



Photo by Charlie Ban

Participants at NACo's Large Urban County Caucus (LUCC) Leadership Symposium in Ramsey County, Minn., get ready to board the new Green Line train, which connects the downtowns of St. Paul and Minneapolis. They toured historic Union Depot and Target Field, the new home of the Minnesota Twins. During the Oct. 15–17 event, they heard from speakers who explored county leadership and innovation; the impact of changing demographics on county governments; and the growing use of pay-for-success social impact bonds, first pioneered in Great Britain. A report on what they learned will be published in the Nov. 3 issue.

County moves forward on campaign finance reform

BY CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON
EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

The Montgomery County, Md. Council took a bold step forward for fair elections recently by passing Bill 16-14, creating a small-donor public financing system for County Council and executive campaigns intended to fight big money interests by empowering small donors in county elections.

“Creating a 21st-century model for public financing was the goal,” said Councilmember Phil Andrews, chief sponsor of the bill. “Reducing the influence of big money in county elections and on county

public policy will expand the opportunities for more candidates to run for office.”

Montgomery County joins 25 states — including Maryland — along with a handful of cities that offer some form of taxpayer subsidy for candidates. Maryland lawmakers included a public-funding option for counties in the campaign finance bill passed in 2013. Montgomery is the first county in the country to adopt such a law.

Beginning in 2018, candidates for county executive or council

See **REFORM** page 4

EPA, Army Corps extend Waters of the U.S. comments until Nov. 14

BY CHARLIE BAN
STAFF WRITER



The Environmental Protection Agency and Army Corps of Engineers have extended until Nov. 14 the deadline for comments on the proposed “Waters of the U.S.” rule that was released in April.

The deadline extension will allow the public to read the soon-to-be

released report that will provide the scientific basis for the rule change.

The extension gives counties 25 more days to outline to the EPA and the Corps how the phrase, “waters of the U.S.” in the Clean Water Act — once assailed as vague and now characterized by some in the U.S. House of Representatives as an “overreaching regulation” — affects their operations. Reaction has come from counties nationwide, about 100 of which have sent copies of their comments to NACo. As of Oct. 15, more than 217,000 comments from all sources had been submitted.

The comments range from those noting the cost burden that counties would bear to comply with the rule, to ill-suited application in some regions and disparate economic impacts resulting from private sector operations in others.

Sweetwater County, Wyo. noted in its comments that the proposed rule would slow permitting for oil and gas extraction operations that comprise 43 percent of the county's tax base.

Others point out that the rule would cause a disproportional

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Counties push crowdfunding for economic development

BY CHARLES TAYLOR
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Want to back a struggling artist, a startup business, a charity whose values align with yours? Increasingly, crowdfunding — collaborative fundraising via the Web — is the way to do it, through sites like Kickstarter and Indiegogo.

Now counties large and small are finding ways to help local businesses get in on the action through their economic development arms.

The Williamson County Partnership in Texas launched the WilCo Funding Portal in the Austin-Round Rock area in September, which the partnership calls the state's only “hyper-local” crowdfunding website. It aggregates and promotes local crowdfunding opportunities and tracks the progress of their fundraising goals. The county, home to Dell computers, has a population of more than 422,000.

On Oct. 27, the San Juan County,

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L.A. County extends health care to all uninsured within its borders > **Page 3**

HUD seeks comments on proposed fair housing assessment toolkit > **Page 5**

High court accepts cases with relevance to counties

By **LISA SORONEN**
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
STATE AND LOCAL LEGAL CENTER

The U.S. Supreme Court Oct. 6 granted 11 petitions with at least four relevant to local governments as well as an *amicus* brief filed by the State and Local Legal Center (SLLC).

Housing Discrimination

For the third time, the court has accepted a case involving the issue

of whether disparate-impact claims, as opposed to disparate treatment claims, can be brought under the Fair Housing Act (FHA). It remains to be seen if *Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs v. The Inclusive Communities Project* will settle like its predecessors, *Mt. Holly v. Mt. Holly Citizens in Action* and *Magner v. Gallagher*. The 11 federal circuits that have decided this issue have all held that disparate-impact claims are actionable. The Supreme Court is expected to rule

to the contrary. Local governments have been sued for disparate impact under the FHA.

Fourth Amendment Search

In its second Fourth Amendment case of the term, *Rodriguez v. United States*, the court will decide whether a police officer violates the Fourth Amendment by extending, for just a few minutes, an already-completed traffic stop for a dog sniff. The Eighth Circuit held the search in this case was reasonable. The police officer waited seven or eight minutes after the traffic stop was completed before deploying his sniffer dog because he wanted backup given that there were two people in the stopped car.

Employment Discrimination

The issue in *EEOC v. Abercrombie & Fitch Stores* is whether an employer can violate Title VII of the Civil Rights Act for failing to hire someone because of a “religious observance and practice” that the employer knows about—but wasn’t told about directly by the applicant. The applicant in this case wore a hijab head scarf to her interview with Abercrombie & Fitch. When Abercrombie didn’t hire her because her hijab violated their “no caps” policy she sued. The 10th Circuit ruled in favor of Abercrombie because the applicant did not inform Abercrombie she needed a religious accommodation, though it was obvious.

Confrontation Clause

In *Ohio v. Clark*, the Supreme Court will decide whether testimony of Head Start teachers about what a 3-year-old boy told them when they asked him who hurt him was admissible in his father’s assault trial. The Ohio Supreme Court held that admitting their testimony, when the boy did not testify due to his young age, violated the Confrontation Clause because the boy’s statements were “testimonial.” The court reasoned that the teachers were acting as law enforcement agents when they

questioned him because they have mandatory child abuse reporting obligations and the boy was not in the midst of an ongoing emergency when he was questioned.

Amicus Brief in Railroad Tax Case

Does a state discriminate against rail carriers in violation of federal law even when rail carriers pay less in total state taxes than motor carriers? No, argues a SLLC Supreme Court *amicus* brief in *Alabama Department of Revenue v. CSX Transportation*. Forty-two states exempt motor carriers from sales tax on diesel fuel. This case is relevant to local government because some, including cities and counties in Alabama, impose an additional sales tax on railroad diesel fuel.

Railroads in Alabama pay a 4 percent sales tax on diesel fuel. Trucks pay an excise tax of 19-cents per gallon and no sales tax. The Railroad Revitalization and Regulatory Reform Act (4-R) prohibits state and local governments from imposing taxes that discriminate against railroads.

Since CSX filed its complaint, railroads paid less in sales tax than trucks paid in excise tax. But, the 11th Circuit refused to compare the total taxation of railroads and trucks to avoid the “Sisyphean burden of evaluating the fairness of the States overall tax structure.” Instead it concluded Alabama’s sales tax on railroads violates 4-R because Alabama’s competitors don’t pay it. The SLLC brief argues that given state’s traditional power to tax, the court should interpret 4-R narrowly. The brief suggests the court could take three approaches to rule in favor of Alabama.

First, it could compare the tax treatment of rail carriers to all commercial and industrial taxpayers in the state (who all pay sales tax) instead of only railroad competitors.

Second, the court could ignore the labels of sales and excise tax and compare the amount railroads and their competitors pay in total

taxes. Third, the court could note the relevant differences between railroads and their competitors. For example, ships traditionally have been exempt from all taxes on diesel fuel because of constitutional concerns about taxing vessels in navigable waters.

Finally the SLLC brief points out that “[r]uling in favor of CSX would threaten States’ ability to take in tax revenue, an ability already impeded by current economic conditions. This Court must not allow 4-R to shield CSX—a \$12 billion nationwide corporation—and other rail carriers from paying millions of dollars in taxes that fund vital public services. Congress did not intend for 4-R to enrich large corporations by impoverishing the States.”

All of the Big Seven state and local government organizations joined the SLLC brief along with SLLC associate members the International Municipal Lawyers Association and the Government Finance Officers Association. Sarah Shalf of the Emory Law School Supreme Court Advocacy Project wrote the SLLC brief.

For more information about these cases and other Supreme Court case relevant to states and local governments, please visit www.statelocalc.org.

WIR board sets agenda at strategic planning meeting

By **PAUL BEDDOE**
DEPUTY LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

Convening for its annual fall planning meeting Oct. 1–3 in Phillips County, Mont., the Western Interstate Region (WIR) board of directors discussed a broad range of issues confronting western counties, reviewed a 2015 budget proposal and refined its policy focus areas for the year. The board also enjoyed the scenic and cultural heritage of the county and the town of Malta, its county seat.

The board voted to focus its federal policy agenda on the following overarching issues:

- federal land payments to counties, including one-year extensions of mandatory funding for the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) and Secure Rural Schools (SRS) programs, pursuing a longer-term solution for each program as well as exploring a new program for counties with tribal or Indian trust land. Mineral receipts and other

natural resource revenue-sharing would also be included.

- forest health, including active forest management and a sustainable solution for wildland fire suppression costs that would eliminate emergency borrowing from accounts that fund active resource management.
- transportation reauthorization (MAP-21)
- Endangered Species Act reform, and
- transfer of public lands in willing states with county approval

The meeting’s location in Phillips County in the plains of northeast Montana, gave the board the opportunity to reflect upon natural resource management, development and conservation issues from the perspective of local ranchers, including WIR President Lesley Robinson, Phillips County commissioner, the U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management, the oil and gas industry and conservation groups.

In Case You Missed It


News to Use From Past County News

► **Register for NACo Symposium on Transportation and Infrastructure**
Registration is now open for NACo’s Symposium on America’s County Transportation and Infrastructure to be held Dec. 3–5 in Maui County, Hawai’i in conjunction with the NACo Board of Directors fall meeting.
The symposium will highlight noteworthy practices, feature national experts and provide compelling mobile workshops. Topics will include trends in global freight movement, innovation in transportation and infrastructure financing and more.
To register, visit www.naco.org/transportation.

CORRECTIONS

► In the story, “Dallas County takes on Ebola,” the organization predicting 1.4 million deaths worldwide from Ebola was incorrectly identified in the print version. It was the CDC. In the same story, doctors confirmed the diagnosis of Ebola for the first time in the U.S. on Sept. 30. A different date had been cited.

Quick Takes



Haunted County Courthouses

Monroe County, Ark.
Navajo County, Ariz.
Lincoln County, Maine
Wayne County, Ohio
Grimes County, Texas

Source: American Bar Association Courthouse Legends

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(202) 393-6226 • FAX (202) 393-2630
Published biweekly except August by:
National Association of Counties
Research Foundation, Inc.
25 Massachusetts Ave., N.W.
STE. 500, Washington, D.C. 20001
(202) 393-6226 | FAX (202) 393-2630
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POSTMASTER: send address changes to
County News, 25 Massachusetts Ave. N.W., Ste. 500, Washington, D.C. 20001
(USPS 704-620) ■ (ISSN: 0744-9798)
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L.A. County provides 'medical homes' for uninsured residents

By CHARLES TAYLOR
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

A new program called My Health L.A. will provide free health care for nearly 150,000 Los Angeles County residents—the “residually uninsured,” as the program calls them.

The Board of Supervisors’ approved the program’s \$61 million funding at its Sept. 23 meeting. Supervisor Michael Antonovich cast the lone dissenting vote among the five supervisors, citing concerns that the program is open to undocumented immigrants.

which launched on Oct. 1, is to provide medical care to those left out by the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and the expansion of Medicaid, or Medi-Cal as it’s known in California.

“Our desire was to create a health program for those individuals that

would provide access to comprehensive services on the primary care side, specialty care side, inpatient side, emergency, pharmacy services,” she said.

My Health L.A. is open to anyone age 6 and older and whose household meets certain income

guidelines — for example, an individual with a monthly income at or below 138 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (\$1,343) or a family of four earning \$2,743. It is free to individuals and families who do not have and cannot get health insurance. Services are provided by

164 Community Partner clinics. The county pays participating clinics \$32 per month for each patient.

Brigham is quick to note what My Health L.A. is not. “My Health L.A. is not a health plan, because

See MEDICAL page 6

SpeedRead » » »

- » My Health L.A. provides free health care for the uninsurable
- » Participants need not be U.S. citizens but county residents
- » Establishes a medical home to curb “frequent flyer” emergency room visits

“To fund the cost of this health care plan for illegal aliens, this program siphons more than \$60 million in property tax revenues away from public safety and other vital services for legal immigrants and citizens,” he said in a statement that day. “This is yet another example of how the county must shoulder the burden for the federal government — which has failed to secure the border and continues to incentivize illegal immigration.”

Board Chairman Don Knabe agrees the feds haven’t adequately dealt with immigration, but said the county has a duty to its residents.

“As the ultimate safety net for over 10 million residents, Los Angeles County is obligated under federal mandate to provide healthcare to everyone—no matter their citizenship status,” he said via email. “Unlike private hospitals that can pick and choose their patients, we do not have that luxury.

“My Health LA ensures that individuals receive medical services in a cost-effective and efficient manner, while minimizing the use of emergency services for primary care.”

The county does not ask the immigration status of program applicants, said Tangerine Brigham of the L.A. County Department of Health Services, which runs the program. “It’s really L.A. County residency status that people have to meet.”

She said one goal of the program,



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Public Election Fund aims to empower small donors

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would qualify for a Public Election Fund if they attracted a sufficient number of small contributions of \$5 to \$150. In the case of a council race, for instance, it would be 125 donations adding up to at least \$10,000. After that, campaigns would be publicly financed on a matching basis — up to \$125,000 for a district council seat, \$250,000 for an at-large council seat or up to \$1.5 million for a county executive candidate who makes it to the general election.

The system would be voluntary, but participants would not be able to accept donations larger than \$150 or from political action committees or labor organizations. The point is to empower small donors and to prevent large donors from wielding outsized influence in government decisions.

In the last county election cycle in Montgomery County alone, successful County Council candidates raised almost \$208,000 each to run

for one of the five district seats and over \$237,000 to run for one of the four at-large seats. Two candidates brought in over \$300,000. Only a third of funding came from small donors contributing \$250 or less, according to Fair Elections Maryland.

The cost to taxpayers will depend upon how many candidates apply and qualify for the public matching funds.

A study by Common Cause Maryland estimated that if matching funds were available during this year's June primary, it would have cost \$2.5 million with the price certain to rise with the match system now in place. According to Andrews, estimates are between \$4 million and \$6 million for the 2018 election year.

"This is a state-of-the-art bill," added Andrews. "It is a great start to help push big money to the side and let everyone's voice be heard."

To learn more, visit www.fairelections-maryland.org.



Profiles in Service

Anthony Trotman
Health Steering Committee
Director, Department of Job and Family Services
Franklin County, Ohio

Number of years active in NACo: four years

Years in public service: 24 years

Occupation: director, TANF, Refugee, Child Care, Title XX and Medicaid programs

Education: master's degree in health services administration

The hardest thing I've ever done: taking my daughter to the airport

Three people (living or dead) I'd invite to dinner: Martin Luther King Jr., Lyndon B. Johnson and President Barack Obama

A dream I have is to: travel around the world.

You'd be surprised to learn that I: lived in Alaska for three years.

The most adventurous thing I've ever done is: mountain climbing in Alaska.

My favorite way to relax is: to exercise in the morning.

I'm most proud of: my daughter Camille's winning two national track and field championships in the hurdles.

Every morning I read: the newspaper.

My favorite meal is: shrimp and grits.

My pet peeve is: people who are not committed to service.

My motto is: "We must shorten the time between talking and doing."

The last book I read was: *The Winning Attitude* by John C. Maxwell.

My favorite movie is: *The Matrix*.

My favorite music is: jazz.

My favorite president is: President Obama.



COUNTY INNOVATIONS AND SOLUTIONS

San Diego County, Calif.

Local Notables Get Star Treatment in Libraries

By CHARLIE BAN
STAFF WRITER

San Diego County residents can walk into one of their libraries and come face-to-face with a portrait of one of their neighbors.

And José Aponte hopes that sparks some curiosity among visitors.

San Diego County's libraries are a home to knowledge, not just a collection of books, and for the last two years, the libraries' director has wanted that local knowledge to include local residents whose accomplishments likely have not been featured in a book available on the shelves.

"I was struck by the lack of recognition of the leadership in sustainable communities and communities of color," he said. "There are people who live in San Diego County who have been central to quiet change in our state and country."

They include people like Bridget Wilson, an attorney who fought for LGBT rights in the military; Carmen Duron, who worked to improve farm workers' health with Cesar Chavez, and Wadie Deddeh, the first Iraqi-born American elected to public office in the United States.

"A lot of these people aren't going to get the attention they deserve, nor are they asking for it," Aponte said. "Chances are there's someone living next door who witnessed or was a part of history."

"I remember hearing about a bikeway in Coronado back when I got out of grad school in the 1970s and not knowing what it was," he added. "It turns out Gordy Shields made it happen (through his advocacy). Back in the '70s, very few people were thinking about things like that, but now bikeways are a cornerstone of sustainable urban design."

Aponte wants to keep a record of some of these San Diegans' experiences, so the library chooses roughly five "legends" a year for commemoration. Through an informal recruiting process,

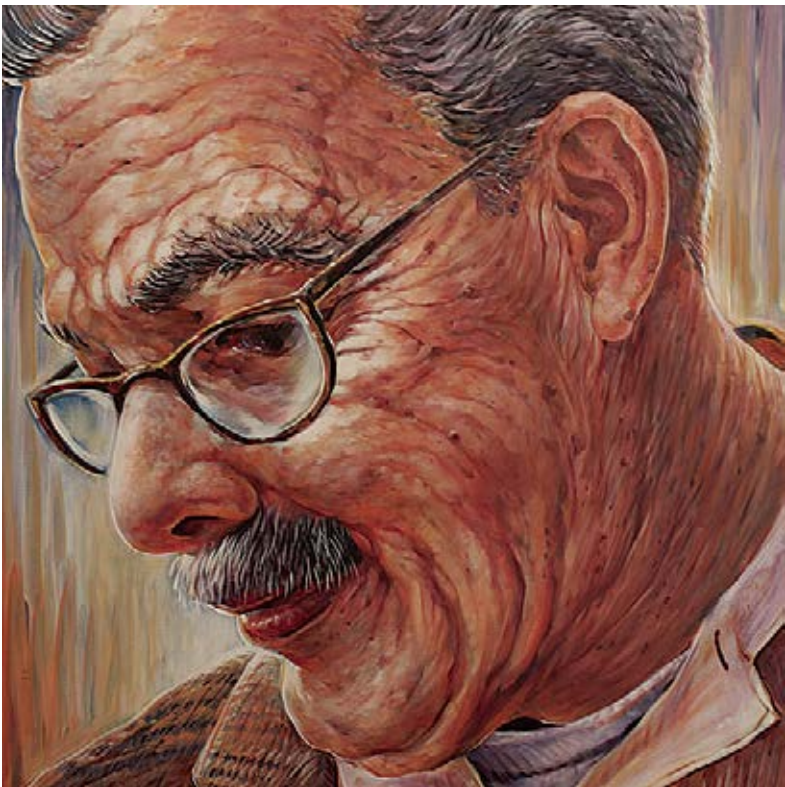


Image courtesy of the San Diego County Library / Portrait by Mona Mills

One of the San Diego County Library Legends, Salvador "Sal" Baraja, was one of the original muralists to paint the world famous San Diego Chicano Park murals, later playing an important role in the Chicano Park Mural Restoration Project. The mural is part of a rotating exhibit at the San Diego County library branches.

he keeps an open dialogue with various social and philanthropic groups throughout the county, whose nominations are then vetted by a collection of library staffers and the corresponding groups.

"We want to make sure we represent a variety of different populations and we'll work to make sure they're represented," Aponte said. "I consulted with the LGBT community for a while until they came up with Bridget Wilson."

Once selected, the legend meets with Deputy Library Director Susan Moore who conducts an interview while Aponte shoots portrait photographs.

"When a person comes in to talk, they're a little quiet in the beginning, but after about 45 minutes they open up," he said. "Pretty soon, a few hours have gone by and they've told us so much."

A local artist paints an oil portrait, which accompanies the photos and interviews in the

exhibit, which travels to a different library in the county system every month. Some legends make appearances at exhibitions.

The program costs roughly \$11,000 annually, with most of that coming from staff time and the cost of the oil portraits. The first year featured seven legends, and the plans are to continue with five each year.

Not all legends are elderly, but Aponte likens their stature to a subtle shift in Spanish.

"There's a Spanish language difference that's different between the elders and rest of the community," he said. "When you hit a certain age or level of accomplishment, the way people address an elder is different, and it gets everyone's attention. It struck me as something that was important to keep alive, and that's the kind of person we want to commemorate through the Legends series."

County Innovations and Solution features award-winning programs.

HUD publishes assessment of fair housing tool for comment

By Daria Daniel

ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR



The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has published a notice seeking comment on a draft Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH) Tool for Community Planning and Development entitlement grantees. This AFH Toolkit would be applicable to urban counties and cities that receive HUD Community Development Block Grant and HOME Investment Partnership funding. Comments are due by Nov. 26.

As background, on July 19, 2013, HUD issued a notice for comment on Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) — to provide a new approach to help HUD program participants incorporate fair housing considerations into their existing planning processes and assist them in

their efforts to comply with their duty to affirmatively further fair housing as required by the Fair Housing Act, Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act.

The Fair Housing Act not only prohibits discrimination, but also directs HUD program participants to take proactive steps to overcome historic patterns of segregation, promote fair housing choice and foster inclusive communities free from discrimination.

This new approach would replace the current Analysis of Impediments (AI) process and is designed to assist with analyzing the fair housing environment and issues, setting and prioritizing fair housing goals and taking meaningful steps to affirmatively further fair housing.

HUD advised in the 2013 proposed rule that it would issue an assessment tool for use in completing the Assessment of Fair Housing that program participants would undertake.

HUD said it would provide local and regional data on patterns of integration and segregation, racially and ethnically concentrated areas, education, employment poverty, and other data to be used with local data to identify fair housing issues, set priorities and goals to address any issues. HUD has not yet issued a final rule on the AFH Notice. This will likely occur after review of feedback on the AFH Toolkit.

HUD encourages local entitlement grantees to submit comments on the AFH Toolkit. NACo plans to submit comments in partnership with its affiliate the National Association for County Community Economic Development (NACCED).

**To access the Federal Register Notice and the proposed fair housing assessment toolkit, see this story at www.countynews.org.*

Parts of proposed rule make little sense for some areas of the country

EXTENSION from page 1

burden on a small number of people whose activities wouldn't appear to violate the Clean Water Act.

"Some of these requirements make little sense to us and seem geared toward big cities with large populations and significant pollution problems that we do not have," wrote Aleutians East Borough, Alaska Mayor Stanley Mack. "If we had many polluted waters, then expanded regulation of small interconnected waterways and wetlands would make sense."

Meanwhile in St. Mary's County, Md., with its 400 miles of shoreline and network of streams, springs, ponds and storm water management facilities, the County Commission worries that its number of ditches that require programming to comply will increase dramatically.

"We might suggest a dry season evaluation of all County (sic) ditch lines and outfall channels be undertaken by the EPA, which may have extensive coordination with Maryland Department of the Environment and the Corps of Engineers," the commission wrote.

A letter signed by 25 Minnesota counties, in addition to a handful of watershed districts, called the rule "incomprehensible guidance." The Nevada County, Calif. Board of Supervisors agreed, and focused in its comments on the persistent ambiguities in the language in the rule and asked that the rule be withdrawn.

"They never define 'upland,'" said Chairman Nathan Beason, among other points his county's comments that he pointed out. "As with a lot of things, devil's in the details. If something is the intent of the EPA, they should make it clear, not leave it open for interpretation 10 years down the road."

Beason said the county has heard concerns from everyone ranging from farmers to construction workers to private citizens with ditches in their yards.

"We've got serious concerns about this continuing expansion of agency power and influence on things that seem fine," he said. "We don't know how to stop it. We keep writing letters, ask congressmen for help. Our board is a mix of political viewpoints and aren't anti-government or anything, but we're all very worried about this."

Minnehaha County, S.D. voiced concern that local governments'

comments might not receive appropriate weight: "The fear is the farmers' discharge is not regulated but ours will be. For example, we have no control over how much nitrogen and phosphorus leaches from their fields into our ditches yet we could potentially be held accountable to only discharge X part per million. Being that farmers generally have a very strong voice in Washington, it is likely that they will remain from being regulated."

In White Pine County, Nev. Jim Garza stressed clarification of the terms included in the rule. He is the director of community and economic development for the county, and he prepared the county's comments.

"We're not 100 percent negative on the rule," he said after comments were submitted. "It has some very valid points, in the East Coast I could see a lot of these issues making sense. For counties, especially in the West, it's important that we offer helpful guidance. It's not going to do any good to take a blanket position that we don't want the federal government controlling how we use our land. They can do whatever they want anyway so we should be constructive."

Garza suggested that the Corps should bear the cost of determining which ditches and potential arteries actually do have the capacity to reach waters of the U.S. annually, not just in extreme circumstances. For a county that sees scant rainfall, that is important.

"We only have one U.S. waterway, but the tributary arteries are throughout, we just don't know if they are perennial yield," he said. "Proving that (a ditch doesn't have perennial yield) should not be burdened on the existing landowner. If the Corps wants to go on and drill and use dyed water to see if the dye ends up in a waterway, they should be able to do that, but it shouldn't be up to the landowner to prove it won't."

As the comments pile up for the EPA and the Corps, Garza hopes whoever is reading them is able to keep a clear mind and not be burned out.

"There are so many different ways the rule will affect different kinds of counties, so there will be a lot of guidance in these comments, if people wrote them the right way."

**See this story at www.countynews.org to access NACo's Waters of the U.S. resource hub.*

SOLUTIONS SPOTLIGHT

Effective Public & Private Sector Partnerships

In a post-9/11 world, public safety agencies recognize the critical importance of having access to and being able to share historical and real-time data.

Michigan public safety agencies wanted to access and share critical law enforcement records data to make informed and safety-sensitive decisions more efficiently and cost-effectively. By working with Motorola Solutions, Saginaw County achieved the perfect solution.

PROBLEM

In the last year, Michigan has suffered a 45 percent decline in officers across all of its agencies, despite the need to serve and protect a statewide population of more than 9.8 million. And they are not alone. Many agencies nationwide are suffering a similar fate. Finding ways to streamline operations, improve efficiencies and reduce costs remain an urgent operational goal.

SOLUTION

The Saginaw County Sheriff's Office offered a hosted solution to regional agencies using Motorola's PremierOne Records solution to provide real-time access to critical

data. The Saginaw County Sheriff's Office has always prided itself on being a technology innovator. A few years ago, it took over the management of a regional records system after participating as one of its first pilot agencies. The system, known as ARMS, leverages Motorola's NetRMS system but is migrating to the PremierOne platform. Today, more than 54 agencies take advantage of this hosted model, sharing data and resources to achieve much needed economies of scale. Its waiting list continues to grow.

RESULTS

The successful hosted program continues to expand throughout Michigan, allowing regional agencies to achieve information-sharing goals while reducing operational costs. Saginaw County's ARMS system has delivered measurable success in both the number of

agencies currently deployed and the efficiencies the system has allowed them to achieve. It provides smaller agencies with resources and capabilities to which they would not otherwise have access.

With the ability to leverage and share information for current and ongoing investigations by person, accident, traffic citation, even evidence collected across the region, agencies have been able to accomplish more with less.

The shared model reduces maintenance and infrastructure operating costs as approved users connect throughout the state.

New capabilities, including PremierOne Jail are being added, allowing agencies to effectively manage inmate booking and detention. Since its inception, the system continues to save money, increase efficiencies and improve collaboration across county lines.



**MOTOROLA
SOLUTIONS**

Intrastate crowdfunding legal in at least a dozen states, more coming

CROWDFUNDING from page 1

Wash. Economic Development Council (EDC) will hold a crowdfunding workshop for the mostly small businesses within that island county (pop. 15,800). The Greater Richmond Small Business Development Center in Virginia will conduct similar seminars for the Henrico County Economic Development Authority Oct. 21 and for Hanover County's EDA in December.

"In general, most investing is local — people want to invest in the local community," said Hall T. Martin, director of the Texas Entrepreneur Network, which built and operates the WilCo portal. "And what a county or economic development group can do is help foster that."

SpeedRead » » »

- » States developing intrastate crowdfunding rules based on SEC guidance
- » Allows smaller investors to support local startups
- » Economic developers educating their business communities

While Williamson County doesn't have an economic development board, the major cities within it do, and the Chamber of Commerce plays a coordinating role in promoting the entire county.

"Luckily, the vision of each of these cities is bigger than just the city limits," said Ben White, vice president for economic development with the Round Rock chamber. "They understand that regional growth is good for all of us, and so we're going to be promoting the county as a place to do business."

Much of the current activity nationwide is geared towards educating local businesses, according to Victoria Compton, executive director of San Juan County's EDC. "We don't have enough time to directly counsel, one-on-one, individual crowdfunding initiatives, and so what I came up with was putting on an all-day workshop," she said, adding that state regulators decided that the EDCs of the state would be their "boots on the ground."

Crowdfunding platforms raised \$2.7 billion worldwide and funded more than one million campaigns in 2012, according to most recent data available from Massolution, a firm that specializes in crowdsourcing

solutions for private, public and social enterprises.

Local economic development organizations' interest in promoting crowdfunding has spiked since the federal Jumpstart Our Business Startups (JOBS) Act was signed by President Obama in 2012, with the goal making it easier for smaller investors — not just deep-pocketed "angel" investors — to back startups and small businesses.

Currently, Martin explained, investors have to meet criteria set by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) in order to make equity investments in startups, and only high-income, asset-rich "accredited" investors can invest such ventures across state lines. Accreditation requires that an individual have a net worth of \$1 million or an annual income of \$200,000 over the previous two years. Only about 5 percent of the U.S. population falls into that category, he said.

States that are developing their own crowdfunding regulations are doing so under the authority of SEC's Rule 147 — exemption for intrastate offers and sales of securities — according to Faith Anderson, chief of registration in the securities division of Washington state's Department of Financial Institutions. And the bar for investors is much lower.

Under state crowdfunding rules that take effect Nov. 1 in Washington, for example, an investor whose net worth or annual income is less than \$100,000, excluding their primary residence, can invest up to \$2,000 or 5 percent of their annual income or net worth. Companies must set a minimum target offering amount and deadline, which if not met, results in investors' money being refunded.

Washington is one of at least 12 states that have taken advantage of the interstate exemption, the others being Alabama, Colorado, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Tennessee and Wisconsin, according to www.crowdfundinsider.com. Several others are in the process.

"What the states are doing is saying, 'If all the investors are in my state, and the company is in my state ... then we're really not under the SEC rules, we're under the state rules,'" Martin said.

Under SEC guidelines, an "80 percent rule" applies. Anderson added: The business raising equity through crowdfunding must derive 80 percent of its revenue from business operations in the state, have 80 percent of its assets in the state and use 80 percent of proceeds from the offering in the state.

The Texas Securities Board is scheduled to approve intrastate crowdfunding rules this month, Martin said.

He sees crowdfunding as an economic development tool with great potential for local business and startups. "I think two years from now, when you go to the bank and get a loan one of the questions they'll ask is how'd your crowdfunding campaign do?" he said. "If you're not doing those things or it didn't work, I think that's going to start to weigh more heavily into traditional banking decisions."

"So crowdfunding will become a point of validation and verification along the way, just like the FICO score is and will become standard, I think, pretty soon."



A screenshot of the WilCo Funding Portal shows that a featured Williamson County, Texas company met its crowdfunding goal.

America's county leaders make important decisions every day about transportation, land use and economic development policies and investments that influence regional and local economic opportunities and quality of life. Through keynote presentations, panel discussions and mobile workshops, county leaders will learn from national experts in the transportation industry. Registration is required online at www.naco.org/transportation.

For more information, contact Kathy Nothstine, NACo program director, at knothstine@naco.org or 202.714.8245.



Pennsylvania cable series showcases county courthouses

By CHARLIE BAN
STAFF WRITER

Photos courtesy of CCAP

Pennsylvania county commissioners show off their courthouses for the cable network series, *Pennsylvania's Historic Courthouses*, produced by the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania. Pictured are (starting left):

Where politics, art and law meet, there you will find Pennsylvania's county courthouses.

And without putting the miles on your car, you can find those courthouses on *Pennsylvania's Historic Courthouses*, a Pennsylvania Cable Network series. The series, now in its third year, is working its way through the commonwealth's 67 counties, with 16 in the can, and on the Web, so far.

The County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP) pitched the idea to PCN, hoping to kick off the association's 125th anniversary celebration in 2011.

"It was a way to feature each of our counties and something they're proud of, something that represents what they do," said Debra Tingley, CCAP's director of communications. "It gives a county an opportunity to bring attention to the work that has gone into their courthouses."

The architecture and artistry get a lot of focus in the various segments, roughly 30 minutes each.

"Courthouses are a tribute to the history of the country and craftsman who worked on them," she said. "You can see the cultural influences that go into the work based on the



Berks County Commission Chair Christian Leinbach

immigrants who settled in each part of the state."

Berks County's 19-story courthouse features a different interior architectural motif on each floor.

"We'd come down the elevator onto each floor and see a totally different style," she said. "One was Italian, one was Federal. It was breathtaking to see the differences in workmanship."

Counties apply to be featured, and Tingley works with the selected counties and their historical societies to choose on-camera "talent" for

the production. They start three-to-six months in advance, developing key messaging on details they want to draw out of the talent, usually a county commissioner.

"It's unscripted, so we work hard beforehand so we can put together a good shoot," Tingley said. "We rely on them to deliver and luckily, they take such a great interest in history and pride in what their counties offer that they're very good speakers. It's not unusual to find a commissioner in every county who is passionate about what they have. Often, their families have been around there for hundreds of years so they have a great handle on county history."

Tingley and PCN co-producer Matt Hall arrive the day before shooting to scout the location, in hopes of completing filming in one day.

"We shoot a lot more B-roll (cover footage) than we normally do," said Hall, who produces a variety of PCN segments. "That gives us a chance to show more of the architectural detail that does these courthouses justice. We couldn't do that with our normal point-and-shoot approach, but it's definitely necessary here to do a good job."

Some of Tingley's memorable nuggets have involved the judicial side of the courthouses.

"We've uncovered a lot of interesting details," she said. "My favorite has been the underground tunnels connecting the courthouses to the jails. Many were not readily known to the public, and many of those tunnels, rather than for convenience, served protective purposes, like in Washington County."

Finding the original "prods" used to prod napping jurors also gave her a charge.

As Tingley and Hall climbed to the Franklin County courthouse



Wyoming County Commission Chair Judy Kraft Mead



Franklin County Commissioner Robert L. Thomas



Washington County Court of Common Pleas President Judge Debbie O'Dell-Seneca

bell tower, they saw the bell ringer's chair, collecting dust on one of the landings.

She has also enjoyed the clerks' vaults, which she likens to bank vaults Bonnie and Clyde would target.

In the end, the counties and their tourism officers are left with essentially a no-cost promotional video that they can use to tout the county.

"Some counties use the videos

as a way to introduce the courthouse to jurors who will be there for court cases," she said. "Some have held movie premiers in the courthouses!"

The County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania website has an index of past Historic Courthouses of Pennsylvania segments, available at www.pacounties.org/MediaCenter/Pages/Videos.aspx.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

NACo forum on health, justice, public safety, Jan. 21-23, 2015

As part of NACo's health, justice and public safety programming and policy areas, NACo is hosting a forum — Optimizing Health, Justice and Public Safety in Your County — to bolster leadership in local health and justice systems and emergency management responsibilities.

The forum, slated for Jan. 21-23, 2015 in Charleston County, S.C., will focus on

- behavioral health interventions
- health coverage and the justice system
- collaborative partnerships, and
- an emergency management roundtable

Through keynote presentations, panel discussions, mobile workshops and group dialogues, county leaders will learn from national leaders in local health and justice

fields and from their peers' first-hand experiences.

Elected and appointed county officials, key county staff members and local stakeholders working in health, justice, human and social services, emergency management and related fields are invited to attend this forum.

The forum registration fee is \$100 and includes two receptions, two breakfasts and one lunch.

The registration deadline is Wednesday, Dec. 31 (Space is limited.)

For more information and to register, go to www.naco.org/2015healthjusticeforum.

For any questions related to registration, please contact the NACo Meetings Call Center at 202.942.4292. For all other questions, please contact Emmanuelle St. Jean at 202.942.4267 or estjean@naco.org or Kathy Rowings at 202.942.4279 or krowings@naco.org.

Haunted courthouses add fright to Halloween

As Halloween approaches, stories of buildings with a claim to ghostly visitations and other eerie events come into season. High on the list of likely places for scary stories are historic courthouses, a number of which are also current or former jails. Like many stories, theirs are about justice gone wrong. Below are stories from three county courthouses.

Navajo County, Ariz.

If George Smiley's ghost haunts the Navajo County, Ariz. Courthouse, he has a reason to be angry. In 1898, Navajo County erected a courthouse that would become the scene of many notorious trials over the years. The basement housed small, dark cells that no prisoner ever escaped from.

In November 1899, the new courthouse held a murderer named George Smiley. Convicted of having killed a railroad section foreman, Smiley was scheduled to hang Nov. 11, 1899.

In a fit of humor, Sheriff Frank Wattron sent off an amusingly dark invitation for Smiley's hanging. It promised that the "latest improved methods in the art of scientific strangulation will be employed and everything possible will be done to make the proceedings cheerful and the execution a success." This was a little too dark for President William McKinley and Arizona Gov. Nathan Murphy, who reprimanded Wattron and delayed Smiley's hanging. Wattron promptly sent out another invite with mournful language and a black border with Smiley finally being hanged Jan. 8, 1900.

According to a column in the *Examiner*, Smiley may be spending eternity as a roommate with Wattron



Courtesy of Desha County, Ark.

Legend has it that the Desha County Courthouse clock has never functioned properly due to Willard, an allegedly innocent man. He was executed in 1903, but not before invoking a curse on the clock.

himself along with several other ghosts. The courthouse is now the home to the historical society and workers say strange noises are heard throughout the building and objects move inexplicably.

Desha County, Ark.

Between 1899 and 1903, a man known only as "Willard" lost money gambling in an Arkansas City hotel and took revenge by setting fire to the hotel and several others in the area. They all burned to the ground. Willard was captured and convicted of these arsons and sentenced to hang at the courthouse.

According to historians, a woman who served on the jury claimed to have heard Willard say, "I will curse the new E. Howard clock that sits atop this courthouse. I am not guilty and to prove my innocence this clock will never keep correct time again."

The clock has never worked properly since that time. Former Desha County Judge Mark McElroy made it a campaign promise back in the 1990s to fix the clock. Even after getting someone to replace all the parts, the clock still continued to malfunction.

Besides the clock, McElroy said at least two people, including

Medical homes help in health care delivery

MEDICAL from page 3

it's not insurance. Individuals in this program continue to be uninsured," she said. "But what we're providing them with is a program that provides a range of services that we think are important to ensure continued access to health care services."

The uninsured patient's assigned clinic would be their medical home for primary, ambulatory care services. "They'd really have a usual source of care so that they are not using the health care delivery system episodically," Brigham said. "And then when they need referrals for specialty care or inpatient care, they can be referred to one of the county hospital facilities that we have available in the community."

The City and County of San Francisco has a similar program she said, and it could be replicated elsewhere throughout the state.

"I think that like most things, we learn from others and we hope that others will learn from us."

County Assessor Gaye Brown, have reported seeing a nicely dressed older woman at the courthouse after hours.

"In 1992 or 1993, I had stayed late after the courthouse closed, and when I walked out the front door and started my car to leave, I turned and looked and there was a lady outside the courthouse dressed in a white, turn-of-the-century outfit," Brown said.

"I turned and then looked back and she was gone. That was the first time and the last time I ever saw her. I thought it must have been an aberration because we had heard stories about that courthouse."

Union County, N.J.

Hannah Caldwell, wife of Rev. James Caldwell, was the first woman killed during the American Revolution. The circumstances of her death more than 200 years ago remain the subject of historical dispute.

Known as the "Soldier Parson," Rev. Caldwell was an ardent patriot

who raised the ire of local loyalists with his fiery sermons. When the war broke out, he served as a chaplain, eventually becoming the deputy quartermaster general of the Continental Army.

By some accounts, Hannah was mistaken for a sniper by a British redcoat, while other reports say the killing was retaliation for her husband's activities. Some historians have even suggested it could have just been a stray shot from either side. Regardless, her death was used to rally the area's farmers, who until that point had remained fairly ambivalent about the revolution.

Buried next to the Union County Courthouse with her husband, people started reporting seeing ghosts on the grounds in the 1970s. Some suspect it is Hannah's ghost dressed in white. Her face can sometimes still be seen in the courthouse elevator or window on the first floor.

(Chris Johnson, County News staff, compiled this report.)

WORD SEARCH

Union County, N.C. Facts

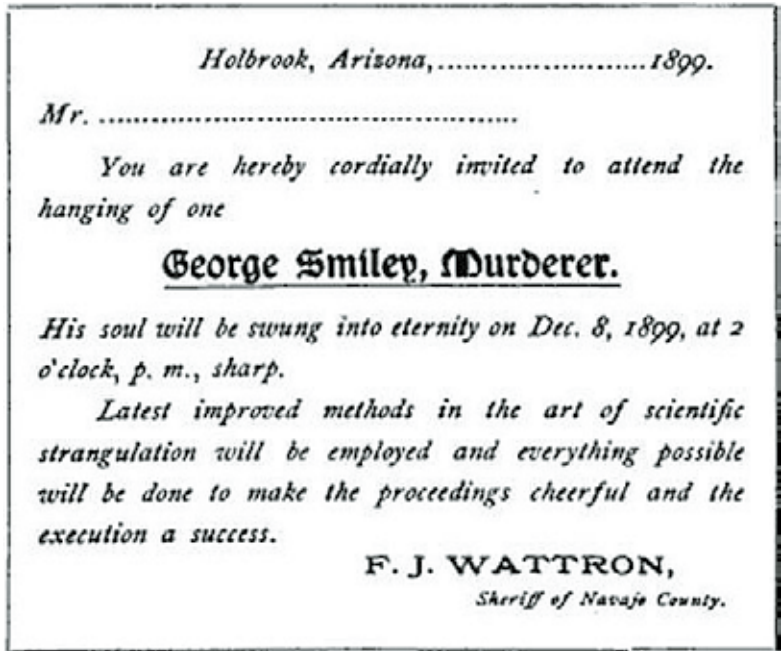
Learn more about this featured county in 'What's in a Seal?'

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- AGRICULTURE (contributes to economic growth)
- ANDREW JACKSON (Whigs wanted county named after)
- ANSON (east adjacent county)
- CABARRUS (north adjacent county)
- CENTRALINA (council of government)
- CONRAD LYNN (public defender from New York City)
- DEMOCRATS (political party still active today)

- HENRY CLAY (Democrats wanted county named after)
- KISSING CASE (civil rights case)
- MECKLENBURG (northwest adjacent county)
- MONROE (county seat that became a focal point during the civil rights movement)
- PLANNED PROGRESS (county slogan)
- WHIGS (political party from the mid-19th-century)

Created by Christopher Johnson



Courtesy of Navajo County, Ariz.

Sheriff Frank Wattron sparked controversy after sending off this amusingly dark invitation to George Smiley's hanging in 1899.

STATE → TO → STATE

★ MASSACHUSETTS & OHIO ★

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 explores these questions and helps keep you in touch with your fellow leaders across the country.

Massachusetts



Massachusetts counties' futures are secure for the near future, thanks to a recent legislative victory that alleviated a major expenditure for six of them.

Counties in the Bay State don't have much to do, with only six of 14 performing local government functions, and they had even less when the state took over several county jails. The problem, according to Massachusetts Association of County Commissioners Executive Director Peter Collins, was that the state took the jails' assets but left counties responsible for funding pensions. Collins is also a Norfolk County commissioner. Norfolk, Plymouth and Bristol were shouldering most of the burden, along with Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket responsible for considerably less.

"It was costing several million dollars a year, and we had less with which to fund it," Collins said.

The association "spent a great deal of legislative capital" fighting for a resolution, he said, which came in the recent legislative session, which offered "legislative relief," Collins said.

"With those commitments on our books and no assets to balance them, our budgets would have been blown open," he said. "The measure was unanimously passed in the House and Senate, so everyone was on board helping the counties."

As an interesting side note, Norfolk County features two non-contiguous parts, separated by parts of northern Plymouth County.

Ohio



It was a busy legislative session in 2014 for the County Commissioners Association of Ohio (CCAO). This session yielded renewal and expansion of the public works program, stability in local revenue and indigent defense.

"Renewal and expansion of the public works program provides critical funding for infrastructure ranging from roads and bridges to water and sewer," said Suzanne Dulaney, executive director, CCAO.

Thanks to a constitutional amendment placed on the ballot



in May by the General Assembly, voters reauthorized the State Capital Improvement Program for another 10 years, while increasing the total funding by \$25 million for the first five years and \$50 million for the final five years. That would provide an increase of \$525 million throughout the life of the program, totaling \$1.8 billion in assistance to local governments throughout

Ohio. Without this funding, many county roads would be closed.

In recent years, Ohio counties have experienced a significant reduction in state revenue sharing. State tax reforms that decreased revenues, program allocation cuts, as well as local funding sources declining due to the struggling economy have all pinched county budgets. Thankfully, Dulaney said, counties in many parts of the state are beginning to see some improvements in sales tax collections and the recently established casino tax revenues. Nonetheless, counties are still seeking fiscal stability and predictability necessary to carry out statutorily delegated functions.

Ohio counties' challenges are as numerous as most states. The fracking boom has been reined in after earthquakes in Ohio were linked to the fracking itself. While oil and gas extraction provides growth in sales tax revenues for the counties, jobs for residents and income to property owners and developers, the dangers surrounding fracking have put most of the drilling on hold in Ohio.

The challenges associated with providing adequate mental health and addiction services have been ratcheted up most recently by the opiate (including heroin) epidemic. Increased demands on county jails, the need for more treatment options and providers, the impact on workforce and job readiness, and even child protective services, have strained local budgets. Counties and the state are working to fight this epidemic while fighting cuts in legislative funding.

On a brighter note, as Ohio's counties emerge from the recession, many are now able to make investments in necessary items they were forced to delay, particularly in the realms of information technology, and capital repairs and improvements. Brewing questions about appropriate level of reserves, budget carry-overs, and state assistance for local governments and whether it is adequately divided among jurisdictions are indicators of uneasiness in counties.

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

White House announces Climate Action Champions competition

Interested counties should apply by Oct. 27



The Obama Administration recently launched a new competition in which up to 15 communities across the country will be selected based on their local commitment to cut carbon pollution and prepare for the impacts of a challenging climate.

Administered by the Department of Energy, the Climate Action Champions competition will recognize local and tribal governments who are both mitigating the effects of greenhouse gas pollution and

building resilience to these impacts.

The types of projects counties may want to highlight in their application include implementing renewable energy on buildings to provide a reliable energy source for emergency responders, installing energy-efficient windows that are also more storm-resistant, deploying micro-grid technology to bolster the resilience of critical infrastructure or leveraging innovative green infrastructure for carbon sequestration and flood protections and more.

The winners of the competition will receive facilitated peer-to-peer learning and mentorship, and targeted implementation support with a broad range of federal agencies.

While this first round of the competition is geared towards communities that are already leaders in addressing and preparing for climate change, the next round will target communities that have demonstrated commitment, but lack resources.

The application process is short, it asks applicants to detail their accomplishments to date and lay out the community's plan for future actions.

The application for the Climate Action Champions competition will be open until 5 p.m. EDT on Oct. 27.

**To access the application, see this story online at www.countynews.org.*

NACo JOBS ONLINE

Good employees are crucial to getting the job done!

www.naco.org/programs/jobsonline



What's in a Seal?



► Union County, N.C.
www.co.union.nc.us

A southern Piedmont county, Union was formed by the General Assembly in 1842, and its name resulted from a compromise between North Carolina Democrats and Whigs. Contending that President Andrew Jackson was born in the area, Democrats wanted Jackson as the county's name. Whigs, with hopes to name the county after Henry Clay, opposed. After several debates, both parties compromised and chose Union as the county name.

Union provides a unique blend of rural and metropolitan lifestyles. While having vast areas of nature untouched by development, it also has areas flourishing in suburban and industrial growth. The primary factors contributing to the county's economic growth are agriculture, business and industry.

Monroe, the county seat, became a focal point during the Civil Rights Movement. In 1958, Conrad Lynn, a civil rights attorney from New York City, defended two African-American boys, 9 and 7, who had kissed a white girl on the cheek in an incident known as the Kissing Case. They were initially sentenced to a reformatory until the age of 21 but were pardoned three months later due to national outcry.

The seal features a torch for a brighter future, cotton for the Union County cotton warehouse and cogs that signify industry. The words "planned progress" show the combination of implementation and working together to better the county.

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



News From the Nation's Counties

► CALIFORNIA

• **SACRAMENTO COUNTY** is the first in the nation to launch a **wild horse program** within a local correctional facility.

Sheriff Scott Jones framed the program as teaching job skills and emotional lessons such as being patient, learning humility and how to interact with the horses.

The program was launched in partnership with the federal Bureau of Land Management, which provides roughly \$160,000 a year in funding and wild horses gathered from habitats across 10 western states. Currently, there are two pastures and several holding pens built and maintained by the inmates.

• Applications for benefits from homeless veterans will be stamped for immediate action after approval from the **SANTA CLARA COUNTY** Board of Supervisors.

The County Office of Veterans Services will also **step up efforts to help veterans** who are on the verge of being homeless, including providing them access to mental and medical health services.

The new protocol calls for

better methods of outreach to the homeless community, improved coordination among service providers and data-tracking to assess veterans' needs.

► FLORIDA

In hopes of cleaning up the St. Lucie River and Indian River Lagoon, the **MARTIN COUNTY** Board of Commissioners changed the county's 2011 fertilizer law. The new law will **ban fertilizers using phosphorus** unless the soil is deficient, require a proportion of slow-release nitrogen, increase the setback from bodies of water, ban turf fertilizer during the rainy season and require retailers to post notices informing customers about the new restrictions.

The *TC Palm* reported the new policy does not yet include directions as to how the new law will be enforced.

► ILLINOIS

LAKE COUNTY is creating a **heroin task force** with \$250,000.

Two senior deputies will focus solely on what they say is an overwhelming heroin problem.

The Sheriff's Office says it's

seen an increase in home break-ins and shoplifting that they blame on heroin. The task force will focus on pawn shops, where owners say they see people on a daily basis come in with very valuable items and ask for a little in return. It also plans to help all the pawn shops in the county not buy from "the wrong people," an effort that will be aided by analyzing pawn shop records to see who is pawning items at drastically below value, WKYC News reported.

► KANSAS

The **SALINE COUNTY** Commission decided it would **approve any birth control pills** before the county Health Department distributes them. Commissioners are in charge of the Health Department.

Some were concerned after learning the Health Department wanted to buy a particular birth control pill, which serves as an emergency contraceptive, with \$1,000 in grant money, KAKE News reported.

► NEW JERSEY

UNION COUNTY VOTES isn't just a hope of County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi. It's also the name

of a **mobile app** her office just rolled out, designed to provide voters with polling and registration information.

The app includes 15 functions such as locating polling places, requesting voter registration forms and vote-by-mail ballots, viewing sample ballots, and following unofficial election results in real time. It provides information in English and Spanish, depending on user-selecting settings, according to NJ.com. There are versions for Apple or Android devices.

"We've been working nonstop for two months to get this ready for Election Day," Rajoppi said. "Our goal is for every resident to have Union County Votes on their cellphone or tablet."

She said she got the idea from a similar app that **SONOMA COUNTY**, Calif. developed.

► NEW YORK

SUFFOLK COUNTY Executive Steve Bellone and other local officials recently announced legislation to support development of affordable **housing for gay and lesbian senior citizens**.

He said the measure "will allow

for the planning steps to commence to create the first LGBT-friendly housing development in the tri-state (New York-New Jersey-Connecticut) area."

It's estimated that 50 rental units would be created, and occupancy of the development would not be limited to the gay community.

Currently, there are four affordable or low-income housing developments that cater to gay retirees in the United States, county officials said: one in Hollywood, Calif. that opened in 2007, another in Minneapolis since 2013 and one in Philadelphia that opened in early 2014. A fourth has been approved in Chicago.

► OHIO

CLARK COUNTY's and other Ohio counties' **land banks could benefit** if the state gets a share of a settlement between Bank of America and the U.S. Justice Department.

U.S. Sens. Sherrod Brown (D) and Rob Portman (R) are seeking \$100 million for the state from the \$16.65 billion settlement. The

See **NEWS FROM** page 12

Financial Services News

Nationwide's Retirement Income Planner Now Online

Nationwide has developed a website enhancement that will enable county employees who participate in the NACo Deferred Compensation Program to envision what their in-retirement budget might look like. The enhancement solicits participant interaction, delivers a holistic retirement outlook and offers next steps.

Called **My Interactive Retirement Planner**, the enhanced tool is a post-login feature to NRSforU.com. When a participant first accesses the tool, the planner pre-populates all of the participant's deferred compensation account data, then asks the participant to input information about non-plan assets and other resources. In the end, the participant will see "the big picture" of projected retirement income.

The planner:

- provides a meaningful income gap analysis
- suggests prominent options to improve retirement outlook
- accounts for spouse data provided by the participant

• offers personal and relevant messaging

• saves data so the participant needs only to make updates on return visits, and

• is mobile-optimized, available on whatever device the participant prefers.

Of course, the planner's results depend upon the information the participant provides, but even at a high level, this enhancement is designed to help NACo program participants make informed financial

decisions about their projected retirement income.

My Interactive Retirement Planner is another outgrowth of Nationwide's focus on interactive features for NRSforU.com that is user-centric and research-driven. Before developing major Web capabilities, Nationwide involves users, talking to participants in their homes, offices or wherever they typically use the website. The company takes note of how interruptions affect participants' ability to use the website effectively, and

incorporates verbal and non-verbal insights to help design its online experience.

In addition, Nationwide tests its design concepts before the company develops the actual enhancements — as a result Nationwide's new Web capabilities are designed to hit the mark.

County leaders wanting to learn more about the new **My Interactive Retirement Planner** available through the NACo Deferred Compensation Program can contact their Nation-

wide representative or call toll-free at 877.677.3678.

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

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

Paperless delivery now available

Designed to meet the expectations of an increasingly online society, county employees enrolled in the NACo Deferred Compensation Program will be able to have account transaction notices and statements delivered online through NRSforU.com by logging into their accounts and following the directions featured under the "Statement/Confirmation" tab. Paperless delivery is an important way for participants to remain connected and interact with the NACo Deferred Compensation Program. As with all of Nationwide's online services, these documents are accessible regardless of the device used: desktop, smartphone or tablet. No app required.

Nationwide (Nationwide) makes payments to the National Association of Counties (NACo), NACo RMA LLC and the NACo Financial Services Center Partnership (FSC) for services and endorsements that NACo provides for all its members generally related to Nationwide's products and services sold exclusively in public sector retirement markets. More detail about these payments is available at www.nrsforu.com.

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The H.R. Doctor Is In

The Joy of Hope – the Disappointment of Clouds

One of nature's greatest spectacles occurred recently — a total lunar eclipse. This amazing event occurs when the sun, the earth, and the moon are lined up so that the Earth's shadow passes over the moon completely.

Not only can a person observe the curved line of the shadow of the earth pass over the moon, but when the moon is totally engulfed by that shadow, atmospheric diffraction makes the light reflected back from the moon appear red — hence, the notion of a blood moon. This recent eclipse was visible throughout North America.

The HR Doctor is also an avid amateur astronomer, with my own high-tech observatory complete with an array of telescopes, cameras, computer software and all sorts of other ancillary accessories. Over the years, mentors and teachers have helped me become knowledgeable and adept at how to make all this technology work.

This pre-5 a.m. eclipse became an opportunity to share my passion with friends. That is, friends brave enough and willing enough to be up and visiting my observatory before most of the Eastern time zone humans were even functional.

The coffee was ready on time with friends gathered and excited about the spectacle and hardly yawning at all. At the appointed time we all went outside on this lovely morning anxious to see the spectacle unfold.

Despite the great coffee, our excitement was seriously ambushed when the moon, bright and beautiful just 30 minutes earlier, turned out to be mugged by a gang of thick clouds! That moon was now a fuzzy thing up there — almost completely engulfed in the clouds. I uncontrollably started quoting from one of my very favorite poems ... "The moon was a ghostly galleon tossed upon cloudy seas..." (from *The Highwaymen* by Alfred Noyes).

Despite all the spectacular modern technology and the love and excitement that goes along with an awesome event, we got to watch the

ghostly galleon instead of the total lunar eclipse. We got to sip cappuccino and have fresh-baked bread and wonderful company, minus the natural spectacle we hoped to see.

We live in an amazing time with even more amazing discoveries and opportunities ahead. We live in a time where the disappointment we felt was mitigated by turning the new ultra-high definition TV to the NASA channel and watching a live feed of the eclipse from a place apparently immune to cloud cover.

We also had a lively discussion about how, no matter what preparations you make, no matter how strong your desire or how wonderful your teachers may be, some things are in part or in whole outside of our control. This is true of astronomy as well as many other things important in life, including events at work and events at home.

The promotion you hoped to get, notwithstanding your prepa-

“ We live in an amazing time with even more amazing discoveries and opportunities ahead.

ration, your optimism and your strong performance history, may not happen immediately. Your dreams for your children to go to college or become financially secure early in life may not play out. Your own hope for a positive retirement full of health and adventure may also be deferred or not occur at all. When faced with disappointment what do we do?

Fortunately there is a massive quantity of advice available. My best thought in answer to the question of “what do we do?” begins with the basic concept that the healthiest and

happiest people — the people who are much more likely to be successful than others — are people who are fundamentally optimistic. They have a sense of humor and irony, and see life and its many events in a broad perspective, rather than in a narrow hyper-focus on some particular disappointment of the moment.

This bit of philosophy has been translated by other people. The great Winston Churchill simply said, “... never, never, never give up!” His successor, several times removed, Margaret Thatcher, pointed out that you may have to fight a battle several times before you win.

The final bit of advice on this subject came from my incredible, saintly mother, a polio victim with paralyzed legs. When asked how it was that she could drive a car, walk around, albeit with a brace and cane, hold down a full-time job, and be a great mom, she noted that she

never gave up no matter what the medical opinion was. She decided and she realized that hers was a life to be given away in service to others, rather than hoarded selfishly.

So guess what? The next eclipse will be in April 2015. “Olivia,” my high-tech telescope, and all the toys mounted on top of the scope will be ready, with friends invited over and the coffee machine perking away to witness this joy.

Go back to work after hearing that the promotion won't come as you had hoped, or the vacation was rained out, etc. After the disappointment, spend only a very few minutes looking at what happened and how you can better prepare for your hope and vision to be realized at the next opportunity — which may be an opportunity you can create yourself.



Phil Rosenberg

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Job Market & Classifieds

■ COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR – FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO

Salary: DOQ.

Franklin County (pop. 1.3 million) is the second most populous county in Ohio and the 30th largest county in the nation. Franklin County, recognized as one of the best managed counties in America, is a constitutional County governed by a three-member Board of Commissioners that employs 1,400 staff and administers an annual operating budget of approximately \$1.35 billion. The Board of County Commissioners appoints the County Administrator who is responsible for the general administration of 14 departments, including departments that administer human services, economic development and sanitary engineering.

The Board is seeking candidates for County Administrator whose strengths include financial management and budgeting skills, revenue forecasting and long-range planning to maintain the County's solid financial position and its current excellent bond ratings. The next County Administrator should be able to identify underutilized resources,

maintain and expand services and facilities required to accommodate growth, and to ensure the continued improvement of customer services. Candidates should possess a bachelor's degree in Public or Business Administration or a similar field; Master's preferred. Candidates should have at least 10 years executive level management experience, preferably as a County/City Manager, Deputy/Assistant Manager, or executive leader in an organization of similar structure, size and complexity. The successful candidate will have considerable knowledge of and experience in capital improvements, economic development, community relations, budget management, strategic planning, performance measurements, project management, human resources and labor relations. Salary range open, DOQ. Deadline: Nov. 20.

To apply, visit www.srnsearch.com. Questions may be directed to S. Renée Narloch, President, S. Renée Narloch & Associates, 850.391.0000 or info@srnsearch.com. Detailed brochure available. EEO/ADA. Resumes may be subject to public disclosure.

■ DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SUPERVISION AND CORRECTIONS – DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS

Salary: \$150,000 min. annually; DOQ.

Provides strategic vision and tactical direction to directors, managers and supervisors in the effective development, implementation and attainment of the mission and goals of the department by: establishing departmental goals; developing strategic plans; providing

effective leadership to a large staff; ensuring best practices are developed and implemented programmatically and financially; implementing strategies to recruit, motivate and retain a large staff; and working effectively with elected judges to ensure compliance with applicable laws, statutes and orders of the Courts.

These activities are designed to create and provide a broad comprehensive array of public policies and functional services to the citizens and Criminal Courts of Dallas County which include community safety, preventative and rehabilitation programs, automated systems design/implementation, public relations or media communications, legal and regulatory compliance, and providing significant departmental support for various intergovernmental or multijurisdictional related activities. Directs a large departmental staff of approximately 700 employees, with an operating budget of \$45 million.

Director independently leads the department; however, must effectively communicate and coordinate with the elected Judges. Has full management authority to hire, terminate, discipline and delegate special project tasks or strategic/tactical development plans. Job Requirements: Minimum of a bachelor's degree in criminal justice, criminology, corrections, counseling, human services development, law enforcement, political science, pre-law, public administration, rehabilitative studies, social work, psychology or sociology. Minimum of eight (8) years of experience as a Community Supervision/Corrections Officer that includes

the supervision of offenders in the field. Minimum of 10 years of related progressive, managerial experience resulting in a high level managerial role. Must obtain Texas CSO certification within one year.

To apply visit our website at www.dallascounty.org, or forward a resume to jobs.jobs@dallascounty.org. EOE.

■ FINANCE AND BUDGET OFFICER – MINNEHAHA COUNTY, S.D.

Salary: \$2,527–\$2,721 weekly; DOQ.

The Finance and Budget Officer assists the County Auditor with supervising and directing the activities of multiple financial and budgetary programs including financial accounting and reporting, operating and capital budgeting, A/P, A/R, inventory management, forecasting and statistical analysis, assessments, investments, banking and debt administration. Will also coordinate and facilitate annual budget process. Requires relevant bachelor's degree and 5 years of progressively responsible accounting or financial experience. 3+ years of government accounting and/or experience working in or with a County organization preferred.

***Position to begin in early 2015. Minnehaha County offers a competitive benefits package including health, dental, and life insurance, a generous paid time off program, extended sick leave, retirement, and an employee assistance program.

For a full list of qualifications and the application process visit: <http://jobs.minnehahacounty.org>. Position deadline Nov. 10 at 5 p.m. EO/AA Employer. Contact HR with questions at 605.367.4337.



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Wisconsin county shuts down 'frac-sand' mining operation

NEWS FROM *from page 10*

money would be used to clean up blighted properties left in the wake of the mortgage foreclosure crisis, according to the *Springfield News-Sun*.

The senators want to see Ohio's share funneled into 22 county land banks that directly deal with properties that need to be demolished in order to improve communities. Since 2009, more than 88,000 homeowners in 10 southwest Ohio counties have been foreclosed upon by banks.

Until 2012, Ohio had 14 consecutive years of more foreclosures than the year before, Brown said in a statement.

► OREGON

MULTNOMAH COUNTY'S Health Department has received a three-year, \$3 million grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to **improve African-American residents' health**. The Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health, or REACH, award is funded in part by the Prevention and Public Health Fund of the Affordable Care Act.

The county's first-ever Maternal Child Health Data Book, released recently, found that 21.3 percent of children born to black mothers had "poor birth outcomes"—including low birth weight, premature birth, or other health conditions, *The Oregonian* reported. The figure for whites was 14.2 percent. African Americans comprise about 6 percent of the county's population.

Grant funding will be used to, among other purposes, create more smoke-free areas, increase the breastfeeding rate among African-American mothers and make healthy food more accessible in three predominantly black communities in the county.

► TEXAS

Non-violent first-time marijuana offenders in **HARRIS COUNTY** will get a pass under the **First Chance Intervention Program**, recently announced by the district attorney, Sheriff's Office and Houston police.

Under the pilot program, a first offense of possessing up to two ounces of pot could result in referral to eight hours of community

service. Otherwise, the offender could face the current maximum penalty of up to 180 days in jail and a maximum \$2,000 fine.

District Attorney Devon Anderson said the program will help thousands of offenders avoid jail time and prosecution "which can have a damaging effect on an individual's ability to obtain employment, housing and much more."

► UTAH

Seven eastern counties are pursuing an interlocal agreement, the result of which could be a **\$3 billion, 100-mile rail link** to move crude oil out of the region's Uinta basin.

Known as the Seven County Infrastructure Coalition, its members include **CARBON, DAGGETT, DUCHESNE,**

EMERY, GRAND, SAN JUAN and **UINTAH counties**, *The Salt Lake Tribune* reported. The counties would pool their resources and clout to develop this and other regional projects.

But Grand County isn't yet completely onboard because of questions about how such projects might affect its tourism-reliant economy. Concerns aside, Lynn Jackson, Grand County Council chairman, said, "The practical thing to do is to join and be at the table and have some influence over where they're going."

► WISCONSIN

TREMPEALEAU COUNTY has pulled the plug on a **frac-sand mine** that was "running wild," according to a county regulator, and flouting the law by dumping

polluted wastewater into an unlined pond, the *Star-Tribune* reported.

Frac sand, used in hydraulic fracturing, is injected at high pressures to hold open cracks in underground shale formations, allowing the gas or oil to be extracted (see "'Frac sand' mining sparks debate in upper-Midwest counties," *County News*, July 1, 2013).

The sand pit had been operating without a permit, and county regulators issued a stop-work order. The mining company could eventually face fines, according to Kevin Lien, who heads the county's zoning office.

(*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 on the Move

► NACo Officers and Officials

- NACo Immediate Past President **Linda Langston** spoke about counties role in building resilience, the challenges of leading in a crisis and how NACo assists with building resources for county officials to take larger roles in communities at the Global Resilience Forum in Montgomery County, Va. Oct. 13.

► NACo Staff

- **Emilia Istrate**, research director, explained how North Dakota Counties and North Dakota Association of Counties (NDACO) can use NACo research materials in their advocacy efforts, policy-making and engagement with the media at the NDACO Conference in Burleigh County Oct. 12.



Yejin Jang

- **Deborah Cox**, legislative director, and **Paul Beddoe**, deputy legislative director, gave a legislative update on the NACo Board's priorities at the Western Interstate Region Board of Directors meeting in Phillips County, Mont. Oct. 3.

- **Yejin Jang**, associate legislative director, discussed current telecommunications and technology issues facing local governments on the panel "View from the Hill" at the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and

Advisors meeting in Ramsey County, Minn. Oct. 1.

► Coming up

- **Andrew Goldschmidt**, director, membership/marketing, will be exhibiting on behalf of membership recruitment and retention at the Tennessee County Services Association Annual Fall Conference and Trade Show in Sevier County Oct. 28–30.

- **Kaye Braaten**, former NACo president, will exhibit on behalf of NACo at the New Hampshire Association of Counties 2014 Annual Conference in Carroll County Oct. 26–28.

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

COMING SOON ...



Report YOUR News online

County News is launching a new interactive feature — that will allow you to submit your county's good news for publication on our online site — with a minimum of fuss from us.
MORE DETAILS ON THE WAY!



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