charles Taylor, County News staff, contributed to this report.)

STATE TO STATE



IDAHO NORTH DAKOTA



What issues are driving state associations' legislative agendas? What are the latest and most persistent challenges your county colleagues in other states are facing? What looks to be looming on the horizon?

State-to-State, a County News feature, explores these questions and helps keep you in touch with your fellow leaders across the country.

Idaho



Like in many western states, Idaho counties hope for some clarification of the status of the 60 percent of its land that is held by the National Forest Service (38 percent) or Bureau of Land Management (22 percent).

The Idaho Association of Counties would like to see the federal government turn over some of that land to the state for management.

It's one of several issues that the association has been pushing in the Legislature.

Executive Director Dan Chadwick would also like to see the state be more open to raising new transportation revenue.

"The Idaho Legislature hasn't

been thinking about how we can fund road improvements; nobody wants to raise the gas tax, raise registration fees, no alternative ways. That's problematic for our counties."

He is also concerned about the direction the Legislature will take the state's Medicaid expansion or redesign, noting the current system, paying up to \$11,000 per claim, is broken.

"We're spending millions on that system, but it's not designed to address preventative care," he said. "That could change everything."

The association is working with the Legislature to establish standards of education, training and qualification for public defenders.

Outside of the Legislature, Idaho counties are struggling with property tax exemptions for health care facilities. The U.S. Department of Labor called health care employment one of the few consistent bright spots in the Idaho economy, and the second largest portion of the state's private sector employment, but many of the health care systems are nonprofits and exempt from property taxes.

"We haven't figured out a good

solution yet," Chadwick said. "They provide such a benefit, but with the majority of the state being owned by the government, taxable property is at a premium."

Looking ahead, Chadwick is worried about declining familiarity with local government in the Legislature. Though the statehouse does not have term limits, he is seeing turnover erode the number of lawmakers with experience in local government who would be sensitive to counties' concerns.

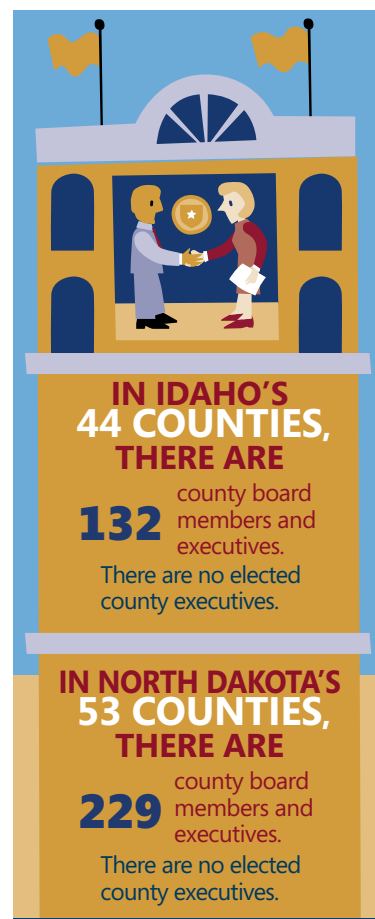
North Dakota



The biennial session, held even numbered years January to April, brought many challenges and issues to the forefront. Oil and agriculture production impacts on local roads, the property tax structure as well as an increase in the costs of social services drove the legislative session.

In recent years, North Dakota has risen from 14th to second in oil production in the U.S. thanks to recent discoveries of shale gas reserves. This has caused increased road traffic, making road maintenance

and congestion more of a challenge. However, a positive from the oil boom for counties has been the luxury of looking for ways to reduce tax burdens, especially the property tax.



Social services in the state continue to climb in costs as the state shifts most of the financial burdens to the counties.

"Even with the oil boom, counties continue to take a closer look at programs that will require more finances in order to continue," said Jeff Eslinger, North Dakota Association of Counties communications manager.

Programs include early childhood education, where 31 percent of children ages 3-4 in the state are not in preschool due to living below the federal poverty line (\$46,466 for a family of four). Medicaid is another area of growing costs with the implementation of the Affordable Care Act in the coming years.

A growing concern for counties continues to be the recognition that local road maintenance and construction cannot adequately be addressed by the dwindling federal resources and unpopular property taxes.

"States must help with those costs and not put the burden solely on counties," Eslinger said. "North Dakota counties are not in financial trouble, but politics play a key part in how the money will be used."

(Charlie Ban and Christopher Johnson, County News staff, contributed to this report.)

2014 Annual Conference Wrap-up

2014 Best of Category Achievement Award Winners

Mobile County, Ala. – Homeless Prevention Project (Human Services)

Maricopa County, Ariz. – Project Development Manual (Transportation)

Contra Costa County, Calif. – LiveChat: eGovernment Customer Relationship Management (Libraries)

San Diego County, Calif. – Community Transition Center (Criminal Justice and Public Safety) and AlertSanDiego (Emergency Management and Response)

Sonoma County, Calif. – Russian River Water Safety Patrol (Parks and Recreation)

Boulder County, Colo. – Carvel Champion Cottonwood Art and Sapling Project (Arts and Historic Preservation)

Gwinnett County, Ga. – FIRE Career Awareness Program (Personnel Management, Employee Training and Benefits)

Maui County, Hawaii – Remote Testimony Interactive Communication System (Civic Education and Public Information)

Worth County, Iowa – Paying IT Forward (Information Technology)

Baltimore County, Md. – Strengthening Lives (Health)

Montgomery County, Md. – ePermits Apply Online Program (County Administration Management)

Macomb County, Mich. – Volunteer Medical Reserve Corp.: Ready to Serve in a Health Emergency (Volunteers)

Washtenaw County, Mich. – Preventing Tax Foreclosure: Michigan counties Partner with State (Children and Youth)

Anoka County, Minn. – Anoka County Water Resources GIS App (Environmental Protection and Energy)

Suffolk County, N.Y. – Employment Training for Hard to Employ Residents in distressed Communities (Employment and Training)

Clackamas County, Ore. – Accelerated Timber Harvest Proposal (Financial Management)

Multnomah County, Ore. – SummerWorks Internship Program (Children and Youth)

Fairfax County, Va. – WorkSafe Fairfax (Risk Management)

Henrico County, Va. – Zoning Ordinance Digital Library (Planning)

Pierce County, Wash. – Live Chat and Self-Scheduling Tools for District Court (Court Administration and Management)

What's in a Seal?



► **Grand Traverse County, Mich.**
www.co.grand-traverse.mi.us

Sitting on the waters of Lake Michigan, Grand Traverse was first settled in the 1850s by William Boardman, who, with his son, established a lumber mill near the mouth of the river, which is now named after him.

The county was originally named Omeena County but was changed to Grand Traverse April 7, 1851 by an act of the state Legislature. Traverse City, the county seat, quickly developed during the lumber boom, due to its accessibility to shipping on Lake Michigan.

In 1852, Peter Dougherty, who was a Presbyterian missionary, planted cherry trees on Old Mission Peninsula. To everyone's surprise, the cherry trees flourished as Lake Michigan tempers the Arctic winds in the winter and cools the orchards in the summer. Today, the leading U.S. cherry producer grows more than 650 million pounds of tart and sweet cherries each year with Michigan growing about 75 percent of the tart cherry crop.

The county seal was adopted in 1974 after the Board of Commissioners held a contest to find a design for the seal. Gerald Nanninga won the contest with his design that shows two white pine tree branches and the year the county was organized.

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



County Innovations and Solutions

Broward County, Fla.

Residents Make Property Tax Payments via Drive-through

By CHARLIE BAN
STAFF WRITER

The end of tax season means an avalanche burying the county tax collector's office, even in South Florida. Yet in Broward County, one tax office has figured a way

to dig out of the onslaught.

The county's drive-through tax kiosk diverts the hundreds of customers on their way to pay their property taxes from having to find and pay for parking, get into the county office building and then wait to be seen by a clerk.

The county's records, taxes and treasury division staff worked in 2011 to figure out a way to make paying property taxes easier, especially during the busy days at the beginning (Nov. 1) and end (March 31) of the county's tax season.

"On the last days of November and March, we'd have lines that would go out of our office and into the hallways," said Claudio Manicone, senior manager of the records, taxes and treasury division. "It would start to become a bother for other departments to

have that many people around. And it was unnecessary for the taxpayers."

That's to say nothing about finding a parking space. The public parking lot nearby is owned by the city of Palm Beach and it isn't free.

Roughly 65 percent of Broward County's property taxes are paid in November, when taxpayers receive a discount for early payment. That further drove the pressure to get payments in on time.

"There are always people who wait for the last minute," Manicone said. "We offer online payment, but there are still people who want to hand over their taxes and get their receipt in person."

Looking to the U.S. Postal Service's April 15 federal tax return deadline options, the staff decided that taxpayers could just as easily hand over their payments outdoors, eliminating the need to pay for parking, go through security lines and find the tax office.

"Our building has more offices than just records, taxes and treasury," Manicone said. "When you have a crush of visitors on one day, it stresses our security stations and creates a bottleneck."

Using the paved area near the building's loading dock, which does not require payment to enter, Manicone's office sets up tables under a tent for office workers to take tax payments and issue receipts, which are then shuttled inside for processing.

"By they time the taxpayer gets home, their receipt is online," he said. "It saves everyone time, plus we get to work outside for a change."

Of the county's 822,000 payments in the 2013–2014 tax season, more than 5,000 were processed through the drive-through kiosk.

"There's always someone who wants to walk into the office and see their payment processed in person, and that option is still there," he said.

Though Manicone said the setup has invited some skepticism, three years under its belt have helped build some credibility among the public.

Operating the kiosk incurs no additional cost because department members staff it, and the tables and tent are owned by the county.

County Innovations and Solutions highlights award-winning programs.

Financial Services News

One-size-fits-all Solution Does Not Work for Everyone

Each county is unique. Every individual's needs are unique. As provider of the NACo Deferred Compensation Program, Nationwide Retirement Solutions builds plan solutions around county employer needs. Nationwide has taken its 40 years of experience of working with counties to create the next generation of plan designs and service offerings.

Introducing the NRS Freedom Series

The NRS Freedom Series allows county decision-makers to choose the best options to meet the county's 457(b) plan needs. Choices are:

The Investment Fiduciary Services (IFS), available through Nationwide Freedom Pro and Nationwide Freedom Pro+, offer the expertise of Morningstar Associates, a firm known for its independence and objectivity. When a plan elects IFS, Morningstar will:

- lend its investment expertise to the plan sponsor
- select and manage a quality fund lineup
- acknowledge its role as an investment fiduciary, and
- indemnify the plan for any losses arising from a breach of its investment fiduciary duties.

Regardless of which option is chosen, the county's plan can offer the Nationwide Fixed Account, which offers competitive annualized yield that's declared quarterly and backed by the financial strength and claims-paying ability of Nationwide Life Insurance Company.

Participant Features

All Nationwide Freedom Series plans offer local service from

NATIONWIDE OPTIONS

Nationwide Freedom Our Standard 457(b) Plan	Nationwide Freedom Pro Investment Fiduciary Services	Nationwide Freedom Pro+ Zero Administration Fee
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 70 / 80 basis points administration fee• 40+ investment choices across a diverse set of asset classes, including U.S. stock, foreign stock, fixed income, risk-based solutions and target-date funds• Local Nationwide representative• Mobile-responsive website (NRS-foru.com/plansponsor)• Plan sponsor phone support• Fiduciary education• JP Morgan market updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 70 / 80 basis points administration fee• Investment Fiduciary Services provided by Morningstar Associates• 30+ investment choices across a diverse set of asset classes• Local Nationwide representative• Mobile-responsive website (NRS-foru.com/plansponsor)• Plan sponsor phone support• Fiduciary education• JP Morgan market updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 0 bps administration fee• Investment Fiduciary Services provided by Morningstar Associates• 30+ investment choices across a diverse set of asset classes• Local Nationwide representative• Mobile-responsive website (NRS-foru.com/plansponsor)• Plan sponsor phone support• Fiduciary education• JP Morgan market updates

licensed Nationwide Retirement Specialists, backed by a team of phone-based plan professionals.

In addition, Nationwide's mobile-responsive website offers employees a wealth of resources that are available anywhere, at any time via any device. No special app required.

Plan sponsors can elect to offer participants value-added services, such as:

- professional financial guidance for non-plan assets via our

Participant Solutions Center

- self-directed Schwab Personal Choice Retirement Account
- do-it-for-me professional account management through Nationwide ProAccount.

Find the Freedom that Fits Your Needs

County leaders seeking more information about the NRS Freedom Series from Nationwide Retirement Solutions should call

877.677.3678, option 3.

To learn more about the NACo Deferred Compensation Program, and how promoting deferred compensation can benefit county employees, contact Lisa Cole by email at lc@naco.org or phone at 202.942.4270.

(Financial Services News was written by Bob Beasley, CRC, communications consultant, Nationwide Retirement Solutions.)

Nationwide offers the Participant Solutions Center through our affiliate Nationwide Securities, LLC. The products and services offered by Nationwide Securities, LLC are separate and distinct from the plan administration services that are provided by Nationwide Retirement Solutions, Inc.

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NRM-10165AO-NX (07/2014)



News From the Nation's Counties

► CALIFORNIA

• The **SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY** Fire Department is trying out its helicopters to see if they can be a **one-stop shop for rescue**, treatment and transportation.

Helicopters are usually dedicated to specific tasks. The test was implemented in response to long ground response times in off-highway vehicle areas and difficult rescue operations in local mountains. The fire department hopes to cut emergency response times that can last up to two hours, according to the *Daily Press*.

• In response to increasing number of scam complaints, **SACRAMENTO COUNTY** will **reopen its financial fraud unit**.

The *Sacramento Bee* reported that the number of financial abuse notices increased by 52 percent between 2010 and 2013, with many complaints by seniors. When the fraud unit reopens in January 2015, it will include five investigators, coordinated by the county's Adult Protective Services department. Experts point to increased use of the Internet and a growing elderly population for the increase in financial fraud against seniors.

► ILLINOIS

• **STEPHENSON COUNTY** real estate taxes will fund a scholarship allowing up to 30 **developmentally disabled residents** to receive services from a local provider for half the cost while awaiting state funding, set to start in September.

Those with developmental disabilities receive state funding to attend high school through age 22. After 22, they are put on a waiting list for developmental training programs funding, the *Journal Standard* reported.

• Some Illinois county governments will soon see **new measures in accountability**, thanks to legislation signed by Gov. Pat Quinn (D).

The legislation enables county boards to create and adopt codes of conduct regarding the behavior of county appointees, codes that may pertain to fiscal responsibility, procurement authority, transparency and ethical matters.

The bill also ensures county boards have the authority to remove appointees guilty of misconduct, an authority sometimes previously questioned.

The new law deals specifically with public officials who were appointed to fill a vacancy, and lasts until the designated term ends. If

and when they win election to the position, they are no longer bound by the authority prescribed by this legislation.

The law applies to counties with a population greater than 300,000 but fewer than 2 million IllinoisWatch-dog.org reported.

► IOWA

• **Driverless cars** will be allowed on **JOHNSON COUNTY's** streets. County supervisors passed a resolution in support with the hope of making the county a mecca for driverless car technology development.

Supervisors say the University of Iowa's National Advanced Driving Simulator would serve as an attractive anchor in development, along with Iowa's open spaces and a cluster of local companies with an interest in such technology, the *Press-Citizen* reported.

► MINNESOTA

Hot summer temperatures prompted **HENNEPIN COUNTY** to develop an interactive map (see this section online at www.countynews.org for a link to the map) that shows residents **where they can find cool air** in public places, including libraries, shopping malls and Salvation Army centers. The map also includes locations that might require a fee, such as community centers and movie theaters.

The map allows visitors to choose from color-coded cooling options, to zoom by address or zip code and to see transit options to each location. Clicking on individual locations also provides additional information about each site. The application also is usable on smartphones.

The county already has provided similar maps around the topics of road construction and beach safety.

► NEBRASKA

Nebraska's Supreme Court has ruled that **DOUGLAS COUNTY** does not have to contribute the same amount to retiree health plans as it does for current employees. This reverses a lower court decision last year that retirees were owed more than \$1 million in health care premiums from the county, *The Omaha World-Herald* reported.

The dispute stemmed from two retired deputies' suing the county after the County Board's 2009 decision to **increase retirees' contribution to their insurance premiums**. The board reduced the county's subsidy for individual retiree health coverage by about

\$1,000 per year, thereby increasing retirees' contributions.

The lawsuit, which covered more than 250 retired county employees, argued that the county was contractually bound to maintain retirees' premium subsidies until they became eligible for Medicare.

But the state's highest court held that "the retirees had no contractual right to participate in the (health care plan) for the same premiums paid by active employees" — ruling that, unlike pensions, health benefits are not a form of deferred compensation.

► NEW YORK

ROCKLAND COUNTY stands to clear \$10 million from the **sale of a county-owned nursing home** — and gain some financial stability.

Rockland County Executive Edwin Day said proceeds of the sale will help the county get its fiscal house back in order. In January, the county was \$42,000 away from default, according to MidHudson News Network.

"The Summit Park facility has been a drain on us," Day said. "Without that drain financially, we have the ability to operate in the black, which obviously, is a wonderful thing for tax payers. That will happen this year; I've told people that already."

The buyer still must obtain a certificate of need from the state for both the nursing care center and hospital.

► UTAH

Tesoro Corp. is suing **SUMMIT COUNTY** over three ordinances the County Council passed in June that restrict where a proposed 135-mile oil pipeline can be built. The company alleges that the **ordinances are in conflict with federal law**.

The most restrictive of the regulations prevents any pipeline from running within 2,500 feet of any wetlands, natural creek, pond, river, reservoir, school or other high-use building, or within 500 feet of other structures, *The Salt Lake Tribune* reported. Tesoro alleges that would prevent the pipeline from being built anywhere in the county.

Summit County Attorney David Brickey said, "We think the ordinances are appropriate and fair and we will defend aggressively the decisions of the Summit County Council."

As proposed, the pipeline would carry crude oil from the Uinta Basin to Salt Lake City-area refineries and traverse six counties. Tesoro

says its 12-inch pipeline would be safer than transporting oil via tanker trucks over the highways as it currently does.

► VIRGINIA

The **ARLINGTON COUNTY** Board approved new event regulations that could **tame some of the rowdier bar crawls** in one of the county's hottest nightlife districts.

The new regulations will include fees charged to pub crawl organizers to recover the costs of extra police and community resources required to deal with as many as 5,000 people estimated to attend some of the barhopping events. The crawls also will now require advance approval from the county.

The county manager said she plans to fully flesh out and implement policy before Halloween, when the next major pub crawl is expected to occur.

• The **FAIRFAX COUNTY** Park Authority and the outdoor recreational equipment company REI, Inc. have extended their partnership to help county residents take back their forests.

REI awarded the Park Authority's **Invasive Management Area (IMA) program** a \$10,000 grant to support the agency's Take Back the Forest program that is scheduled for April and May 2015.

IMA is a volunteer program designed to reduce invasive plants and increase biodiversity on parkland. The eight-year-old program brings volunteers into the parks to remove non-native, invasive plants and supports habitat restoration through the planting of native species.

REI has donated \$45,000 through four grants to the Fairfax County Park Foundation over the past three

See NEWS FROM page 16

NACo on the Move

► NACo County Officials

• On July 22, Salt Lake County, Utah Mayor **Ben McAdams** opened a congressional staff briefing on behavioral health information technology. Using Salt Lake County as an example, McAdams discussed how counties can use health information technology in their behavioral health and substance abuse programs, and how increased federal funding for behavioral health information technology could further improve health outcomes and save local taxpayers money.



Ben McAdams

► NACo Staff



Emilia Istrate

• **Emilia Istrate**, research director, spoke about the current trends in public-private partnerships and the role of counties in this market at the general session of the Annual Conference of the National Council for Public-Private Partnerships July 28–30 in the City and County of Denver, Colo.

• **Mike Belarmino**, associate legislative director, provided a federal legislative update and discussed some legislative initiatives that Congress is currently considering at the 44th annual Alabama County Government Institute at Auburn University in Lee County June 26–27.



Mike Belarmino

► Coming Up

• **Andrew Goldschmidt**, director, membership/marketing, will be exhibiting on behalf of membership recruitment and retention at the County Commissioners' Association of West Virginia in Cabell County Aug. 3–5.

• **Karina Golkova**, membership assistant, will be exhibiting on behalf of membership at the South Carolina Association of Counties Annual Conference in Beaufort County Aug. 3–5.

• **Alex Koroknay-Palicz**, membership coordinator, will be exhibiting on behalf of membership at the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania in Lancaster County Aug. 3–5.

On the Move is compiled by Christopher Johnson, editorial assistant.

The H.R. Doctor Is In

The Long Journey

Why shouldn't summer be the time to travel on vacation? Of course, it should be. After all, our 19th-century-structured school systems give the kids time off to help with the harvest so they aren't bothered by books and learning.

The fiscal year for many government entities will have just ended (for the July 1 club) and will still have a long time to play out for the Oct. 1 group.

The summer seems to hold great times to go away to visit people or places — to get away from whatever the current pressures are that we face at work, at school, in relationships and in our lives generally.

We take these getaways in large part by filling our cars with gasoline, pleasantly supplied to us by the relatively small number of petrol companies on the planet. Our whining about the price per gallon doesn't seem to diminish our desire to auto-travel.

The HR Doctor just returned from a 600-mile drive to do two con-

“Life and career journeys have a lot in common with long car trips. If you drive safely, plan ahead diligently, seek advice from others and study hard, you can end up arriving at a destination full of fun and promise for the future.”

ference presentations on Florida's Gulf Coast as well as a 1,200-mile drive to the western mountains of North Carolina. The purpose of the latter trip was to visit the HR Doctor Daughter, Dr. Rachel, and the incredibly gorgeous and intelligent 4-year-old granddaughter Evie.

We must constantly keep the end goal of our journeys in mind as we slowly watch the odometer change while asking, “Are we there yet?” We

now count miles along with many other things thanks to the power of GPS devices or smartphone applications like iExit.

A large part of the time during a long drive, even with a beautiful HR spouse like Charlotte at your side, involves a lot of silence. She may be napping, that is when she's not driving, reading or just thinking. I look over at her and imagine what she might be thinking. I quickly give up on that idea and pay closer attention to the road. Long travel time means time to think, time to imagine, time to reflect and time to plan.

Getting safely to the end of the journey is the overall plan for these car vacations. However, getting to the “end of the career journey” is also the objective that drives our careers and our service to others, such as the citizens or voters who employ us.

In my case, having retired from my day jobs as a county chief administrative officer and a human resources director, that service occurs through my consulting practice with agencies and charities that allow me to provide advice and help as a consultant.

As with a summer vacation trip, so it is with life. The best time to plan a “retirement road trip” isn't as you approach the final signposts. That planning is a constant process from the time the journey begins.

Beginning a savings program and having the right family protection through insurance is vital. So is establishing and maintaining healthy habits like wearing a seatbelt and not smoking.

It is this kind of planning as the trip begins that leads to a successful arrival at the destination. Especially important is nurturing loving relationships and developing a network of family and friends to travel with you along the way.

For all of us, however, no matter how well prepared you think you are, life throws curves your way. Stability tends to change into instability. Things happen even when you are a good steward of the mechanical condition of your car before a trip — getting it serviced before you leave, buying a new set of tires, driving with care and caution, stopping regularly to rest and ingest healthy doses of fast food.

Even when you do all of these things, you may find heavy rains along the path forcing you to stop for the night. There could be mechanical trouble, an auto accident

or someone else's auto accident that causes miles and miles of congestion. You may also find that our neglect of infrastructure in the United States casts a sour note to the joy of even the brightest vacations.

There may well be, hopefully, unexpected joys and pleasures. Life also throws many wonderful things our way even if we don't realize it.

Certainly we would never know that by watching the TV news or reading newspapers. Sometimes we just move past those joys without stopping. On my recent journey through Florida, Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina there were many opportunities to meet

people, to see the sights and to appreciate how wonderful it is to be a citizen of the U.S.

Life and career journeys have a lot in common with long car trips. If you drive safely, plan ahead diligently, seek advice from others and study hard, you can end up arriving at a destination full of fun and promise for the future. You also get to smile a lot and spend time with one of the universe's most amazing 4-year-olds.



Phil Rosenberg
The HR Doctor • www.hrdr.net

Job Market & Classifieds

■ COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR – PINELLAS COUNTY GOV'T., FLA.

Salary: \$159,130–\$241,082 annually + excellent benefits; DOQ.

We are seeking candidates for a highly visible position which requires superb management, operations, communications and administrative skills. The successful candidate will be a strong, successful administrator with experience managing and problem-solving in a dynamic, government environment. Must be a strategic thinker with excellent communications and interpersonal skills. The county administrator position is responsible for the day-to-day management for this Charter County which provides a full range of services. The total adopted budget is \$1.7 billion, comprised of \$1.3 billion operating and \$400+ million for capital construction. Pinellas County (population 916,500) is located on Florida's Gulf coast and is home to some of the country's most beautiful beaches.

For information on how to apply and for more information on the position, qualifications, Pinellas County Government, and the community please visit the Jobs page at www.pinellascounty.org.

A copy of the recruitment brochure is available thru the following link <http://bit.ly/11VSqSU>. The recruitment will close on July 26. EOE.

■ COUNTY BUDGET DIRECTOR – COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA, CALIF.

Salary: \$139,600 – \$179,135 annually; DOQ.

The County Budget Director is an Executive Leadership position within the Office of Budget and Analysis, County Executive Office. This position reports directly to County Executive. The County is seeking an exceptional executive who can provide day to day oversight of the Office of Budget and Analysis (OBA) with responsibility for administering, preparing and maintaining the County budget. Someone who can be a thoughtful leader in managing 15 full time employees including the Budget Operations Manager and the Budget and Public Policy Analysts. Additionally, the Director establishes the policies and procedures for the preparation and maintenance of the County Budget, and directs the analysis, prioritization and/or feasibility studies of all functions with a budgetary impact on the County. The Director evaluates existing programs and policies and initiates actions for improvement; and acts as the liaison in budget areas with other state, county and city budget officers.

How to Apply: Please go to: www.sccgov.org

Questions: Contact Patricia Carrillo, Executive Services, 408.299.5897

Ferry service could serve Puget Sound counties

NEWS FROM *from page 15*

years to support the IMA program and related youth outreach efforts.

• **ROANOKE COUNTY** and **BOTETOURT COUNTY** supervisors have yet to commit to a **regional broadband project** but say they haven't decided to pull out of the initiative. County supervisors in both localities discussed the \$8.2 million broadband project during separate board meetings July 22.

A local newspaper report suggested the counties are lukewarm to the idea. Joe McNamara, chairman of the Roanoke County Board, blasted the article, saying it implied that his county wouldn't participate in the regional project.

Officials of both counties say any hesitation to commit stems from a need for more information before proceeding. Botetourt County Chairman Mac Scothorn said, “We are not saying we are not going to do it. We really don't have enough information yet.”

► WASHINGTON

A consultant preparing **KITSAP**

COUNTY's walk-on passenger ferry plan says the county should partner with **KING COUNTY** to provide the service, which would cross Puget Sound to Seattle.

Among the options Kitsap Transit is considering are: publicly owned and operated, privately owned and operated, and public-private or public-public partnerships, the *Kitsap Sun* reported.

A spokesman for KPFF Consulting Engineers told Kitsap Transit that the consultants prefer a public-public arrangement. The King County Ferry District currently operates water taxis from West Seattle and Vashon Island to downtown Seattle.

Kitsap Transit would have to come up with a funding mechanism for trans-Sound ferries, which voters would need to approve. The consultants are expected to recommend a funding source in their final report in September.

(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.)

NACo JOBS ONLINE



Good employees are crucial to getting the job done!

www.naco.org/programs/jobsonline

