

NACo National Association of Counties

CountyNews

The Voice of America's Counties

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Comments for 'Waters of the U.S.' extended

By JULIE UFFNER
ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have extended the public comment period for the draft guidance on "Waters of the U.S." by 30 days until July 31, according to a notice published June 27. The initial deadline was July 1.

NACo, the National League of Cities, the U.S. Conference of

See **WATERS** page 7

QuickTakes

5 States with the Lowest Gas Prices

Average price per gallon

1 • South Carolina	\$3.34
2 • Mississippi	\$3.41
3 • Oklahoma	\$3.42
4 • Tennessee	\$3.42
5 • Ohio	\$3.43

Source: GasBuddy.com, June 2011



Photo by Xavier Mascareñas / The Journal News

Julia Fenger, 5, cheers on her dad (not pictured) who became an American citizen on June 22 at the Richard J. Daronco Courthouse in Westchester County, N.Y. Her father, Hilmar Fenger, was born in Iceland and was one of 122 immigrants to take the oath of citizenship, administered by county Clerk Timothy Idoni.

Winners chosen for 2011 NCGM awards competition

By JIM PHILIPPS
MEDIA RELATIONS MANAGER

For the first time, NACo has recognized three counties for their outstanding efforts to celebrate National County Government Month (NCGM) by conducting effective public awareness programs and events to educate residents about the important role and functions of their county government.

NACo's 2011 National County Government Month Award winning programs are:

Bernalillo County, N.M. "Bernalillo County Government Month: Serving Residents Since 1876,"

Manatee County, Fla., "National County Government Month Celebration," and

Cape May County, N.J. "Cape May County Government Reaches Out."

The winning counties received two free conference registrations to any future NACo conference, including this year's Annual Conference to be held July 15-19 in Multnomah County (Portland), Ore.

NCGM, celebrated each April, is NACo's signature public awareness initiative.

Bernalillo County, N.M.

Bernalillo County kicked off NCGM by introducing a new guide to services, highlighting county incentives for veterans, and honoring employee veterans, local veterans and veteran organizations with a proclamation and reception. A gift

bag with resources, a county guide to services and NACo prescription discount cards were given to each veteran attending the meeting.

The NCGM veterans theme provided an opportunity for county employees to support a transitional living center. This effort consisted of a month-long employee drive to collect household items, cash and landscaping materials to help furnish the facility and support the program. Truckloads of items, gift cards and cash were presented to the YWCA during a news conference at the center.

The NCGM veterans theme was incorporated into the county's master calendar of events. The Economic

See **NCGM** page 12

Mountaineer commissioner skips meeting for expedition

By CHARLIE BAN
STAFF WRITER

Textbooks in Leon County, Fla. schools tell students that the summit of Alaska's Mt. McKinley is the highest point in North America. Now they can carry an addendum that one of their county commissioners has been there.

And fallen from the mountain.

In late May, Bryan Desloge was on his way down from the summit after almost three weeks on the mountain also known as Denali. He was first in a line of climbers advancing down a narrow ledge, searching for spots to secure ropes for his group. There were none.

When turning to go back to more secure ground, he slipped and fell down the face of the mountain, quickly pulling another climber with him. Only the skill of their guide, the third person on the rope, saved the

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EPA helps locals recover costs in hazardous materials release

Stuck with cleaning up after the unexpected release of hazardous materials? An EPA program can reimburse local governments up to \$25,000 for each emergency hazardous substance incident. The Local Governments Reimbursement Program (LGR), has awarded more than \$1.1 million to eligible general-purpose local government units since 2005.

The LGR program covers incidents involving releases, or threatened releases, of hazardous substances and commonly reimburses local governments for releases from transportation accidents, illegally dumped hazardous wastes, tire and chemical fires and contamination from illegal drug labs. It is important to note, however, that incidents involving

releases of oil or oil-related products are not covered, unless the oil is mixed with a hazardous substance.

Costs eligible for reimbursement include activities related to temporary emergency response measures, including site security, controlling the source of contamination, containing the release, neutralizing or treating pollutants, and controlling contaminated runoff. All costs submitted for reimbursement must be backed by proper documentation including receipts, invoices and overtime sheets.

The applicant must also certify that the local government does not have money in its budget to cover the response costs, is unable to recover costs from the state government, has no local government insurance, and that

the responsible party is unable to pay for the response.

Other examples of eligible reimbursable costs include, but are not limited to:

- expendable materials and supplies (e.g. personal protective equipment suits)
- equipment rented or leased specifically for the emergency response in question
- special technical and laboratory services
- evacuation services
- decontamination of equipment
- overtime pay for employees for hours spent performing clean up, decontamination or site security
- replacement of equipment lost or destroyed in the incident, and

- contractor costs.

Examples of costs that are not eligible include, but are not limited to:

- expenditures incurred in providing what are traditionally local services and responsibilities (e.g. routine firefighting, training, response drills and exercises)
- materials and supplies you did not purchase specifically for the response
- rental costs for equipment that you own or that another unit of local government owns
- administrative costs for filing reimbursement applications
- employee out-of-pocket expenses normally provided for in a local government operating budget (e.g. meals or fuel)
- legal expenses

- medical expenses, and
- employee fringe benefits.

In addition, applicants should take into consideration that LGR is not a law enforcement program, and therefore, will not reimburse local governments for costs related to evidence collection, investigation or search warrants. Only costs incurred from hazardous substances clean up, decontamination and site security will be considered.

For more information or to obtain an application, interested local governments should visit the LGR website, www.epa.gov/emergencies/content/lgr. Questions may also be directed to the LGR Helpline at 1.800.431.9209 or to lgr.epa@epamail.epa.gov.

CORRECTION

Det. Jim Scharf, Snohomish County, Wash. Sheriff's Office, was misidentified in a story in the June 20, 2011 issue of County News, Role-Reversal: Indian tribes help other governments.

World-class Arctic explorer, mountain climber to speak at WON luncheon

Alison Levine is no stranger to risk-taking. She has survived sub-zero temperatures, hurricane force winds, sudden avalanches and a career on Wall Street. So her next assignment should be a breeze: Levine will be the keynote speaker for the Women of NACo (WON) Leadership Network luncheon, Monday, July 18 at NACo's Annual Conference.

Levine has climbed the highest peak on every continent, served as the team captain of the first American Women's Everest Expedition, and skied across the Arctic Circle to the geographic North Pole. In January 2008, she made history as the first American to follow a remote route across west Antarctica for 600 miles to the South Pole.

She currently serves as an adjunct professor at the United States Military Academy at West Point where she teaches in the Department of Behavioral Sciences and Leadership.

Women of NACo is a NACo caucus affiliate group whose purpose is to enhance the effectiveness of women county officials and to expand their participation within NACo. This mission is accomplished through networking, conferences, guest speakers and supporting equal opportunities for women in the political process.

"WON is an outstanding organization that provides opportunities for women in all stages of their public service careers,"



said WON President Lu Barron. Barron is also a 14-year member of the Linn County, Iowa Board of Supervisors. "WON works to guide newcomers on the important and growing role women play in government and executive

decision-making as well as help veteran officials improve their effectiveness."

Growing the membership in WON is always a top priority for members. "The more members we have, the stronger our voice

on issues important to women," said Barron.

"WON members are a resource unto themselves," said Doris Karloff, WON historian and Saunders County, Neb. Board of Supervisors chair. "We are a network of professional women who are there to guide and encourage each other, learn from each other, and help each other succeed and make a difference in their communities."

WON has seven board members who all serve as elected officials in their counties. In addition to Barron and Karloff, Joyce Dickerson is a member of the County Council in Richland County, S.C. Linda Seifert is a member of the Board of Supervisors in Solano County, Calif. Dorothy Brown has served as the clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County for more than 10 years. Lindora Baker is a commissioner from Caddo Parish, La. and Kay Cashion is a member of the County Commission in Guilford County, N.C.

WON was established in 1975 by a group of women county officials who believed that women's interests would be better served through an official NACo caucus. WON is the only national group representing women officials at the county level.

For more information about WON and to find out how you can become a member, contact Bev Schlotterbeck at bschlott@naco.org or 202.942.4249.

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NACo's County Leadership Institute welcomes new alumni

By RUTH NYBRO

EDUCATION AND TRAINING DIRECTOR

Nineteen local elected officials and two state association executive directors completed NACo's eighth annual County Leadership Institute, held June 5–9 in Washington, D.C.

They represented 22 states and counties as diverse in size and geography as Suffolk County, N.Y. (pop. 1.5 million) and Deschutes County, Ore. (pop. 157,000). Selected through a nomination and application process, institute participants join the program to develop strategies and networks for becoming more effective in achieving the goals they've set for themselves and their communities.

Jeffrey Lawrence, principal at Cambridge Leadership Associates, led the class through three days of in-depth exercises, discussion and analysis of effective interactions designed to develop new approaches to leadership and foster supportive relationships among the class.

On the final day of class, Rep. Gerald Connolly (D-Va.), shared his reflections and perspectives from his 14 years' service on the



Lynn M. Padgett
Commissioner, Ouray County, Colo.

Fairfax County, Va. Board of Supervisors.

The institute, developed for NACo in 2004 by Marty Linsky, co-founder of Cambridge Leadership Associates in collaboration with Dean Ellen Schall of NYU/Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service, explores the application of adaptive

leadership techniques to current, complex issues facing local elected officials. Ouray County, Colo. Commissioner Lynn Padgett, member of the 2011 CLI class, gave the institute high marks: "The CLI was excellent and extremely useful. Attending the class has been a highlight of my tenure as a commissioner."

"The county officials who participate in the institute get information, ideas, and perspectives they can't get anywhere else," NACo Executive Director Larry Naake said.

"These county leaders not only discussed the core principles of public service leadership with faculty, they also collaborated intensively with each other to develop new ways to attach real-life issues of importance to the residents of their counties."

The class of 2011 brings to 186 NACo's CLI alumni leadership. CLI is funded by participant registrations and the support of IBM, ESRI, NACo's Financial Services Corporation and the National Council of County Association Executives (NCCAE), and is administered by NACo's County Services Department.

2011 County Leadership Institute Class

- **Tammy Baney**, commissioner, chair, Deschutes County Ore.
- **Lee Bonner**, commissioner, Douglas County, Nev.
- **David Bottorff**, executive director, Association of Indiana Counties
- **Josh Brown**, commissioner, Kitsap County, Wash.
- **Andrew D. Chavez**, commissioner, Taos County N.M.
- **Michael B. Dinkins**, commissioner, Peach County, Ga.
- **Kenneth Edge**, commissioner, Cumberland County, N.C.
- **Buster D. Johnson**, supervisor, Mohave County, Ariz.
- **Cara Marker-Morgan**, supervisor, Fremont County, Iowa
- **Paul McIntosh**, executive director, California Association of Counties
- **Thomas G. Mullaney**, commissioner, Alpena County, Mich.
- **Patricia A. Noland**, commissioner, president, Jefferson County W.Va.
- **Peter D. O'Bryan**, commissioner, Indian River County, Fla.
- **Lynn M. Padgett**, commissioner, Ouray County, Colo.
- **William E. Quarles, Jr.**, chair, board of supervisors, Goochland County, Va.
- **Debbi Roberts-McGinnis**, collector of Revenue, Polk County, Mo.
- **Chris Rodgers**, commissioner, Douglas County, Neb.
- **Lesley Robinson**, commissioner, Phillips County, Mont.
- **Nikki Schwerdfeger**, commissioner, Hamilton County, Kan.
- **Mark W. Smith**, commissioner, chair, Bradford County, Pa.
- **Vivian Viloria-Fisher**, legislator, presiding officer, Suffolk County, N.Y.

Ohio county fetes foster-care high school graduates



Photo courtesy of Hamilton County, Ohio Job and Family Services

Foster teen Bianca Graham sang the national anthem at Hamilton County, Ohio's Celebration of Dreams graduation dinner for foster children who have graduated from high school or completed GED requirements.

By CHARLIE BAN
STAFF WRITER

Teenagers typically cling to their sheets, hoping to stay in bed, rather than go to high school. Yet throughout four years, 37 teenagers in Hamilton County, Ohio, each a foster child with an emotional backpack full of reasons not to go, managed to roust themselves and keep the books open.

In their honor, Hamilton County Job and Family Services throws an annual graduation dinner and awards ceremony that celebrates how far they have all come and gives their foster parents and mentors a chance to breathe easy after what can be a harrowing adolescence.

"A lot of foster kids can't do it," said Pat McCollum, who has fostered more than 70 children over 23 years. "A lot of them are so far behind their grade level and come in with so much baggage that asking them to finish high school can seem unrealistic, considering everything else they're dealing with."

Her foster daughter Antrece Morgan's sense of isolation from her classmates drove her to attend less and less of her freshman and sophomore years.

"I didn't think I'd make it," Morgan said. "I didn't feel like I

belonged. Everyone had friends already when I got there."

Her alienation only grew when she ran away from the problem — progressively cutting class — effectively widening the gap between her and her classmates.

Once McCollum saw her report card, littered with Fs, Morgan learned she'd be spending a lot more time in class her last two years of school.

She joined the softball team and quickly found herself paraphrasing Woody Allen — finding a large measure of success in just showing up.

"Once I started going to school every day, I actually got a chance

to meet the people I thought I was so different from," she said. "My teammates introduced me to other people, and I didn't feel so out of place anymore."

Her focus fed off of her improved feeling of comfort and her grades improved dramatically to the point where she was named to the honor roll.

She had lived with McCollum since she was 11. At 19, she is ready to move onto the next level, living on campus at Wright State University in Dayton, where she is considering studying nursing.

As for the celebration itself,

See **FOSTER TEENS** page 6

Public Notice

The NACo Board of Directors will hold a public hearing, Monday, July 18, on an application from the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) to become a NACo affiliate. The hearing will occur during the Board's Annual Business Meeting at the Annual Conference in Multnomah County, Ore. NACo members and members of the proposed affiliate are invited to testify or to submit written comments on the application.

If the Board approves affiliation, NACo members will vote on the application at the association's Annual Business Meeting July 19.

If approved, the NSA would become NACo's 24th affiliate. Affiliate status would allow for direct input into NACo's policy process and entitle NSA to a seat on NACo's Board of Directors.

Rural counties awarded technical assistance grants

By ANITA CARDWELL
SENIOR ASSOCIATE

SpeedRead » » »

Naco awarded three rural counties technical assistance grants to strengthen local health care systems:

- » Franklin County, Fla.
- » Pacific County, Wash.
- » Refugio County, Tex.

NACo recently awarded grants of technical assistance to three rural counties to help them strengthen their local health care systems. Franklin County, Fla., Pacific County, Wash., and Refugio County, Texas were selected through a competitive application process, based on demonstrated need and county leadership capacity to engage a cross section of community stakeholders.

The counties selected this year will work with NACo and consultants from the National Center for Rural Health Works throughout 2011 to assess their local health care needs and develop strategies to address health care delivery challenges. The assessment process will help each of the counties identify health care services that may be lacking in the region and develop realistic solutions to improve local health care service delivery capacity.

For the past six years, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Rural Health Policy (ORHP) has provided NACo

with funding to partner with the National Center for Rural Health Works to assist rural counties in evaluating their health care systems.

Commissioner Ann Lopez from Refugio County, is enthusiastic about how the community health needs assessment process will help move forward the county's existing efforts to improve health care delivery. "Refugio County has critical health challenges — high rates of obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease. We also face significant fiscal burdens related to preventable hospitalizations," she said. "While we've recently formed an organization of local

health providers to address health issues in the county, NACo's assistance is truly welcomed because it will really help coordinate information sharing among key local partners to make our county a healthier community."

The technical assistance provided to each county includes analyses of local health indicator data, assessments of the economic impact of the local health care sector, and community surveys on where residents seek treatment. The results of these assessments will be presented and discussed at a series of local meetings involving a wide range of community stakeholders.

The National Center for Rural Health Works consultants, Gerald Doeksen and Val Schott, have significant experience helping rural communities evaluate their health care systems and recognize the key leadership role that county officials serve in the process.

"County officials are able to bring together a wide range of local partners — not only hospital administrators and other health

care providers, but also leaders from local businesses, schools, the faith community and community organizations — to determine the best strategy for addressing their community's health care challenges," Schott said.

These types of evaluations are particularly important this year considering a new requirement within the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) for nonprofit hospitals to conduct periodic community health needs assessments and develop a strategy to improve local care delivery. These assessments are required to take into account input from persons who represent the broad interests of the community served by the hospital facility.

Kathy Spoor, director of the Public Health and Human Services Department in Pacific County, noted some of the challenges in the county that she hopes the process will help address. "Our county is fairly isolated, has high poverty rates and a rapidly aging population," she said. "Before being selected, one of our county hospitals was in the initial stages of planning for a community health needs assessment, and so the technical assistance will provide us with the needed capacity to move from planning to action."

In Franklin County, owns its only hospital, which serves the county's permanent population of approximately 12,000 as well as some of the residents from neighboring counties. Residents passed a one-cent sales tax in 2007 to support improvements to health care in the county and these funds have been dedicated to support-

ing existing hospital operations and the recent completion of a new critical care facility. But, the county faces health care delivery challenges as a large number of uninsured residents receive care through the hospital's emergency room. Commissioner Pinki Jackel noted that "the assessment process will help us evaluate progress that has been made since the county took over the hospital in 2006, identify areas that need additional work and determine where to target our limited resources."

In addition to working with the three selected counties in partnership with NACo, the National Center for Rural Health Works consultants are also training staff at many state offices of rural health across the country to enable them to conduct community health needs assessments with hospitals in their regions.

For contact information for state offices of rural health, see the listing from the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health: www.nosorh.org/regions/directory.php.

Counties can also find additional resources from ORHP, at www.hrsa.gov/ruralhealth. The ORHP funds the Rural Assistance Center, www.raconline.org, which provides information about programs, funding opportunities and research for rural communities.

For more information from NACo, including NACo's 2010 publication, *Rural Health Works: Community Engagement for Local Elected Officials*, visit www.naco.org/ruralhealth or contact Anita Cardwell at 202.942.4267 or acardwell@naco.org.

Who lives the longest and where: Studies tag healthiest counties

By SARAH SUNDERMAN
RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Last month, the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation at the University of Washington released its findings on national life expectancy as delineated at the county level. By examining the counties with the highest life expectancy for women and men, and comparing them with other county-ranked factors, a fairly cohesive picture emerges.

The strongest correlation is between life expectancy and county health. Overall, healthier counties have people who live longer. According to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin's County Health Rankings report released in March, Fairfax County is the healthiest county in Virginia. Fairfax County also boasts the longest-living men in the U.S. with an average life expectancy of 81.1 years. The same holds true for Collier County, Fla., where life expectancy for women in the highest in the nation at 86 years and the county is likewise ranked as the healthiest the county in Florida.

Marin County, Calif. was rated the healthiest county in California and it also has some of the longest-living people. It is ranked second nationally for men and third for women. Montgomery County, Md. also appears in the top five life expectancy list for both males and females, but is second to Howard County as Maryland's healthiest. Douglas County, Colo. was rated Colorado's healthiest county and also is home to some of the longest-living males in the country with an average life expectancy of 80.3 years.

In addition to county health, another factor that appears to be strongly related to life expectancy is the average median household income of the county. Fairfax County, with the longest-living men, has the second highest household median income in America at \$106,785 in 2010. Douglas County is ranks eighth on the list, Montgomery County is 10th, and Marin County is 18th.

However, this trend is not as strongly correlated as life expectancy and county health are. For example, Collier County, Fla., where women live the longest, does not break the top 25 counties

with the highest median household income, neither does Teton County, Wyo., which has the second-highest life expectancy for women at 84.7 years.

While counties with the highest life expectancy are scattered geographically across the United States, the five counties with the lowest average life expectancy for both men and women are all found in one state, Mississippi. In the five lowest-ranking counties, women on average live less than 74.5 years and men less than 67 years. In 2009, Mississippi had the lowest median household income of all 50 states.

Nationally, the average life expectancy is 75.6 years for men and 80.8 years for women. These numbers place the United States at 37th globally for life expectancy. Japan has the longest-living population with females living to an average age of 86.1 and males living until 78. For females, Japan's life expectancy average is higher than even Collier County, Fla., the highest in the U.S. Swaziland in Southern Africa has the lowest life expectancy of any country with 31.6 for men and 32.1 for women.

In Case You Missed It ... News to Use from Past County News

► Plan your Annual Conference schedule with new online tool

It's not too late to plan your 2011 Annual Conference and Exhibition schedule now with NACo's new online Itinerary Builder. Located on NACo's Live Learning Center, print out the entire agenda or customize your personal itinerary by building your own schedule for the conference, July 15–19, in Multnomah County (Portland), Ore. Log-in to <http://naco.sclivelearningcenter.com/index.aspx> now to build your customized agenda. Contact Kim Struble at kstruble@naco.org or 202.942.4288.

► New NACo toll-free number for members

Some may think the telephone is old technology. While NACo embraces technology for efficiency, NACo also understands sometimes it is just easier to pick up the phone and speak directly with a person. NACo has a new toll-free telephone number for members, 1-888-407 NACo (6226).

For information and member benefits, please visit NACo's website at www.naco.org.

Mountain-climbing commissioner takes fall in stride

DESLOGE from page 1

group from a 1,000-foot fall and certain death.

It wasn't a sheer cliff from which he fell, just a very steeply angled one, but it still took 45 minutes to climb back to the ledge where the guide had instinctively driven his ice axe as an anchor.

"It was a bigger adventure than I signed up for," Desloge said.

Back in the county commission offices, people were a little worried.

"We were okay with the trip, because we had not done our homework," said his aide Brenda Tanner. "We didn't know how dangerous it was, but when people started reporting people dying and the blog didn't have updates, we got a little concerned."

He's a veteran of several mountain-climbing expeditions, an Ironman triathlon, and other feats of strength, but Desloge had never seen quite the body count as he had over a three-week period in Alaska.

While he was on the mountain, three climbers died in falls, an avalanche killed two others, and a sixth died of exposure, irrationally trying to rest in high winds and

temperatures that rarely broke freezing, rather than descend to safety and warmth. None of whom were in his group.

"The problems happen coming down," he said, "You're tired, you slip...the physics of descending is a lot more treacherous. Everyone told me it's a physical test, but we quickly found out how much mental toughness figures into it."

After a few days, despite reassurances from Desloge's wife, Beth, Tanner and others from the county commission requested some kind of sign Desloge was alright. Within a half hour they had a satellite phone call from the mountain.

He was trained for the physical test. Though he claims he is on the physical downside at age 51, Desloge put in countless exercises to prepare for the ascent. He dragged a sled around on weekends, he spent four hours at a time climbing hotel steps with a 60-pound pack on his back, all starting more than 18 months in advance of his trip.

Though Mt. Everest reaches higher, McKinley's base starts much lower, meaning a longer climb to reach the top, and more opportunities for calamity.



Photo courtesy of Bryan Desloge

Leon County, Fla. Commissioner Bryan Desloge stands atop the United States — 20,320 feet above sea level at the peak of Mt. McKinley in Alaska, which he successfully climbed in May.

Part of the mental challenge, Desloge says, is the amount of time spent waiting for the right conditions to climb. Climbers only have a three-month window to make their attempts, because the wind, temperature and visibility conditions are so variable. He estimated

spending six days waiting in a tent for conditions to be right to make the push to the summit. During that time, he carved in large letters "I <3 LEON" out of ice in honor of the county he serves, an exercise Tanner chalked up to boredom more than anything.

"You can really go stir crazy in there," Desloge said. "It put an eight-hour budget meeting in perspective, but it doesn't make one any more fun than before."

His wife, Beth, figured his personal growth would come from that time on the mountain.

"He's a people person, so I wondered how he was going to survive that," she said.

For the most part, it has been a successful year for climbers. As of June 28, Mt. McKinley had a 58 percent summit rate. Of the six people who died while Desloge was on the mountain, however, five had successfully reached the peak, so making it to the top offered no guarantee of survival.

When he reached the quarter-mile ridge to the summit, 20,320 feet above sea level, Desloge was floored by the vista.

"You don't have to be a religious man, but if you don't see the glory of God on top of that mountain..." he said, trailing off.

His team ultimately chose to hike through the night rather than spend three days gradually

See DESLOGE page 11

NACo Prescription Discount Card FREE to your county and your residents

Pinpoint your savings with this program exclusively for NACo member counties!

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

See you at the NACo 2011 Annual Conference and Exposition!

1,400 counties nationwide have saved their residents more than \$400 million with the NACo Prescription Discount Card Program. Learn more at the upcoming NACo 2011 Annual Conference and Exposition in Multnomah County, (Portland) Oregon. Join us July 15 - 19, 2011 at the following events:

Workshop: Block I, Oregon Convention Center, Sunday, July 17, 1:30 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.

Reception: Pavilion East room in the main building of the Hilton, Monday, July 18, 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Exhibit Hall: When you are in the Exhibit Hall at the Oregon Convention Center, stop by booth number 318 to spin the NACo Prescription Discount Card Program wheel!

Contact Andrew Goldschmidt, Director, Membership Marketing at 1-202-942-4221 or Ilene Manster, Membership Coordinator at 1-202-942-4291, or visit www.naco.org/drugcard for program information.

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This is NOT insurance. Discounts are only available at participating pharmacies. Rev 06.11

Scan code to access the NACo website.



Home inspections help fight asthma attacks

By **CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON**
EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

A free program looking to identify causes of asthma attacks in Rockland County, N.Y. has been recognized by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for its efforts to improve the quality of life for local residents.

The Rockland County Health Department's Healthy Neighborhood program is one of 10 in New York State funded by the state's Department of Health's Center for Environmental Health. The program has been selected as one of three programs to receive EPA's 2011 National Environmental Leadership Award in Asthma

Management. The award was presented at the Communities in Action National Asthma Forum in Washington, D.C. June 9.

"We are very proud to have received this award in recognition of the efforts of Rockland County Department of Health's Healthy Neighborhood staff to reduce the burden of asthma in our community," said Dr. Joan Facelle, Rockland County commissioner of health.

Started in 2000, the program's mission is to find the causes of asthma in the home and reduce the frequency of asthma attacks. During home visits, the program staff members check for and discuss possible causes of asthma

and then provide products and education to help get rid of these causes. Follow-up visits are done in three to six months, and any new or ongoing problems found during the revisit are discussed. The county of 311,687 is located 9.5 miles from Manhattan.

Rockland County's program is part of a larger Healthy Neighborhoods Program effort through the state of New York. It has provided services to more than 58,000 residents in 20,000 homes. About 15 percent have at least one resident with asthma.

"Any county in New York has to have concerns," said Christine Wagner, health official for the Rockland County Department

of Environmental Health. "This program helps correct any issues in the home so we can curb asthmatic symptoms."

The statewide program relies on an extensive network of grant-funded, local health department partners and emphasizes environmental management as an enhancement to case management and clinical care. Local health departments initially identify target areas in the community for intervention and develop work plans to meet specific needs in that area.

Facelle says the program has been successful for residents with asthma and shows marked improvements in reducing envi-

ronmental causes, including a 14 percent reduction in environmental tobacco smoke exposure and improved pest control in at least 44 percent of homes with pest problems.

"There have been significant improvements in residents' knowledge about causes of asthma and decreases in the days of work or school missed due to worsening asthma," Facelle added.

For more information about the Healthy Neighborhoods Program in Rockland County, call 845.364.3292. To learn more about asthma and the EPA's National Environmental Leadership Award in Asthma Management, visit www.epa.gov/asthma.

Foster teens get evening of recognition, reflection

FOSTER TEENS from page 3

Antrece was honored to be recognized.

"A lot of people – they took the time to do that for the kids, we never expected they'd know who we were," she said.

Among the speakers was University of Cincinnati President Gregory Williams, who shared his story of growing up in distressed and uncertain times.

A video montage of all the students gave each a chance to bask in their fame and recognition, if only among their peers and supporters.

"It's absolutely outstanding what the agency does for the kids," McCollum said. "It acknowledges them, but encourages them to see what else they can do. They have already overcome a lot, we can only hope the lessons they learned will help them when they move out on their own."

Some of the foster children were already living on their own, which impressed Bridget Doherty, a communications specialist for the agency who helped plan the dinner.

"It's amazing some of the children in independent living situations made it to this point," she said. "To independently have the drive to get up and go to school without an adult on their backs shows a lot of maturity and dedication."

Partnership for the event and support for the students throughout high school came from the Higher Education Mentoring Initiative, the Foster Child Enrichment Council and the Coalition of Care.

Job and Family Services Director Moira Weir said this would be the only graduation party most of the graduates will experience.

"This is just a little something to help them have a normal experience," she said. "They really deserve to be kings and queens for a day because they have worked extremely hard for this and overcome some very tough obstacles to achieve their dreams. This is their night to celebrate."

The average graduating class fluctuates, but has been as high as 50 students, Doherty said.

Though the focus is on the children's scholastic achievements, the evening also coincides with many of them aging out of the foster care system. Though some may go on to college, others will rely on what they learned from their foster families.

For McCollum's foster children, who also include graduate Bianca Graham, the lessons are: "Keep an open mind; never give up, even if you fail, and don't be judgmental — that's the kind of attitude that could keep others down," McCollum said.

COUNTY INTELLIGENCE CONNECTION TARGETED DATA SOLUTIONS

NACo's County Intelligence Connection (CIC) online service makes analysis easy, providing a range of geographic, demographic, economic, and infrastructure related data at the county level.

Access updated data on tax information, prisons, colleges & universities, libraries, nursing homes and full-time employees.

To see the full range of information, visit www.NACo.org/CIC.*

*Subscriptions are available for non-members.

County	State	Population	Area (sq. mi.)	Density (/sq. mi.)	Median Income	Unemployment	Population 65+	Population 18-24	Population 25-64
Alameda	CA	151,808	769	197	\$45,000	5.2%	12.1%	24.3%	63.6%
Albany	NY	145,274	5,227	28	\$38,000	6.1%	14.5%	23.1%	62.4%
Albany	NY	145,274	5,227	28	\$38,000	6.1%	14.5%	23.1%	62.4%
Albany	NY	145,274	5,227	28	\$38,000	6.1%	14.5%	23.1%	62.4%

Keep up with NACo online ...

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

Empower IT INC.

Farmers use clean diesel, save money, reduce pollution

By ERYN ROSENBLUM
RESEARCH ASSISTANT

AND JARED LANG
PROGRAM MANAGER

Farmers in Miami-Dade County, Fla. are taking advantage of a county-wide program to improve the efficiency and emissions of their diesel-powered equipment.

Through the Clean Diesel Repower Program for Local Farmers, the county is using funds from the EPA's National Clean Diesel Funding Assistance Program to reduce emissions from diesel-powered farm equipment.

The age and inefficiency of agricultural equipment in Miami-Dade County has posed financial and environmental challenges for local farmers, farm workers and the county for several decades. In

Miami-Dade farm equipment is 35 years old on average and showing its age.

On average, the equipment consumes 6 gallons of fuel per hour. By repowering it with more efficient engines, farmers can reduce average fuel consumption to 4.5 gallons per hour, or 25 percent less fuel. This type of reduction results in significantly reduced fuel costs, in addition to reducing air pollution and maintenance costs, and prolonging the useful life of the equipment.

Launched in 2010, Miami-Dade's Clean Diesel Repower Program provides rebates that cover up to 65 percent of the costs for new, fuel-efficient diesel engines. In order to qualify, applicants must have operated a bona fide agricultural operation within Miami-Dade County for at least 12 months prior

to applying. The old engines must be owned by the applicant for at least 12 months and must have been manufactured prior to 1996. After installation, the equipment must remain and operate solely within Miami-Dade County for at least five years, and the applicants agree to report on the operating hours and fuel consumption of their new engines for the first five years.

"This clean diesel program reduces pollution, reduces fuel consumption, provides an opportunity to replace outdated equipment and increases farm viability by lowering operating and maintenance costs," said Charles LaPradd, agricultural manager for Miami-Dade County. "I'm pleased with the success of the program and my office's ability to provide

this opportunity to the growers of our area."

The program is proving to be popular. In the last year, Miami-Dade received 244 applications for engine replacements — all of which have been accepted. Presently, almost 200 engine replacements have been completed, and all 244 will be replaced by this fall.

The Clean Diesel Repower Program for Local Farmers is just one of many diesel retrofit projects taking place in Miami-Dade. The county fleet includes biodiesel-fueled trucks, diesel-electric hybrid buses and hydraulic hybrid garbage trucks. In addition, a variety of clean diesel efforts have been implemented with vehicles at the Port of Miami. In June, the Southeast Diesel Collaborative (SEDC) recognized the county with its Community Leadership Award, spotlighting the county's many efforts to reduce diesel emissions.

The county's clean diesel work is just one component of its overall sustainability efforts, which are articulated in the recently released *GreenPrint Sustainability Plan*. Learn more about the *GreenPrint Sustainability Plan* and Miami-Dade's other sustainability practices at www.miamidade.gov/greenprint.



Photo courtesy of Charles La Pradd, Miami-Dade County, Fla.

Pump trucks irrigate a farm field in Miami-Dade County, Fla.

Profiles in Service



» Stan Batemon

Environment, Energy, and Land Use
Steering Committee
Chairman, County Commission
St. Clair County, Ala.

Number of years active in NACo: 21

Years in public service: 21

Occupation: Retired Alabama game warden supervisor

Education: Biology, police administration, and business administration; Birmingham School of Law; graduate Auburn University County Government Institute

The hardest thing I've ever done: bury my daddy and my sister; leave Vietnam in my past

Three people (living or dead) I'd invite to dinner: my daddy, my sister and Jesus

A dream I have is to: finish the "race" and to be remembered as a good man.

You'd be surprised to learn that I: rebuild old lawn mowers and outboard motors.

The most adventurous thing I've ever done is: go back to Vietnam for a two-week walkabout.

My favorite way to relax is: read a good book.

I'm most proud of: my family.

Every morning I read: state and local news.

My favorite meal is: pork chops, pinto beans, fried potatoes (with onions) and corn bread.

My pet peeve is: complainers.

My motto is: "If you see a GOOD fight, get in it!"

The last book I read was: (other than my Bible) *The Art Of War* by Sun Tzu.

My favorite movie is: *Titanic*.

My favorite music is: Wild Cherry — "Play That Funky Music White Boy."

My favorite president is: Thomas Jefferson.

Public gets extra 30 days to submit comments on 'waters' guidance

WATERS from page 1

Mayors, and the National Conference of State Legislatures had sent a letter to EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson, June 8, requesting an extension of comments for 60 days to Sept. 1. The 30-day extension resulted from the state and local governments request.

As drafted, changes to the "waters of the U.S." definition would impact all Clean Water Act programs. The guidance states, "the term 'waters of the U.S.' must be interpreted consistently for all CWA provisions that use the term." This includes section 402 National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits, section 311 oil spill program, section 404 Dredge and Fill permit program, water quality standards and total maximum daily load programs, and State water quality certification processes. It could especially affect counties that own or maintain ditches.

"We are urging our members to weigh in on this proposed change in federal policy. It is important

that counties let EPA and the Corps know how the guidance could affect them," NACo Executive Director Larry Naake said.

For examples of issues raised by the proposed guidance and tips on responding, see the article "'Waters of the U.S.' guidance: impact on counties, tips on responding," in the June 6, 2011 issue of County News, available online at www.naco.org/watersoftheus

If writing a letter, the letter must be addressed to: Water Docket, Environmental Protection Agency, Mail Code 2822T, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20460 Attention: Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OW-2011-0409

Letters incorrectly addressed will not be read. Comments for the official record can also be submitted via the • Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>

Follow the instructions for submitting comments; or via • Email: ow-docket@epa.gov

Include EPA-HQ-OW-2011-0409 in the subject line of the message.

EPA Commits to New Boiler Rules by April 30, 2012

In a motion filed June 24 in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, EPA set deadlines for its reconsideration process for emissions-from-boilers rule. In January, under a court ordered deadline, the agency had released a final Boiler MACT rule that also included a reconsideration process to work out any remaining issues. According to the June 24 court filing, EPA plans to submit a proposed National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Major Sources: Industrial, Commercial and Institutional Boilers and Process Heaters rule by Oct. 31, 2011 and a final rule by April 30, 2012.

The rules have the potential to affect boilers used in county buildings such as courthouses, jails, hospitals, clinics or other institutions that use natural gas, fuel oil, coal, or biomass. Non-county operations such as schools, churches, malls, apartment buildings, and businesses may also be affected.

Symposium reviews progress in pre-trial justice

By MAEGHAN GILMORE
PROGRAM DIRECTOR, CSD

Nearly 50 years ago, then-U.S. Attorney General Robert Kennedy held the 1964 National Conference on Bail Reform. The conference prompted dramatic improvements in administering pretrial justice, including the 1966 Federal Bail Reform Act.

On May 31 and June 1 in Washington, D.C., the National Symposium on Pretrial Justice took another look at the same issues and examined progress towards a fair, safe and accountable system of pretrial justice. Representatives from NACo were among the leaders invited to participate.

Over the two days, participants learned about the impact of the 1964 bail reform conference, the development of significant pretrial legislation, the emergence of pretrial service professionals and challenges the field will face in the future. They also reviewed successful local models such as the Jefferson County, Colo. Bail Project.

U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder, a keynote speaker at the symposium, laid out the challenge for participants.

“Across the country, nearly two-thirds of all inmates who crowd our county jails — at an annual

cost of roughly \$9 billion taxpayer dollars — are defendants awaiting trial,” he said, adding that close to 750,000 people reside in America’s jail system.

“When they are sent home or sentenced to prison, they will cycle out, and others will cycle in — so that by the end of the year, 10 million individuals will have been involved in nearly 13 million jail admissions and releases.”

Panelists discussed the implications of using evidence-based decision making in the pretrial process. They contrasted the evidence-based decisions with those that relied on more traditional ways of dealing with pre-trial detainees such as instinct and political considerations. Common themes emerged around building alliances and partnerships, implementing evidence-based practices and collecting data to measure outcomes. In particular, discussions focused on utilizing a pretrial risk assessment tool in local jurisdictions.

Assistant Attorney General Laurie Robinson, another symposium speaker, related how the Bureau of Justice Assistance and the National Institute of Justice recently convened a meeting of researchers and practitioners to discuss the current state of the science regarding pretrial risk assessment. One of the big themes, she said, was the

need for information from judges, prosecutors, defense counsel and others — including defendants themselves.

“We need to understand what motivates judges’ decisions and get a better picture of why defendants who fail to appear or who commit new crimes do so. These are factors that need to be considered in developing risk-assessment instruments,” she said.

She added that pretrial services agencies help judges make more informed decisions and are cost-effective, noting that the average cost of county pretrial services supervision is less than \$10 per day. Coordination among law enforcement agencies, probation departments and courts is key, she said.

A final panel discussed future pretrial justice strategies and policies. The need for more information, education, technical assistance, communication and collaboration were commonly shared perspectives.

While the symposium provided the platform to discuss issues and information, the work to elevate and highlight a federal and local strategy will need to continue. Tim Murray, executive director of the Pretrial Justice Institute (PJI), encouraged all participants to engage in addressing bail reform. Counties can lead the effort in this

area in partnership with the Pretrial Justice Institute and others in the field to develop a national and local strategy.

NACo has taken initial steps by providing information and publications about pretrial services, specifically in a publication with the Pretrial Justice Institute, entitled *Jail Population Management: Elected County Officials’ Guide to Pretrial*

Services. NACo and PJI will work to update the guide in the coming year, providing case studies and legislative issues faced by states in the last year.

NACo has also adopted language in its American County Platform that supports the use of pretrial risk assessment and interview at the time of booking into county jails.

The Birth of Evidence-based Pretrial Release

Chief Judge Eric Washington, D.C. Court of Appeals and incoming president of the Conference of Chief Justices, gave a brief history on pre-trial services and their purpose at the symposium. He explained that prior to the early 1960s the concept of pretrial release was based on the theory that financial bonds were the best way to ensure the return of criminal defendants to the courthouse for trial. In most jurisdictions the use of money bonds is still the most common practice.

It was in 1961 when the Manhattan Bail Project began to test community ties as an alternative to financial bond that courts began to address the fundamental inequity of the traditional bail system: liberty being determined by economic status.

The success of the New York project ultimately prompted Congress to pass the Federal Bail Reform Act of 1966, providing for release on non-financial conditions and requiring judges to consider family ties, employment and length of residence in the community when shaping their release orders.

The act, however, did not authorize the courts to consider the degree of danger to the community as a factor to be considered in pretrial release conditions, Washington said.



Photo courtesy of Montgomery County, Md.

Executive Director Larry Naake discusses the success of NACo’s Prescription Discount Card Program during a press conference June 20 in Montgomery County, Md. County Executive Isiah Leggett (l) announced that county residents have saved more than \$20 million on their prescription costs through the program. The county was one of the original pilot program counties in 2004. Since then, more than \$400 million has been saved nationwide through the free membership benefit program in partnership with CVS Caremark. Also pictured are CVS Caremark Director of Consumer Programs Aaron King and Montgomery County Health Officer Dr. Ulder Tillman.

Word Search

The Original 13 Colonies

E	F	D	B	F	M	D	S	E	R	A	W	A	L	E	D	U	P	E	A
Q	Y	F	H	Y	C	L	M	U	O	Q	R	I	X	W	H	U	R	U	I
J	N	E	S	S	J	B	D	O	V	X	Y	H	O	O	B	I	N	E	N
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CONNECTICUT
DELAWARE
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MARYLAND
MASSACHUSETTS

NEW HAMPSHIRE
NEW JERSEY
NEW YORK
NORTH CAROLINA
PENNSYLVANIA

RHODE ISLAND
SOUTH CAROLINA
VIRGINIA

Created by: Christopher Johnson

Model Programs

FROM THE NATION'S COUNTIES

Gilpin County, Colo.

Biomass Boiler Benefits Budget, Befuddles Beetles

By CHARLIE BAN
STAFF WRITER

Gilpin County, Colo. built the little engine that could.

It wasn't a locomotive, but it did involve tossing fuel into a fire.

The county, the smallest in Colorado at 150 square miles, had to replace its 30-year-old road and bridge building. Thanks to proceeds from limited stakes gambling in the early 1990s, the county had the money to replace it and other buildings, and, as County Manager Roger Baker said, the flexibility to do it right.

That meant finding a heating system that took advantage of a sudden influx of timber.

At the same time, mountain pine beetles were spreading south after consuming much of the high mountain forest, putting Gilpin's trees at risk. With forest management efforts to halt the beetle's migration producing tons of pine chips, the planners had a natural use for the wood—a biomass-powered Messersmith boiler with an auger-fed chip delivery system.

"We took advantage of two trends, both potentially serious problems, when working on this facility," Baker said. "We could stem the ongoing destruction of our pine forests while also reducing the impact on climate change."

If the chips from infected and selectively cut trees are burned as biomass, they create far less air pollution than if they were consumed by wildfire, controlled burns or pile burning. The boiler maintains a fuel-air ratio that limits the smoldering and amount of smoke released from the fire.

This timber would have been disposed of somehow, and Gilpin County managed to harness it for benefit, while mitigating its effects.

"It's still burning wood, but in terms of heating a building, it's much, much better than burning fossil fuels," Baker said. "We're making only a small dent in both problems, but it's a responsible effort."

As the beetle infestation spreads, the county will experience both a



Photo courtesy of Gilpin County, Colo.

A biomass-fueled boiler heats the bridge and road building in Gilpin County, Colo. at a dramatic discount — because forest health policies and a spreading beetle infestation increased the local supply of timber.

treefall and a windfall. The facility gives individual homeowners, neighborhood associations, other local governments and fire departments, and state and federal agencies dealing with the infestation a place to take dead trees. That will dramatically reduce the quantity of wood chips the county will have to buy to power the boiler.

Facilities manager Bill Paulman said in the first year, using the biomass boiler saved the county close to \$30,000 over using natural gas. Now a January heating bill that would otherwise run almost \$6,000 to heat the 21,000-square-foot building is cut to approximately \$1,400.

"It gets cheaper, because the trees are all around," he said. "When the state does forest fire mitigation work in Golden Gate State Park (in Gilpin County), we get the trees they cut down, and all it costs us is the hauling. The wood would otherwise rot on the forest floor, giving off methane which is a much worse greenhouse gas than if we burn the wood."

In addition to the boiler, the building uses several renewable energy sources, including high windows for lighting, solar ventilation pre-heating and a used motor oil burner.

In a point of good-natured pride for Gilpin County, its biomass project has succeeded where others in larger areas, including one in nearby Boulder County, have been abandoned.

Why did Gilpin excel where others failed? Baker said it was the personnel combination that was on staff when the project developed.

"We had a very dedicated facilities manager, he worked at the University of Colorado and the Colorado School of Mines, and our road and bridge director was a forester in Washington state for 25 years," he said. "It was our staff that made the difference."

The project was named Best in Category in NACo's 2010 Achievement Awards for Environmental Protection and Energy-related programs.

To contact Roger Baker for more information, call 303.582.5214.

Model Programs from the Nation's Counties highlights Award-winning programs. For more information on this NACo Achievement Award winner, visit NACo's Web site, www.naco.org ▶ Research & Publications ▶ Find Solutions.

Financial Services News

Nationwide Deferred Compensation Plan Data Available Online

Nationwide Retirement Solutions' plan sponsors have ongoing access to quarterly plan-level data through a new online tool, "Gauging Success." This new reporting system helps plan sponsors objectively evaluate plan performance against historical data.

By comparing current quarter and annual information to previous years, plan sponsors can see how their plans are performing, where educational efforts are working, and what areas offer opportunities for additional focus. They can also see how their plan is performing compared to other similar plans.

The Gauging Success data can be as high-level or in-depth as plan sponsors prefer. For example, the Quick Plan Facts section reveals such key information as the total number of participants, the number of new enrollments for the most recent quarter, and total plan assets, as well as the percentage changes from quarter to quarter. The section provides a graph of historical market activity to help put the numbers into perspective.

From there, you can dive deeper into the data.

The reports include a five-minute presentation that walks plan sponsors through key pages and highlights relevant insights and action steps they can use to enhance their plan. It also gives them information to improve participation and contribution rates, helping participants better prepare for retirement.

Contact NACo or Nationwide Retirement Solutions, the administrator of the NACo Deferred Compensation Program, for assistance on or more information about Gauging Success and how saving for retirement can benefit county employees.

For additional information about the NACo Deferred Compensation Program, please contact Lisa Cole with the NACo by email, lc@naco.org or by phone 202.942.4270, or contact Louie Watson with Nationwide by email, WatsonL2@Nationwide.com or by phone 614.854.8895.

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

NACo on the Move

» NACo Officers and County Officials

• **Glen Whitley**, NACo president, spoke on what NACo can offer counties through membership and the latest on NACo and Congress at the Hawaii Association of Counties Annual Meeting in Maui County (Wailea) June 22–23.

• **Chris Rodgers**, NACo second vice president, explained how counties benefit from NACo at the New Mexico Association of Counties Annual Conference June 23 in Chaves County.

• **Toni Preckwinkle**, Cook County Commission president, testified at a Congressional Field Hearing in Chicago June 9 to the damage that would be done to the county's health care safety net system if Medicaid were changed into a block grant program, cut or capped. She also serves on NACo's Health Steering Committee.



Toni Preckwinkle

» NACo Staff



Michael Belarmino

Michael Belarmino, associate legislative director, conducted a technical session, "The Federal Budget and Impact on State and Local Governments," at the annual summer conference for the Maryland Government Finance Officers Association June 17 in Worcester County (Ocean City).

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

News From the Nation's Counties

► ALABAMA

Police from Birmingham and other cities might end up **filling in gaps** at the **JEFFERSON COUNTY** courthouse after the sheriff's office switched to a 32-hour work week, eliminating Friday protection by deputies.

The Jefferson County Association of Mayors discussed the idea of using local police to provide security at the courthouses. It would only be a stopgap measure, but Hoover Mayor Tony Petelos is open to the idea.

"They're having to make some drastic cuts over there. It would be totally wrong to stop the court system from operating," Petelos said. "Some of the cities have such small police departments they couldn't offer any assistance, but I spoke with our police chief, and we'll talk to the Hoover City Council and see what we can do on a very limited basis for a very limited period of time."

Deputy William Poole told the *Birmingham News* his presence alone is a deterrent, but if there were no uniformed officers to keep the peace and no one to run the metal detectors, the courts would not be able to function.

"The people in the jury box could be in danger from a criminal case. The judge could be in danger. We've had judges attacked in the past. As you already know in the past we've had inmates escape," Poole said.

► ARIZONA

If **PIMA COUNTY** residents set off **fireworks**, they might as well be sending flares for the police to take them to jail. The Board of Supervisors passed an emergency ban because of the high risk of wildfires.

Supervisors agreed to withhold permits from any of the big shows staged annually by the large resorts and others in the unincorporated area, and revoked any permits they had granted in previous meetings for private fireworks displays, the *Arizona Daily Star* reported.

Those found violating the ban will be taken to jail, said Pima County Sheriff Clarence Dupnik. "I don't know how much stronger a statement we can make."

After years of rejecting proposals to allow Arizonans to buy and shoot off fireworks, the Legislature made them legal in late 2010. This year would otherwise be the first Fourth of July when residents could legally set off fireworks in the county.

► COLORADO

Solar panels would seem to be an unobjectionable feature on most houses, but **PITKIN**



© 2011 Sean Gardner/Getty Images

Bill Ptacek, director, King County Library System, and Richard Eadie, King County Library trustee, display their Library of the Year Award, flanked by (l-r) Rebecca Miller, executive editor, and Francine Fialkoff, editor-in-chief, *Library Journal*; and Rich Foley, executive vice president of sales and marketing, Cengage Learning.

► WASHINGTON

The King County Library System (KCLS) has been named **Library of the Year** by *Library Journal* publisher Gale. The honor includes a cash award of \$10,000 and a cover story in *Library Journal*.

"We've watched KCLS lead the way for years in innovative service to their community," said Francine Fialkoff, editor-in-chief, *Library Journal*. "This year, all their efforts aligned — from new buildings to new services to record-breaking usage — and we're thrilled to name them Library of the Year."

The 46-branch system was also recognized for its "tailored career help programs, community reading programs and social media outreach," among other things.

County library systems given special mentions were San Diego County Library and Jefferson County, Colo. Public Library for their "service philosophy and dedication to community."

COUNTY commissioners are considering **regulating the glare** they produce.

The county has found little guidance in its attempt to address glare and would amend the nuisance section of the land use code with an addition that reads, "the glare effect produced by light reflecting from an object shall not create an unreasonable adverse impact with an intensity and duration sufficient to cause a nuisance."

The language doesn't apply strictly to solar panels. The county attorney has advised the staff that glare in general can be addressed, but the rules can't apply solely to solar panels, the *Aspen Times* reported.

► FLORIDA

Hundreds more cats and dogs would be euthanized in **MANATEE COUNTY** each year if county commissioners approve the proposed elimination of **county-run animal adoption** programs.

Eliminating the adoption programs could save the county between \$200,000 and \$300,000 a year.

Kris Weiskopf, chief of animal services, said the cut would mean the county would be unlikely to save more than 500 shelter dogs and cats a year that are now adopted out to new owners. Eliminating the adoption program would close two shelters and cut three full-time jobs, the *Herald-Tribune* reported.

► IDAHO

CANYON and **ADA counties'** leaders have brought up the possibility of creating a regional emergency dispatch center for the two counties.

Ada County Commissioner Sharon Ullman said it might be a better way to handle the region's emergency dispatch services.

"It makes a lot more sense to have a regional facility that knows what's going on in the whole area," Ullman told the *Idaho Press-Tribune*. She said the idea is worth considering before Ada County moves forward with any new dispatch site.

The two counties already share some responsibility for emergency response along the counties' shared border. Canyon County commis-

sioners recently announced plans to bill local emergency agencies for the dispatching services the county provides now at no cost.

► INDIANA

Although **DELAWARE COUNTY** commissioners did not vote for any measure to directly encourage restaurants and bars to build patios, the county's **smoking ban** has had that effect.

Several Muncie bars have built or plan to add outdoor patios or beer gardens so customers can smoke despite the ban to go into effect in the next few weeks.

For the Joker's Wild topless bar on South Madison Street, that means a waist-high picket fence around a portion of its parking lot. Inside that perimeter, customers can enjoy a cold drink and scantily-clad — but not topless — dancers.

The new patio is in full compliance with Indiana liquor laws, a state excise police officer told the *Star Press*. Another excise officer noted that several local bars are making the move outside.

► MARYLAND

Sheriff's deputies from **ST. MARY'S** and **CALVERT counties** will be allowed to **perform some duties** in **CHARLES COUNTY** under an agreement approved by the latter's commissioners, formalizing what officials said already is common practice.

The mutual aid agreement would allow Charles deputies to serve arrest warrants, pursue criminal motor vehicle violations and have general law enforcement authority in the other southern Maryland counties. The other counties have yet to approve the agreement, *The Washington Post* reported.

Assistant Sheriff Joe Montminy said that both emergency and routine measures would be covered by the agreement.

"It's the same bad guys in all three counties," he said. "We're, many times, just going across the line."

The agreement, which was made possible by a change in county law authorizing such agreements, will make law enforcement more efficient, Montminy said.

Currently, officers can serve warrants in neighboring counties only when accompanied by a local deputy, a process that can lead to hours of delay, he said.

► NEW YORK

The National Hockey League's **New York Islanders** and **NASSAU COUNTY** have reached a deal on a new arena that will keep the team in the county for another 34 years, at least, *The Miami-Herald* reported.

The arena is projected to generate about \$1.2 billion in revenue for the county that will: pay off the facility's \$350 million in construction costs, erase \$433 million in debt service payments and give the county more than \$400 million, intended to be used to hold the line on property taxes.

The plan will be on the ballot Aug. 1 for a public referendum; if approved, construction would start in 2012. The team's current lease with the Nassau County Veterans Memorial Coliseum expires in 2015.

"The Islanders were born on Long Island, won four Stanley Cups for Long Island and want to call Long Island home for decades to come," Islanders' owner Charles Wang said.

► PENNSYLVANIA

• Three of the sites the EPA will study to assess potential effects of hydraulic fracturing on water quality are in Pennsylvania counties — the most in any single state. "Fracking"

The H.R. Doctor Is In

The Fourth of July – Continuing the Journey

The Fourth of July is a time of fireworks, barbecues, red, white and blue decorations, parades and flying the American flag. Most people are also pleased to have the day off from work — a paid day off for public employees. For many, that is the essence of the holiday. Some others recognize the anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence as well. The Fourth of July is a much more important commemoration than we may think or than we may have been taught in history classes.

I offer the view that the Fourth of July is a celebration of journeys. They are journeys in the literal and in the figurative senses. They are journeys over time and journeys in the development of ideas and concepts. In this view, this holiday is a time of immense importance as a milestone in the history of our species.

In a way, the Fourth of July marks the end of a long journey of debate and discussion about relationships in the New World between colonists and the “Mother Country,” England. A critical decision point had been reached redefining the economic

and political relationships for the colonists, and a time of imagination had been entered as they looked forward to what could possibly come to exist in a land of immense natural wealth and many shared hopes, fears and beliefs.

Although there have always been, and there will remain, massive differences of opinion on many issues in the country, the signing of the Declaration of Independence by colonial representatives created a significant consensus. We’ve come to look at the signing of the Declaration as the moment of the birth of the country. It really was a significant waypoint in a much bigger set of journeys.

The first Fourth of July celebrated west of the Mississippi River occurred in 1804 as Lewis and Clark’s Corps of Discovery got an extra ration of alcohol and fired off their cannon. The day and the alcohol helped them rejoice about the birth of the new country. They were also looking at an incredible journey lying ahead and, as the very name of the expedition announced, what extraordinary discoveries they might make.

Imagine traveling back to July 4, 1826 and witnessing the deaths, within hours of each other, of two of the most important figures in the founding of the nation; Thomas Jefferson and John Adams. These Founding Fathers were able to look back over two generations of the growth and development of their country. They would have noted intense arguments, revolts and national expansion. They participated in the emergence of the institutions which form the basic structure of the American government.

They could look back at 50 years of an awakening of all that America could become, especially as they focused on the power of compromise and long-term vision. Indeed, their vision of consensus through compromise and abiding optimism made America the role model for the world that it has always been.

A generation later some of the same basic concepts that created and guided American development were still very evident, when on July 4, 1857 the collection of poems called the “Leaves of Grass” by Walt Whitman was published. Even then there was recognition of a balance needed between the beauty and harmony of nature, and the compulsion to exploit and tinker with it. Whitman also ventured into a restatement of another basic principle in America’s national philosophy: that is the importance of resistance against attempts by a central government to impinge on personal freedom or to tell the populace what to do and not do. In one of his poems, Whitman cautioned the states to “resist much, obey little.” He stated that once unquestioned obedience occurs, people and institutions become fully enslaved.

Whitman went on to talk about what could be thought of as the importance of respect and the broadening of protections under the law which we enjoy in this country. He wrote “whomever degrades another, degrades me.”

Much of our country’s continuing journey as the world’s melting pot has been a search for the creation of opportunity without the entitlement to success. In other words, no person deserves to be degraded, or as we might say now, bullied, sexually harassed or threatened with violence. However, none of us have a license guaranteeing success without contribution.

Another stop in the Fourth of July journey occurred in 1917.

This one had the earmarks of debt repayment. The debt was of extreme importance to the American victory in the Revolutionary War. In 1917, the first contingent of American troops arrived in France during World War I. Although it would be months until the “doughboys” had sufficient strength and training to make a substantial impact on the war’s outcome, nonetheless, the arriving Yanks staged a parade in Paris to the rejoicing and tears of the populace. Their destination was Lafayette’s Tomb.

The commander of the parading troops, Col. Charles Stanton, spoke at the tomb in simple and eloquent words about that debt repayment. He said “Lafayette, we are here!” I’m sure General Lafayette would have appreciated the help and support of the United States in securing French freedom as much as the Americans appreciated what the French did at a time of great American need over a century and a quarter earlier.

The arrival of the troops also signaled that America itself had “arrived” as a 20th century world power. This was a world in the midst of replacing animal power with machine power, an agriculture-based economy with a mass-production one, and a local economy with a national and world economy. Much was changing. Much would continue to change.

Two more stops to be mentioned in this article. Many other waypoints could have been

included. On July 4, 1997 the first interplanetary remote-controlled Rover landed on Mars. It had journeyed 120 million miles. The Rover hit the surface at 40 miles per hour. It bounced in its balloon-like covering 16 times before it finally came to rest. This landing is a metaphor for all the bouncing and impacts we often make politically and socially in the United States as we progress in our continuing national journey.

The Rover was really a Mother Ship. After landing, it released the small Sojourner vehicle to go explore and send back reports. Like a microchip version of the Lewis and Clark expedition, it was an extension of all of us to travel off to see what might be “out there.” It really didn’t matter that its surface travels covered only 171 feet. It had extended our concepts of optimism and adventure to the surface of another planet.

The final waypoint in this article occurs within your very own family and inside yourself. It is the waypoint marked by whether you, your children and your community carry on the journey toward many more Fourth of Julys. May the next 235 years be as full of wonder, peace and good stewardship for our planet. May we care for and be civil toward each other.

Enjoy a spectacular holiday!



Phil Rosenberg
The HR Doctor • www.hrdr.net

What's in a Seal?



» Cumberland County, Va.
www.cumberlandcounty.virginia.gov

Cumberland County was carved out in 1749 from Goochland County. The county is named for William Augustus, Duke of Cumberland, second son of King George II of Great Britain.

The settlement of the county dates to as early as 1723 when Thomas Randolph recorded a patent for 2,870 acres on the Willis Creek. More permanent communities soon followed. Along the main roads, there developed a series of taverns offering travelers food, commodities, shelter and social life. These taverns became the nuclei for the first communities in the county.

One of these taverns was Effingham, located across from the Cumberland Courthouse building. At Effingham, Carter Henry Harrison read one of the first calls for independence in the colonies on April 22, 1776. John Mayo and William Fleming subsequently presented this statement to the Virginia Convention. This initial call for independence, soon joined by other voices, led to the Declaration of Independence.

The seal shows a colonist declaring for independence with the year of county establishment as well as “First Call for Independence.”

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

Fla. commissioner leaves sea level dramatically

DESLOGE from page 5

descending. Night is relative in that part of Alaska, where the sun set at 11:30 p.m. but rendered dusk-like light, which Desloge had no problem navigating without a head lamp.

His first shower, after three weeks, was glorious, he said.

Three weeks without e-mails to answer, phone calls to take or even a computer to check was “liberating,” though he said their absences were hard to reconcile.

Toward the end of June, a month after he left Denali National Park, he has regained the feeling in his toes.

“Hopefully that’s the end of the really dangerous stuff,” Beth

Desloge said. “We (the couple has four children) were nervous but it was early on. We knew no news was good news, so the hard part was fielding calls from friends who were trying to piece together news of accidents on the mountain.”

From the way he talks, Desloge might not be done with his extreme adventures.

“I loved the physical challenge,” he said. “I never feel more alive.”

When at sea level, he serves as first vice president of the Florida Association of Counties.

A blog recounting Desloge’s expedition is available at: <http://mountaintripdenali2011.wordpress.com/category/may-8-team/>.

Winners exhibit creativity in spotlighting counties, veterans

NCGM from page 1

Development Department initiated a mobile office campaign, setting up at a community center to provide business services and resources to potential entrepreneurs. The Public Information Department organized a veterans' art exhibit, which included a reception and veterans art show.

The County Government Month planning committee reached out to youth as well. County commissioners read to children during afterschool programs and a mock County Commission meeting was held at the high school.

Manatee County, Fla.

Manatee County celebrated NCGM through three main activities. First, was a series of veterans' seminars hosted by the Veteran Services Division. The topics addressed veteran's benefits and frequently asked questions. The morning sessions began with a coffee break and time of fellowship for veterans, families, county staff and officials. Veteran services officers covered the same topics in a television show aired on the government access channel.

The second event was the Commuter Services Kickoff held on the courthouse lawn. More than 600

downtown employees celebrated NCGM with exhibits provided by county departments showcasing their services and programs. Free transit shuttles gave residents the opportunity to try riding the bus. Staff was on hand to assist in determining routes, making transfers, and to answer questions.

Lastly, the county sponsored a float in the annual DeSoto Celebration Grand Parade. Employees held fundraisers to cover the costs of preparing the float and to purchase beads that are given to the crowds watching the parade. County commissioners and county employees participated. This event was observed by thousands of residents and guests.

Cape May County, N.J.

In adopting this year's resolution celebrating NCGM, the Freeholder Board paid tribute to local veterans, armed forces and their families.

The county launched a media blitz of news releases, radio advertisements, website and social media postings which promoted the upcoming NCGM events. The county sponsored a Healthcare Resource Day that provided free health screenings, more than 50 edu-

cational exhibits plus presentations geared toward women and seniors.

To target young families, the county hosted a Free Family Day at the park and zoo. The event attracted more than 1,000 children who participated in crafts and games. The county partnered with a local newspaper to produce a 24-page publication that highlighted informative news articles on county government and county contact information.

The biggest event was the combination of Student Government Day, the Earth Day Logo contest sponsored by the Board of Chosen Freeholders, and a County Government Open House. It brought together all segments of the county's population into a single-day activity. Students from local high schools spent the day with county officials learning about the role of county government which culminated in a Freeholder mock board meeting.

This year's theme, "Serving Our Veterans, Armed Forces and Their Families" complemented both of President Glen Whitley's 2010-11 presidential initiatives: the County Government Works public awareness campaign, and the Veterans and Military Service Task Force.

NACo Executive Director Larry E. Naake said all of the programs that entered the NCGM Award competition were excellent examples of effective ways to raise public awareness about counties. In the end, the independent judges were asked to pick just one winning county program from each of three categories: counties with population more than 500,000; counties with population from 100,000 to 500,000; and counties with population under 100,000.

"The winning programs were selected because they presented interesting and creative methods for increasing understanding of their county's programs and services and thoughtful tribute to local veterans, armed forces and their families," said Naake.

A team of communications professionals from the National Association of County Information Officers (NACIO) — a NACo affiliate organization — judged the award applications.

For more information about NCGM, visit the Programs and Services/Tell the Public What Counties Do section of the NACo website or contact Jim Philipps at 202.942.4220 or jphilipps@naco.org.

Job Market & Classifieds

►COUNTY MANAGER – BERNALILLO COUNTY, N.M.

Salary: \$135,000–\$165,000; DOQ.

Bernalillo County is recruiting for a County Manager. This position is appointed by and reports to the Board of County Commissioners. The county manager is responsible for the administration and operational services of county government. The county manager ensures that all

departmental activities are in compliance with Bernalillo County goals and objectives, state and federal laws, and county policies and procedures. This position is a term position with a maximum term of two (2) years per employment contract.

For more information go to www.bermco.gov. ALL APPLICANTS MUST COMPLETE THE COUNTY EMPLOYMENT APPLICATION.

Loudoun County is looking for people just like you!



Loudoun County Government, Va., is one of the fastest growing counties in the United States. The county is constantly seeking to fill vacancies and to provide numerous opportunities to enhance your career with more than 30 different county departments and agencies. The county offers competitive salaries and benefits including health, dental, vision, disability and retirement benefits.

The county is an Equal Opportunity Employer and recognizes the value of a diverse workforce. We strive to foster a diverse and equitable work environment where employees can develop their careers. We encourage women, minorities and persons with disabilities to apply for positions with Loudoun County Government.

Please go to www.loudoun.gov and click on "Jobs" to complete an on-line application. If you do not have Internet access or would like to apply in person, you may visit our available kiosks at the Human Resources division located at 1 Harrison Street S.E. in Leesburg, Virginia. All of our employment opportunities are available on-line and can be accessed at your local library or our Workforce Resource Center located at the Shenandoah Building at 102 Heritage Way N.E. in Leesburg. EOE.

Civil War park takes shape with help of Virginia National Guard

NEWS FROM from page 10

uses a mixture of water, sand and chemicals to release underground natural gas deposits.

WASHINGTON COUNTY was selected because fracking has not yet begun there. In the other two counties, **BRADFORD** and **SUSQUEHANNA**, the process is already in use, the Associated Press reported.

Other sites in the study are in **DESOTO PARISH, La.**; **KILDEER** and **DUNN counties, N.D.**; **WISE** and **DENTON counties, Texas**; and **LAS ANIMAS COUNTY, Colo.**

Results from the EPA review are expected in 2012.

• Pennsylvania's Supreme Court recently upheld two lower court rulings invalidating **MONTGOMERY COUNTY's** two-year-old **county-wide ethics policy**.

The policy prevented row office employees from running for office or campaigning while on the county payroll, according to phillynews.com.

"It was an absolute intent to clean

up some problems as I saw them in the courthouse," said Commissioner James R. Matthews, a supporter of the policy. He expressed particular concern that the county District Attorney's Office was becoming "an incubator" for those seeking higher office — thwarting other potential candidates — and leaving prosecutors open to potential conflicts of interest in the courtroom.

►VIRGINIA

• It's on to the nationals for Jason Sharpe, a **HENRICO COUNTY** bus technician, who will represent his state after capturing first place in **Virginia's Best School Bus Technician Competition**.

The national School Bus Technician's Training and Skills Competition will be held in San Antonio, Texas in September.

At the state level, the contest consisted of a written exam as well as a timed hands-on segment that tested contestants' problem-solving skills under pressure. Participants were presented with several buses requiring repair and were evaluated on their diagnostic ability, speed and application of safety measures.

• The **Stafford Civil War Park** has moved a step closer to becoming a reality. The National Guard Bureau has approved the participation of the Virginia Army National Guard to build a road to the 41-acre park.

"With the 150th anniversary of the Civil War upon us, the timing could not be more perfect for us to move forward with this national treasure," said Mark Dudenhefer, chairman of the **STAFFORD COUNTY** Board of Supervisors.

The National Guard's participation in the project is estimated to be worth "about \$800,000," county officials said.

County Board Vice Chairman Paul Milde said the project would preserve and open to the public an "amazing collection" of earth works or redoubts as a park.

The property consists of three Union batteries, a winter encampment and a road that connected the sites.

(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 e-mail ctaylor@naco.org or cban@naco.org.)