

# Conference rally urges more road funding



BY BEVERLY A. SCHLOTTERBECK EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Fast on the heels of the release by NACo of a major study about counties and surface transportation — *The Road Ahead: County Transportation Funding and Financing* — the association organized a Capitol Hill rally to boost support for the reauthorization of MAP-21, the majorfunding vehicle for the nation's roads and bridges.

The March 4 rally at the Capitol Hill Visitor's Center ended NACo's four-day Legislative Conference on a high note as half a dozen House and Senate members joined NACo's executive team in urging Congress to re-up MAP-21, which expires Sept. 30.

See **CONFERENCE** page 4

### CountyNews Features



Rep. Tom Petri (R-Wis.), who chairs the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee's subcommittee on Highways and Transit, expresses his support for reauthorization of MAP-21 at the NACo Capitol Hill rally, March 4. Looking on are Taney County, Mo., Commissioner Ron Houseman, Central Region NACo representative, and NACo President Linda Langston, Linn County, Iowa supervisor.

# Congressional backers, NACo muster support for MAP-21

### BY CHARLIE BAN

STAFF WRITER

County officials and a bipartisan group of lawmakers gathered at the U.S. Capitol March 4 to make their case for a six-year reauthorization of the surface transportation program and affirm their commitment to working to help it become reality.

NACo President Linda Langston framed the problem of aging infrastructure as a piece of a national puzzle and an impediment to economic growth.

"We want to make sure Congress understands how vital federal transportation funding is to our communities and the role counties play in the nation's transportation system," said Langston, a Linn County, Iowa supervisor. "We have to take action. Our

### SpeedRead » » »

- » NACo seeks a six-year reauthorization of surface transportation funding
- The current MAP-21 is due to expire Sept. 30
- Counties own 45 percent of U.S. roads and nearly a third of the bridges

constituents can't get to work when the roads haven't been plowed; they can't get their [goods] to market whether it's corn, soybeans, hogs or natural gas — you can't get it to market when a bridge is blocked, and that's what's happening in places all over the nation."

She affirmed NACo's support for an increase in the federal gas tax, which Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.) said is crucial to getting any long-term funding approved.

"There is no reasonable, feasible action that is going to enable us to meet your needs this year," he said, without a gas tax increase that will give transportation a stable predictable funding source. Support for a tax increase may be hard to come by, he added, but he encouraged county officials who visit with congressional representatives to ask, "if not this, what's their answer?"

Blumenauer added that with the MAP-21 funding from 2012 set to run out Sept. 30, the U.S. Department of Transportation would likely stop issuing payment toward the end of the summer to avoid bankrupting the Highway Trust Fund.

See MAP-21 RALLY page 2

# House passes flood insurance reform bill

By Charlie Ban Stafe Writer

The U.S. House of Representatives, by a 306–91 vote, passed the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act (H.R. 3370) March 4, which, among other features, would restore grandfathering to properties that were built to code under previous floodplain maps and limit annual rate increases to 15 percent.

"I am elated that approximately 5.5 million people around this country are safe from losing their most valuable asset, [thanks] to the reinstatement of grandfathering," said Timmy Roussel, St. James Parish, La. president. "Also, to see 306 votes in favor is an amazing bipartisan showing."

St. James Parish had at least 100 households that would have suffered dramatic overnight rate increases for flood insurance under the Biggert-Waters Act of 2012.

See FLOOD BILL page 11

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Senate poised to pass new child care measure > Page 2

US DOT issues new rules for trains transporting Bakken crude oil Page 4

New study proposes fixes for antiquated public participation rules Page 10

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# Senate poised to vote on child care bill reauthorization

### BY MARILINA SANZ SENIOR ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

Child Care and Development Block health, fire and safety inspections Grant (CCDBG) Reauthorization and compliance with child abuse Act of 2013 (S. 1086). There is no reporting requirements. House companion to the Senate the Senate bill if it passed.

passed the Senate Health, Educa- man Services Department's (HHS) tion and Pensions Committee analysis of state plans shows that Sept. 18, 2013, extends CCDBG half the states schedule redethrough 2019. Like most federal terminations every six months. social services programs, CCDBG CBO estimates that this change funding goes to the states, but would require an additional apit is sometimes administered propriation of \$175 million a year to conduct health, safety and will be allowed to charge the child laws that conflict with implemenby counties. The Congressional to implement and \$800 million Budget Office (CBO) issued its cost from 2015–2019. estimate Feb. 25 and concluded that S. 1086 did not have any specific funding amount, but does intergovernmental mandates as increase the amount that must be defined in the Unfunded Mandates set aside for quality improvement. Reform Act. That is not to say, Three percent must be set aside however, that the bill is without every year for activities related additional costs.

in the state CCDBG plans. An in 2014, 8 percent in 2016 and 10

In Case You Missed It

**News to Use From Past County News** 

» NACo research study 'The Road Ahead' released

the states funding the U.S. transportation system.

countytransportation.

FB.COM/NACODC

In preparation of the federal surface transportation law this year,

The Road Ahead: County Transportation Funding and Financing

For the full report, the companion interactive data tool for

Connect with peers,

resources and county

■ YOUTUBE.COM/NACOVIDEO

residents.

NACo has released significant new research, which shows that coun-

ties need a continuing partnership with the federal government and

examines the structure of county funding for transportation projects,

The Road Ahead and individual state profiles, visit www.naco.org/

challenges and examples of funding and financing solutions.

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services may not require specific ratios. The bill also requires that the state plan include certifica-A Senate vote is pending on the tion of licensing requirements,

The bill would prohibit states measure, but House leadership has from redetermining child care indicated that they would take up eligibility more frequently than once every 12 months. According The bipartisan bill, which to the CBO, the Health and Hu-

for infants and toddlers. In addi-The bill makes changes to the tion to the 3 percent, there will be measures that are to be included incremental set asides of 6 percent MAP-21 RALLY from page 1 administrative improvement is percent in 2018 and subsequent that the state plans will now be for years. The CBO analysis says that Riki Hokama, whose presidential return on investment," he said. in 2002 and has been renewed three years instead of two years. most states spend more than 13 initiative will focus on investment The plan would need to include percent on quality activities, but in infrastructure, said there would some of the highest returns on process since then. a description of child-to-provider that 12 states spend less. CBO be a seamless transition from investment of anything that our ratio standards, but the U.S. estimates that implementing this secretary of health and human provision would cost an additional

### SpeedRead »»»

- » Bill would prohibit states from redetermining child care eligibility more than once every 12 months
- » Bill would require health, safety and fire inspections of all child care providers before licensing and annually thereafter

health and safety provisions. The state may add other crimes that includes language allowing states major provision is the requirement could disqualify workers. States to seek relief from other federal fire inspections of all child care care providers for conducting the tation of the CCDBG law and The measure does not provide a annually thereafter. According to however, do not allow this practice, extension for those states that are

these inspections annually, but child care agency will have to California only requires them incurthe costs. Most states already every five years. CBO estimates conduct background checks and that this provision would require CBO estimates that this provision an additional \$35 million a year would cost \$1 million a year and to start up and \$150 million from \$5 million from 2015–2019. 2015-2019.

ground check requirements. Back- dating, directing or controlling ground checks will be mandated state early learning and developwhen employees are hired and ev- ment guidelines. This prohibition ery five years thereafter. It includes includes standards, alignment \$25 million a year to implement the types of criminal activity that between early development and and \$100 million from 2015–2019. will make a child care worker K-3 guidelines, and submitting The bill includes several new ineligible for employment. The standards for federal review. It also providers before licensing and background checks. Some states, allows HHS to grant a one-year

Transportation rally draws bipartisan House, Senate support

NACo First Vice President council member.

investments needed to keep the cost for the first 40 years." U.S. competitive in a global demands from us.'

ported the six-year reauthorization deputy whip. because of the stability it would add.

"If we start having uncertainty attended. at the national level, a lack of resolve, a lack of a good framework, what we're going to do is see a lot of more major projects all around our country neglected or fall behind," he said. "The crisis is also an opportunity because it will provide an occasion for us as a nation to look at this and decide what we really want and whether we're going to step up to the [plate] and pay for what we need to maintain our standard of living. I think the answer will be ves."

According to Rep. Bill Foster (D-III.), a long-term commitment

to transportation funding would

"Infrastructure investments have through the annual appropriations Langston's resilience initiative. country can do. The federal gov-Hokama is a Maui County, Hawaii ernment is about to spend \$1.4 trillion on the next-generation "Counties need long-term manned fighter jet. That's more certainty to make the types of than the interstate highway system

Sen. Chris Coons (D-Del.), economy," he said. "Two years of a former county executive and funding does not allow the coun- council member in New Castle ties to make long-term plans or County, said he was convinced transformative investments in our Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) transportation system. In fact, it herself a former Marin County holds up projects and forces us to supervisor, was uniquely capable cut services that our community to help negotiate a long-term reauthorization, based on her Rep. Tom Petri (R-Wis.) sup- record of bipartisanship as chief

Reps. Jeff Denham (R-Calif.) and Rodney Davis (R-III.) also



HHS, most states already conduct in which case the state or county

There is language prohibiting The bill establishes new back- the federal government from manexperiencing financial hardship.

CCDBG is the domestic discretionary program under the Child Care and Development Fund and is currently funded at \$2.4 billion. The other program under the fund is the Child Care Entitlement to States, which is funded at \$2.9 make fiscal sense in the long run. billion and would not be affected "I look at this as a matter of by S. 1086. The program expired

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# **Emergency DOT** orders boost rail safety measures for N.D. crude oil

### BY CHARLIE BAN STAFF WRITER

the U.S. Department of Trans- from his farmland. "It's bluishportation (DOT) boosts safety gray and looks like you can strain regulations on trains transporting it and put it right in a vehicle. It's oil from western North Dakota alotmore explosive than crude oil and eastern Montana. It's the as most laymen know it." fourth crude oil-related emergency DOT order in seven months and railroads will have to test the oil was issued directly in response to before it leaves the area known recent derailments in the region, as the Bakken region, because including an explosion and fire in oil drawn from that shale is more Cass County, N.D. in December, volatile than most varieties. The which caused no injuries or deaths order also prohibits the railroads

but was difficult to fight because from transporting the Bakken oil of extreme cold weather.

"The oil in the Bakken region is unique and I don't think most people

realize it's different." said Dan Kalil, chairman of the Williams County, N.D. Commission, who A Feb. 25 emergency order from has several wells extracting oil

> Under the emergency order, in the lowest-strength rail cars.

> > See **OIL** page 11

# **Profiles** in Service

### Peter Baldacci

NACo Board Membe Penobscot County, Maine Commission Chair

### Number of years active in NACo: 3

Years in public service: 25

### **Occupation:** Attorney

Education: Bachelor's – University of Maine; law degree – Western New England Law School

The hardest thing I've ever done: take the bar examination

Three people (living or dead) I'd invite to dinner: Thomas Jefferson, Ernest Hemingway and Bill Belichick

A dream I have is to: play left field for the Red Sox.

You'd be surprised to learn that: I lettered in golf at the University of Maine

The most adventurous thing I've ever done is: go to a Rolling Stones concert without a ticket

My favorite way to relax is: play golf.

I'm most proud of: my family— my wife and two children.

Every morning I read: The Bangor Daily News.

My favorite meal is: chicken Parmigiana with garlic bread. My pet peeve is: People who say, "to be honest with you." My motto is: "Just do it."

My favorite movie is: Groundhog Day.

My favorite music is: Bob Dylan, Frank Sinatra.

My favorite President is: Franklin Roosevelt.

# Interactive tools make debut; Cabinet secretaries brief attendees



Sallie Clark (r), NACo Second Vice President, greets Sally Jewell, U.S. Secretary of the Interior, before the General Session on March 4.

### **CONFERENCE** *from page 1*

recovery topped the agenda for program," he said, obliquely refer- tendees that there were only 27 days the 2014 Legislative Conference. ring to some members of Congress. left in the enrollment period for the Attendees could explore the live nteractive data tool that was developed for the transportation study. The tool features a series of state policy as much a matter of efficiency you can do in the next 27 days that profiles, which detail a wide-ranging as of volume. number of transportation-related data points.

County Tracker 2013 released earlier they were, we need to put funding Committee members deliberated in the year, allowed attendees to print levels on a course to help our nation policy resolutions to be placed before out individual economic recovery actually address our infrastructure the Board of Directors for adoption snapshots of their counties. The deficit," he said. County Tracker report analyzed the counties.

speakerslined up for the day's general March 4 general session. sessions and workshops.

with innovation, efficiency and resources. partnerships.

from \$1.8 billion in FY10.

"That's a stunning decrease for a for PILT. program that's done so much good

over time. As the funding reflects, March 4, White House Intergovthere are some who clearly don't ernmental Affairs Director David Transportation and economic understand the importance of the Agnew reminded conference at-

> Secretary of Transportation AffordableCareActandaskedthem Anthony Foxx framed the trans- to encourage their residents to signformation in federal transportation up. "There's probably not as much

"We shouldn't be trying to just look through the rearview mirror briefed steering committee members Another interactive tool, the and get funding levels back to where at their meetings March 1 and 2.

The constrained fiscal circum- meeting, the Board adopted 27 new recovery patterns the nation's 3,069 stances driving federal spending was policy resolutions. (For a report on the also on the mind of Secretary of the new policies, see p. 6–9) A winter blast on the official open- Interior Sally Jewell who said she has ing day, March 3, may have closed sympathy for the hard choices faced with NACo's major conferences, the area's school systems and federal by officials in public lands counties as this year's Technology-Innovation government offices, but cold, snow they struggle to budget with unstable Summit, March 1, focused on using and ice didn't stop the wide variety of funding steams. Jewell spoke at the information technology and open

"I know how hard it is to lurch

He noted that funding for the mentioned by Rep. Ron Bishop (R-HOME program leverages more Utah) who appeared at the March and photo coverage of the 2014 than \$4 in private and non-federal 3 session via Skype to urge NACo Legislative Conference in the March funding for every dollar invested. But members to support new, invigorated 24 issue. funding fell to \$950 million in FY13 efforts that would eliminate the annual ritual of searching for funds (Charlie Ban, Chris Johnson and Charles

During his general session slot to this report)

will change so many lives," he said. Administration officials also

as interim legislative policy. At their

Traditionally held in conjunction data to create more resilient counties.

Lynn Overmann, senior advisor Doing more with less emerged as from continuing resolution to tothe U.S. Chief Technology Officer, athemeamongtop-level Administra- continuing resolution — how very White House Office of Science tion officials. At the opening gen- difficultitisto plan," for PILT-reliant Technology Policy, was the featured eral session HUD Secretary Shaun counties. Hard choices, she said, are luncheon speaker who spoke about Donovan said what the agency lacks shared by both county and federal *Data.gov*, a way counties can share in dollars it's attempting to balance officials and driven by constrained services and find out more about other counties that work towards Stable funding for PILT was also transparency in county government.

There will be an extended report

Taylor, County News staff, contributed



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AFTER

ACTION

REPORT

At the Legislative Conference,

the Board of Directors considers

policy resolutions from NACo's 10

steering committees that will guide

the association's lobbying efforts

until the Annual Conference Busi-

Board of Directors adopted the fol-

lowing resolutions as interim policy.

The board also sent two resolutions

back to their committees of origin

for further discussion. These in-

cluded a resolution in support of

the minimum wage and another

specifying a continuing funding

source for community-based men-

At their March 3 meeting, the

ness Meeting in July.

tal health programs.

**RURAL AFFAIRS** 

COMMUNITY

AND ECONOMIC

FY 2015 APPROPRIATIONS

OF HOUSING AND URBAN

FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT

**Policy:** NACo urges Congress

Transportation and Housing and

no less than \$1.2 billion in formula

Assistance grants, including at least

DEVELOPMENT

DEVELOPMENT

ment (HUD).

MATTER

tion.

**AGRICULTURE AND** 

**OPPOSE MORE STRINGENT** 

**REGULATION OF PARTICULATE** 

tion of Counties (NACo) opposes

### • CountyNews

### **RESOLUTIONS** from page 6

Services (HHS) to prohibit insur- program.

ers from denying reimbursement under health benefit plans for SUPPORT MAXIMUM authorities.

### HUMAN SERVICES AND EDUCATION

SUPPORT INCREASED FUNDING FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

**Issue:** Increased funding for early childhood development.

Start and quality childcare.

SUPPORT FOR SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT

recommendations



**Board presses forward with new policy positions** 

Ramsey County, Minn. Commissioner Toni Carter, who chairs the Human Services & Education Steering Committee, proposes several new policies from her committee

full funding for existing Section Issue: Particulate matter regula- 8 project-based and tenant-based contracts and \$275 million in Sec-Policy: The National Associa- tion 108 Loan Guarantee authority.

In addition, NACo does not SUPPORT ENACTMENT OF any attempts by the U.S. Environ- support the imposition of a fundmental Protection Agency (EPA) ing threshold to receive CDBG to impose regulation of Particulate formula funds directly or elimina-Matter (PM or dust) at levels more tion of "grandfathering" provisions ties and other localities to collect stringent than current standards. that allow cities and counties to past-due taxes through the Federal maintain their entitlement status. NACo also does not support diverting CDBG formula funds to passage of H.R. 2716 to amend

### SUPPORT OF THE TRANSATLANTIC TRADE AND INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP

Issue: Support FY 2015 Appro- and Investment Partnership is AND LAND USE priations for the U.S. Department currently being negotiated by the of Housing and Urban Develop- European Union and the United IMPROVING WATER QUALITY States of America.

Policy: NACo supports the apto support the following levels of proval of the Transatlantic Trade **PROTECTION** funding for core U.S. Department and Investment Partnership (TTIP) of Housing and Urban Develop- by the Administration and ratifica- ity management through regional ment programs in the FY 2015 tion by the U.S. Senate.

### Urban Development appropria- SUPPORT PERMANENT tions bill: no less than \$3.3 billion **AUTHORIZATION FOR THE** in Community Development Block **EB-5 REGIONAL CENTER** Grant (CDBG) formula funding; PROGRAM

Issue: The EB-5 Regional funding for the HOME Investment Center Program (the "Program") (EPA) Revolving Loan Fund Partnerships Program (HOME); authorization expires on Septem- (RLF). \$2.1 billion for Homeless Housing ber 30, 2015.

\$250 million for the Emergency legislation to permanently autho- **AFFORDABLE BY USING** Solutions Grant program plus rize the EB-5 Regional Center EXISTING RESOURCES an amount to fully fund expiring Program and to maximize its Plus Care rent subsidy contracts; job creation.

### **FINANCE AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL** AFFAIRS

### FEDERAL OFFSET PROGRAM LEGISLATION (H.R. 2716)

Issue: H.R. 2716 allows coun-Offset Program.

Policy: NACo supports the other categorical grant programs. section 6402 of the Internal Revenue Code to allow for the offset of local government tax obligations against federal income tax refunds.

### Issue: The Transatlantic Trade ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY

### PLANNING THROUGH **REGIONAL WATERSHED(S)**

Issue: Effective water qualwatershed(s) protection.

**Policy:** NACo recommends increased funding for water quality and wastewater management projects at the regional watershed(s) planning level through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

# Policy: NACo supports federal ENSURING ENERGY REMAINS

Issue: Anti-coal legislation and Environment, Energy and Land Use Steering Committee Chair supportive housing and Shelter capacity for economic impact and federal regulations and their impact Victoria Reinhart, Ramsey County, Minn. commission chair, stakes out her on utilities

Policy: NACo urges Congress ADJUDICATED CLIENTS and the Administration to reevaluate restrictions on the mining, transportation and burning of coal. NACo believes the U.S. Environ-

committee's positions before the Board



mental Protection Agency's (EPA) Maximum Achievable Control Technology (MACT) rules should be further studied to determine the cost and benefit on electric utility operations, electricity reliability and economic and health impacts to communities, consumers and manufacturers.

### HEALTH

### SUPPORT FEDERAL **REGULATIONS ADDRESSING** NICOTINE USE THROUGH VAPORIZED DELIVERY SYSTEMS

Issue: Address the lack of sufficient federal regulation of nicotine use through vaporized delivery systems.

Policy: NACo supports the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) proposal of a regulation that would extend the agency's "tobaccoproduct" authorities.

### All photos by David hathcox **ENCOURAGE HHS TO REQUIRE PRIVATE INSURANCE** COMPANIES TO PAY FOR HEALTH COSTS FOR THEIR PRE-

**Issue:** Private insurance companies' "inmate exclusion"

See **RESOLUTIONS** page 7

# Counties seek maximum funding for Public Health Prevention Fund

Policy: NACo supports leg-

# Services Block Grant (SSBG).

Policy: NACo strongly supports the Social Services Block shifts health care costs from pre- Grant (SSBG), opposes any adjudicated inmates to counties. efforts to eliminate or reduce its Policy: NACo urges the De- funding and calls on Congress to partment of Health and Human restore sequestration cuts to the

### covered services provided to FUNDING FOR COUNTY pre-adjudicated persons in the **PRIORITIES THROUGH THE** custody of local supervisory **PREVENTION AND PUBLIC HEALTH FUND**

Issue: An aging and growing population requires increased public intervention including additional resources for health burden prevention

Policy: NACo urges Congress and the Administration to strengthen the effectiveness of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) Prevention and Public Health Fund islation to increase investments (PPHF) by ensuring that PPHF in early childhood development, resources are passed through to the schools and county run programs increased health and wellness such as Head Start, Early Head education, biometric screening, disease prevention and surveillance, public safety health and education, public health nursing. immunization services and other ASSISTANCE PROGRAM Issue: Funding of the Social evidence-based prevention and public health interventions.



Health Steering Committee Chair Larry Johnson, commissioner DeKalb County, Ga., listens to a question about one of the committee's policy period to help states, tribes, and lo- who has the inherent knowledge



including greater coordination local county level to the greatest NACo Board Member Bill Kennedy, commissioner Yellowstone County, Mont., expresses his opposition to a among pre-school programs in extent possible, in order to enable resolution from the Health Steering Committee.

### JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

### STATE CRIMINAL ALIEN

Assistance Program (SCAAP) CALCULATION METHOD ON is more vulnerable to funding **PUBLIC ASSISTANCE** cuts as administered by the U.S. DOJ to DHS under the Homeland in the case of a disaster. Security Act of 2002.

Homeland Security.

### **PROVIDE FUNDING** AND AMEND DISASTER **PROGRAM POLICIES FOR** THE MANAGEMENT AND MITIGATION OF POST-WILDFIRE FLOODING AND **DEBRIS FLOW DAMAGE**

unavailable or inadequate to IN APPROPRIATIONS FROM effectively deal with the newly- CONGRESS created or increased flooding and events.

to amend the Fire Management Ascalgovernments respond to floods of his or her own facility, shall

and debris flows that directly result be responsible and charged to from a declared fire.

### **URGE THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT** Issue: The State Criminal Alien AGENCY TO REEVALUATE ITS FEDERAL LANDS

**Issue:** The Federal Emergency ment. Department of Justice (DOJ) Management Agency's (FEMA) than if it were transferred to the current calculation method for following changes to federal lands Department of Homeland Secu- Public Assistance (PA) encour- management policy: rity (DHS). Most immigration ages an inequitable distribution of functions were transferred from funds across our nation's counties be managed in both an ecologi-

reprogramming or rescission of uses to determine when to award local governments. FY 2014 SCAAP funds by the federal PA to counties to aid with U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), disaster cleanup and repair, be managed with consideration of the and urges Congress to increase revisited. NACo further recom- potential costs of remediation after appropriations for SCAAP and mends alternative mechanisms a severe fire event. to transfer its administration be examined to guarantee that and infrastructure.

### **PUBLIC LANDS**

### **MODIFY THE NATIONAL** PARK SERVICE CONTINGENCY PLAN THAT BECOMES Issue: Funding is either EFFECTIVE UPON A LAPSE

debris flow risks from post-wildfire ment scheme for individual National Park Services (NPS) unit federal lands for market-based **Policy:** NACo urges Congress in the absence of appropriation.

**Policy:** NACo proposes that sistanceGrantProgram(FMAGP) each Superintendent of a Na- eral Land Management Agencies and Stafford Act declaration time tional Park Service (NPS) unit, to utilize all the existing authorities

formulate a plan of operation for their unit in the absence of appropriations.

### MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Issue: Federal Lands Manage

Policy: NACo supports the

• Requiring federal lands to cally and financially sustainable **Policy:** NACo urges that the manner providing a source of **Policy:** NACo opposes the calculation method, which FEMA revenue to the federal, state, and

• Requiring federal lands to be

• Reorganization of Forest from DOJ to the Department of PA determinations are made in a Service management to reduce the more equitable manner based on layers of organizational structure actual disaster impact to residents form four to three. Currently they have the Washington Office, 9 regional offices, Forest Supervisor headquarters, and Ranger District Offices.

> • Clearly defining the Forest Service mission to get more projects 'boots on the ground' with less administrative distractions.

• Reducing the Federal deficit through the responsible develop-Issue: Appropriate manage- ment of natural resources on federal lands and opening more leases.

• Requirements directing Fed-



online

# Public lands resolutions spotlight endangered species concerns

### **RESOLUTIONS** from page 7

to actively manage their lands according to multiple use principles ing that the ESA recognize and and that also requires them to ac- allow consideration of the predacount for all projects and methods tion of threatened or endangered they have used to the governor's species by natural events, as well as office of each respective state human activities (such as predator and each County governing body impacts and weather-related events). where those federal lands exist.

that are stopped by legal action be **THE FEDERAL LAND** immediately remedied and turned TRANSACTION FACILITATION back out for implementation.

Act (ESA)

tion of Counties (NACo):

decisions to list species as threat- that facilitates the sale Bureau of ened or endangered are made Land Management (BLM) lands through best available science identified for disposal, which timelines for decisions.

• Supports strengthening the influence of local participation so **EQUAL ACCESS** that local collaborative processes **TO JUSTICE ACT** and recommended species management policies are not overridden by of The Equal Access to Justice the Administrative Conference court cases (excluding tort cases) to relevant information that may aid local and national fringe groups. Act (EAJA).

• Supports inclusion of the consideration of the economic im-

pacts to local economies from any species management decisions.

• Supports legislation requir-

### • Requiring that any projects **SUPPORT REAUTHORIZING** ACT

Issue: Reauthorizing the Fed-**ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT** eral Land Transaction Facilitation Issue: The Endangered Species Act (H.R. 2068)(S. 368).

Policy: NACo supports reau-Policy: The National Associa- thorization of the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act. a bal-• Supports legislation that states anced approach to western lands conservation.

Policy: NACo:



with increased transparency and generates revenue for high-priority Lake County, Fla. Commissioner Welton Cadwell, chair, Community, Economic and Workforce Development Steering Committee, presents his policy report to the Board.

> Amends the Equal Access to to prevailing parties other than the number, nature, and amount of Justice Act and the federal judicial United States in certain adminis- the awards, the claims involved **Issue:** The un-intentioned use code to require the Chairman of trative proceedings and civil action in the controversy, and any other of the United States to report to which the United States is a party, Congress in evaluating the scope Congress annually on the amount including settlement agreements.

> > Legal Notice

1. Supports legislation that of fees and other expenses awarded 2. Supports requirements that

such reports: (1) describe the

See **RESOLUTIONS** page 9

### If You Purchased Municipal Derivative Transactions from January 1, 1992 to August 18, 2011 You Could Get a Payment for a Class Action Settlement.

A proposed Settlement has been reached with Bank of America, N.A. ("Bank of America"), in a class action lawsuit that alleges price-fixing in the sale of municipal derivatives transactions by Bank of America and other companies. The case, In re Municipal Derivatives Antitrust Litigation, MDL No. 1950, No. 08-02516, is pending in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York.

### Who Is Included in the Settlement?

This Settlement includes all state, local and municipal government entities, independent government agencies, quasi-government, non-profit and private entities that purchased:

- (1) Municipal derivative transactions through negotiation, competitive bidding or auction, from any Alleged Provider Defendant or Co-Conspirator or brokered by any Alleged Broker Defendant or Co-Conspirator
- (2) Any time from January 1, 1992 through August 18, 2011 in the United States and its territories or for delivery in the United States and its territories.

The Defendants and Co-Conspirators are listed in the detailed notice available on the Settlement

### What Does the Settlement Provide?

Bank of America agreed to a settlement amount of \$20 million (plus any funds remaining in the State AG Escrow Fund that, as of the date this Notice is issued, Bank of America has access to pursuant to the terms of the State AG Settlement - this potential additional amount could be between \$0 and \$1 million) to be paid as follows: \$10 million has already been paid into an escrow account and the balance will be paid later. This Settlement is only a partial settlement of the lawsuit because it only affects the claims against Bank of America. The lawsuit is continuing against other Defendants. Morgan Stanley, Wachovia/Wells Fargo, and JPMorgan have already settled. Bank of America will provide reasonable cooperation, including discovery cooperation, to Class Plaintiffs' Counsel in the litigation that will continue against the other Defendants.

### What Do I Do Now?

• Remain in the Settlement. To remain in the Settlement Class and participate in the Settlement. you do not have to do anything now. If the Court approves the Settlement, you give up the right to sue Bank of America for the claims and issues in this case. The Settlement Agreement, specifically Paragraph 1(cc), which is available at www.MunicipalDerivativesSettlement.com, describes in more detail the legal claims that you give up if you stay in the Class. If you remain in the Settlement Class, you still have the right to exclude yourself from any other settlements with other defendants reached in this lawsuit. Claim forms are not available now. Register on the Settlement website to receive a claim form when it becomes available.

Exclude yourself from the Settlement. If you do not want to remain in the Settlement Class, you must exclude yourself. You must send a written request for exclusion by first-class mail, postmarked no later than May 6, 2014 to the Settlement Administrator. The detailed notice available on the Settlement website describes the information you are required to include in your request for exclusion. If you exclude yourself, you cannot participate in the Settlement, but you retain your right to sue Bank of America on your own for the claims in this lawsuit.

NOTE: You may receive similar notices regarding proposed settlements with other Defendants (i.e., GE Funding Capital Market Services, Inc., Trinity Funding Co., LLC and Trinity Plus Funding Co., LLC). However, if you wish to exclude yourself from the Bank of America settlement, you must send a separate and specific notice with regard to the Bank of America settlement.

Object or Comment on the Settlement. If you remain in the Settlement Class and want to object to or comment on the Bank of America Settlement or any part of it, you must file an objection with the Court and deliver a copy to Class Counsel and Bank of America no later than May 6, 2014.

### When Will the Court Decide Whether to Approve the Settlement?

The Court has scheduled a hearing on June 6, 2014, at 10 a.m. at the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, United States Courthouse, 500 Pearl Street, New York, NY 10007, to consider whether to finally approve the Bank of America Settlement as fair, reasonable and adequate, whether to approve Class Counsel's request for reimbursement of litigation expenses, and to consider any objections

The Court has appointed the law firms of Hausfeld LLP; Boies, Schiller & Flexner LLP; and Susman Godfrey L.L.P. to serve as Class Counsel and represent all Class Members. If you want to be represented by your own lawyer, you may hire one at your own expense. You or your lawyer may ask to appear and speak at the hearing but are not required to. If you want to be heard by the Court, you must file a written notice of your intention to appear with the Court and deliver a copy to the Class Counsel and Bank of America no later than May 6, 2014. The Court may change the time and date of the hearing. Any change will be posted on the Settlement website.

### Get More Information

For more information on this lawsuit, your rights, or to obtain a list of defendants, call or visit the Settlement website listed below or write to Municipal Derivatives Settlement, c/o Rust Consulting, Inc., P.O. Box 2500, Faribault, MN 55021-9500.

### For more information: 1-877-310-0512 www.MunicipalDerivativesSettlement.com

website.

available.

### Train noise abatement tops transportation committee agenda

### **RESOLUTIONS** from page 8

and impact of such awards; and

the United States to create and

made, the amount of the award, was not substantially justified.

eral [DOJ] and the Director of

attorney.

6. Supports the institution of a (2) be made available to the public \$7.000.000 net worth cap regard- **GREATER CONSIDERATION** less of tax-exempt status to reduce **OF COMMUNITY HEALTH** 3. Supports legislation that the number of lawsuits filed by AND SAFETY directs the Chairman of the large nationwide fringe groups

### maintain online a searchable SUPPORT IMPROVED database containing specified ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF information with respect to each **THE EFFECTS OF CRITICAL** award including the name of the **HABITAT DESIGNATIONS** agency involved, the name of each **UNDER THE ENDANGERED** party to whom the award was SPECIES ACT

**Issue:** Need for the U.S. Fish and the basis for finding that the and Wildlife Service (the Service, communities adjacent to National nities to purchase bandwidth by position of the agency concerned USFWS) to do an economic analysis that is both cumulative and ingpolicies that will directly affect 4. Supports legislation that quantitative when calculating the their health, safety and welfare **TRANSPORTATION** requires the head of each federal cost of the declaration of critical and to give the greatest possible agency (including, with respect habitat pursuant to an Endangered deference to their needs. to court cases, the Attorney Gen- Species Act (ESA) listing.

the Administrative Office of the tion that would require the US- AND TECHNOLOGY United States Courts) to provide FWS to perform cumulative and the Chairman all information quantitative economic analysis, RESOLUTION TO BRING 21ST requested to produce such reports. prior to the designation of critical **CENTURY EDUCATION TO** 5. Supports raising the EAJA habitat, that would measure the **AMERICA'S COUNTIES** reimbursement level to \$200 per effects of such a designation on "directly and personally harmed" of land and property values, em- global economy.

can afford a decent and marketable ployment and revenues available for state and local governments.

Administrative Conference of that profit from habitual lawsuits. Service consultation and collabo- forts to modernize, expand, and Additionally, NACo encourages ration with communities adjacent strengthen the successful E-Rate Congress to provide new or unoblito National Wildlife Refuges and program by increasing bandwidth gated federal funds to localities for consideration of those community goals, streamlining the application the express purpose of establishing health and safety needs.

Wildlife Refuges when implement- providing more options.

## Policy: NACo supports legisla- TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Issue: 40 million of America's hour reflecting the market rate, all affected stakeholders—not just K-12 students are being left behind so that those in need (i.e. veterans on federal agencies — and would without the Internet access and istration (FRA) to reexamine the and small business) and that are include the effects on possible uses Wi-Fi they need to succeed in the Train Horn Rule (49 CFR, Part Formore information, contact: Deborah

Legal Notice

Policy: NACo urges swift ac- at Highway-Rail Grade Crosstion to improve and modernize ings) in order to determine how the E-Rate program in order to local communities can feasibly connect schools and libraries in implement quiet zones without every county in America with insurmountable costs, requirehigh-speed broadband within the ments and processes while also Issue: U.S. Fish and Wildlife next five years. We support ef- continuing to protect public safety. process, focusing on broadband quiet zones. Proposed Policy: NACo urges by phasing out funding for nonthe U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service broadband services such as paging INNOVATIVE to consult, collaborate and coor- and voicemail, and strengthening TRANSPORTATION dinate with counties and other the buying power of our commu- INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCE

### SUPPORT FEASIBLE AND SAFE IMPLEMENTATION OF RAILROAD OUIET ZONES THROUGH MODIFICATION OF THE TRAIN NOISE RULE

its disruptive impact on local communities.

and the Federal Railroad Admin- for capital projects.

**Issue:** Support innovative transportation financing mechanisms designed to leverage federal dollars.

Policy: NACo supports innovative financing mechanisms including, but not limited to, qualified tax credit bonds; infrastructure banks: the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Issue: Train horn noise and Act (TIFIA); and public-private partnerships — that would allow local jurisdictions, such as coun-**Policy:** NACo urges Congress ties, to leverage federal financing

222, the Use of Locomotive Horns Cox, 202.942.4286 or dcox@naco.org

### If You Purchased Municipal Derivative Transactions from January 1, 1992 to August 18, 2011 You Could Get a Payment for a Class Action Settlement.

A proposed Settlement has been reached with GE Funding Capital Market Services, Inc., Trinity Funding Co., LLC and Trinity Plus Funding Co., LLC (collectively, "GE"), in a class action lawsuit that alleges price-fixing in the sale of municipal derivatives transactions by GE and other companies. The case, In re Municipal Derivatives Antitrust Litigation, MDL No. 1950, No. 08-02516, is pending in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York.

### Who Is Included in the Settlement?

This Settlement includes all state, local and municipal government entities, independent government agencies, quasi-government, non-profit and private entities that purchased:

(1)Municipal derivative transactions through negotiation, competitive bidding or auction, from any Alleged Provider Defendant or brokered by any Alleged Broker Defendant

(2)Any time from January 1, 1992 through August 18, 2011 in the United States and its territories or for delivery in the United States and its territories

The Defendants and Co-Conspirators are listed in the detailed notice available on the Settlement

### What Does the Settlement Provide?

GE agreed to a settlement amount of \$18.25 million. This Settlement is only a partial settlement of the lawsuit because it only affects the claims against GE. The lawsuit is continuing against other Defendants. Morgan Stanley, Wachovia/Wells Fargo, and JPMorgan have already settled. GE will provide reasonable cooperation, including discovery cooperation, to Class Plaintiffs' Counsel in the litigation that will continue against the other Defendants.

### What Do I Do Now?

Remaininthe Settlement. Toremaininthe Settlement Class and participate in the Settlement, you do not havetodoanything now. If the Court approves the Settlement, you give up the right to sue GE for the claims and issues in this case. The Settlement Agreement, specifically Paragraph 1(bb), which is available at www.MunicipalDerivativesSettlement.com, describes in more detail the legal claims that you give up if you stay in the Class. If you remain in the Settlement Class, you still have the right to exclude yourself from any other settlements with other defendants reached in this lawsuit. Claim forms are not available now. Register on the Settlement website to receive a claim form when it becomes

· Exclude yourself from the Settlement. If you do not want to remain in the Settlement Class, you must exclude yourself. You must send a written request for exclusion by first-class mail, postmarked no later than May 6, 2014 to the Settlement Administrator. The detailed notice available on the Settlement website describes the information you are required to include in your request for exclusion. If you exclude yourself, you cannot participate in the Settlement, but you retain your right to sue GE on your own for the claims in this lawsuit.

NOTE: You may receive similar notices regarding proposed settlements with other Defendants (i.e., Bank of America). However, if you wish to exclude yourself from the GE settlement, you must send a separate and specific notice with regard to the GE settlement.

· Object or Comment on the Settlement. If you remain in the Settlement Class and want to object to or comment on the GE Settlement or any part of it, you must file an objection with the Court and deliver a copy to Class Counsel and GE no later than May 6, 2014.

### When Will the Court Decide Whether to Approve the Settlement?

The Court has scheduled a hearing on June 6, 2014, at 10 a.m. at the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, United States Courthouse, 500 Pearl Street, New York, NY 10007, to consider whether to finally approve the GE Settlement as fair, reasonable and adequate, whether to approve Class Counsel's request for reimbursement of litigation expenses, and to consider any objections.

The Court has appointed the law firms of Hausfeld LLP; Boies, Schiller & Flexner LLP; and Susman Godfrey L.L.P. to serve as Class Counsel and represent all Class Members. If you want to be represented by your own lawyer, you may hire one at your own expense. You or your lawyer may ask to appear and speak at the hearing but are not required to. If you want to be heard by the Court, you must file a written notice of your intention to appear with the Court and deliver a copy to the Class Counsel and GE no later than May 6, 2014. The Court may change the time and date of the hearing. Any change will be posted on the Settlement website

### Get More Information

For more information on this lawsuit, your rights, or to obtain a list of defendants, call or visit the Settlement website listed below or write to Municipal Derivatives Settlement, c/o Rust Consulting, Inc., P.O. Box 2500, Faribault, MN 55021-9500.

For more information: 1-877-310-0512 www.MunicipalDerivativesSettlement.com



### FLOOD BILL from page 1

The bill responds to the unex-The bill removes the sales mary homes and \$250 for second on this issue last year, many in the rules, and settling real estate pected scope of changes put in place trigger, which will now allow a homes and businesses, the proceeds Congress were unaware of the markets. by Biggert-Waters, which sought to home buyer to assume the rates of which will be put in the NFIP serious challenges created by the shore up the finances of the indebted for the property that the seller had reserve fund. National Flood Insurance Program enjoyed. The basement exception, (NFIP). which applies to properties with CEO of Greater New Orleans Inc. coastal and riverine America," he be completed. H.R. 3370 funds that When new flood maps and flood-protected basements, was and the Coalition for Sustainable said. "We now have legislation affordability study and mandates actuarial tables were released, preserved in the bill. Flood insurance, called the passage that will address the most pressing completion within two years.

homeowners saw dramatic increases in their flood insurance premiums, some of which threatened to force them to try to sell their properties That would have negatively impacted counties' property tax revenues, OIL from page 4 with the potential for such damage anywhere along a coastline or river. Many of these homeowners

of grandfathering, which will keep



**Report:** Public participation laws need revisions

### By CHARLES TAYLOR SENIOR STAFE WRITER



"Paralysis by analysis" — it's a phrase sure to be familiar to many an

elected County Board member. You have an issue, appoint a task force, advisory panel. study group. You hold a public hearing. By the time everyone has weighed in, the issue has been talked to death.

A recent report, Making Public Participation Legal, seeks to broaden participation can be overly punitive makes reference to cities, its recomand modernize the framework for and stifle innovation, said Lisa public participation while giving Blomgren Amsler, a coauthor of elected officials legal authority the report. "In Arizona, if you to experiment with new forms of look at the freedom of information citizen engagement.

the report includes model state that specifies what you will discuss and local public participation ordi- and if somebody brings something public participation processes" for nances. It offers suggested language up that's not on the agenda, then employees, members of boards and to amend state laws, such as govern- the ... officials in Arizona, if they ment in the sunshine laws, to "shield start discussing that subject, they from litigation over the choice of felony and removed from office. process model, for example, delib- It's crazy." erative polling, deliberative town hall meeting, blog, etc."

### SpeedRead » » »

- » Model state and local public participation ordinances offered
- >>> Recommendations: • designate a public participation coordinator create a public participation advisory

board

Existing state laws on public or the government in the sunshine

well, said Chuck Thompson, execu-professor at the Indiana University

tive director of the International Bloomington School of Public and Municipal Lawyers Association Environmental Affairs. and a former county attorney in Maryland. He said some states take corrective actions that don't crimi- have a habit or a routine or a stan- report, said it's designed to be an nalize deviating from published dard operating procedure that gets "open-source" tool for states and agendas. For example, in Maryland there are prohibitions against public bodies acting in violation of the open meetings law, and those include voiding any action that was governing public participation are from state to state, he said the lowtaken at "an improperly called or at least 30 years old and predate the hanging fruit from the report is "just noticed meeting.

While the report most often mendations are equally applicable to counties. Thompson said.

The model local participation ordinance suggests that local governments designate a public commissions and others.

One problem plaguing the agencies and municipal authorities could actually be charged with a interpretation of public participain various codes and statutes, "but engagement. Similar issues crop elsewhere as it's never defined," said Amsler, a

"Because it's not defined, people on Legal Frameworks for Public have developed this default, and you Participation, which compiled the enacted, and basically the default localities. He's also executive direcis three minutes at the microphone, tor of the Deliberative Democracy maybe five if you're lucky."

She also noted that the laws Internet, social media, online forums having the conversation." and email listservs. "The playing field

National Civic League with support tired formats that they're using." from the Deliberative Democracy he said. "They don't step back and Consortium, also offers policy op- say is this really the way we want tions for strengthening public par- to have public participation in this Among its recommendations, act, you have to have an agenda participation administrator to ticipation atthelocal level, including town or in our county. Just having "provide ongoing training in greater use of technology and that kind of conversation I think incorporating public participation could be really helpful." metrics in performance reviews of relevant government employees. \*To download the report, including Additionally, it suggests establishing model ordinances, or to view a Brookyouth councils that teach and model ings Institution panel discussion of the tion is that the term often appears the principles of productive public issues, see this story online at www.

# WORD SEARCH

R S R C P V S Z W N L D W T L E D S V Z P J O B Y V W E F A L B G Z N T A I D S O T Z W E G H W L S T F V I C N O U J F R D I M G D C X I O K C T C T U G F C N C S T E A M B O A T P N O A J Y X E O E O R L U M U P T T W E A R H X M Y L V G CVEWJLGTUPKOMBCPSMIN IGTSCWAZRZSAJMTUMMNI XGBDTNTUHAMKHYAUWCGH EGZJUVTERIYSISZIMTTS MKEJUGIBRFEYGANULBOI F U V G Z N N E A I B M A C S E Y L N F O U K D G K F X W W N P R Z Z D Y T I V F C S R W W Z M U F W E H D C V W K K W LNEOWALTONBCIGEEUVIO U H V A M R M B R M K O B E X G I M F C GCECNSWQUKTWNFEJLEHG O R V R I E B L B D G U K X T Y C I O V S A M F N Z I O U I G N I U Y L M Q N P XGGJAULTHAPRRVSETWVI

black water)

LOVINGION (north adjacent	
Alabama county)	

- EGLIN (Air Force base located in
- FISHING (economic driver of county)

Consortium While legal frameworks differ

Matt Leighninger, who also

participated in the Working Group

"I think part of the problem is has changed but the laws haven't." that people just 'keep on keeping The report, published by the on' as far as these as these terrible,

countynews.org

# Join your local Meals on Wheels for the 2014 March for Meals!



NACo invite you to participate in the March for Meals — the annual community-by-community celebration of Meals on Wheels programs and the seniors they serve. The 2014 march has already confirmed its place as the biggest and most united celebration yet with more than 300

place in it for you.

Learn more about the campaign by visiting MarchforMeals.com or watching the official March for Meals video at http://youtu.be/ Friday, March 21 — elected of-PmuYThWV810.

### **County Officials and Community Leaders**

munity Champions Week gives that keep seniors happier and gram, please contact Bertolette at members of NACo a perfect op- healthier. portunity to stand up, speak up and support the seniors in their counties. Schedule Your Ride-

"Delivering meals or speaking along Meal Delivery out in your own way will help us **Today** generate the impact needed to sustain our programs all year long. Over Meals on Wheels program for the *thisstory online at www.countynews.org*.



communications director, Meals On Wheels Association of America.

During the third week in March — Monday, March 17 through ficials. local celebrities. athletes and business owners help to raise awareness for senior hunger. The your support. concentration of events during

all-new March for Meals Community Champions Week.

**Step 1** — To get started, simply find a program in your area on our list of registered March for Meals celebrations, search for a Meals on Wheels program by zip code or call 888,998,6325

Step 2 — Once you have confirmed your participation with the Meals on Wheels program in your 1,500 local officials participated area, pledge your support by regiscommunity celebrations registered last year and we hope you'll join us tering officially as a Champion on across the country, and there's a this March," said Jenny Bertolette, the national campaign's website. This way, you'll be recognized along with hundreds of dedicated peers. Even if you participate during March, but outside of Community Champions Week, please fill out the online form so that you may be acknowledged for

If you have any questions or **Stand Up and Speak Out** March for Meals helps to spark need assistance in connecting with Within March for Meals, Com- national attention to the programs your local Meals On Wheels pro-571.339.1603 or jenny@mowaa.org.

> \* Learn more about the campaign by visiting MarchforMeals.com or watching the official March for Meals video. You It's not too late to join your local *can find a link to the video by reading*

CHOCTAW (Indian word meaning

**CRESTVIEW** (county seat) county)

- ESCAMBIA (northwest adjacent
- Alabama county)

**Oklaloosa County, Fla. Facts** Learn more about this featured county in 'What's in a Seal?'

> **GULF OF MEXICO** (located to the south of the county) LUMBER (economic driver of county) SANTA ROSA (west adjacent county) **STEAMBOAT** (county named after) TURPENTINE (economic driver of county) WALTON (east adjacent county) WILLIAM MAPOLES (introduced bill to create county to State House)

> > Created by Christopher Johnson

# Flood insurance reform bill caps annual rate increase at 15%

Successful map appeals will also

The legislation does allow for a milestone for the coalition. entitle homeowners to refunds. annual surcharges of \$25 for pri-

needs of our coalition, including "When we began to engage protecting people who played by

The Senate passed a bill Jan. 30 Biggert-Waters Act, which threat- delaying rate increases by four years Michael Hecht, president and ens to devastate economies across while an affordability study could

# Railroad association agrees to voluntary measures for crude oil

Williams County is home to the city of Williston, which has seen its had never experienced a flood and population boom dramatically as derailment and explosion in Cass to figure out the safest rail routes voluntary measures were good, had built their houses to code under temporary workers have flocked to County "a real eye-opener for the and increased trackside technology. but the most important thing previous floodplain maps. Some the area to build oil wells or work lived in floodplains with remedia- in hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, tion equipment or locally built levees operations. As a result, Williams derailments are not uncommon full of crude oil. that were not recognized by the County, along with McKenzie in Williams County, in large part Army Corps of Engineers and not County immediately south, are because of the rail swelling caused practices will include an increased is being shipped. included on new floodplain maps. the center of a web of crude oil by temperature swings, though community relations effort along In addition to the restoration shipments via rail.

"Sometimes, a price of our the rate tied to the property, not the luxurious society is accepting the policy, the bill would also refund chance that bad things will hap- order was announced, the DOT and an inventory of emergency replace all of the old tank cars, homeowners who were charged pen." Kalil said. "The oil boom and the American Association of response resources for responding so we can't expect that to happen higher rates under Biggert-Waters. here can be lucrative, but it's Railroads unveiled voluntary oper- to crude oil spills

dangerous. Getting the oil classi- ating practices for crude oil transfied properly and shipped safely is port. They include an increased Ill. Board member and chairparamount.

state," to the dangers of transport- Most of those measures will apply railroads can do with the counties ing the Bakken oil by rail. Kalil said to trains carrying at least 20 cars they travel through is maintain cars that have derailed have mostly rail lines, a \$5 million commitment been carrying grain.

to develop first responder training what's on the train, it's useless."

Jim Healy, a DuPage County, number of track inspections, new man of NACo's transportation He called the Dec. 30, 2013 braking systems, new technology committee, said the order and communication with counties More generally, the voluntary and first responders about what

"It's great that [the railroads] trained them but if you don't know Shortly after the emergency for dealing with crude oil spills he said. "It will cost a fortune to overnight."

# Is Your County an Innovation Hub?

Does your County take risks by embracing new technology before most other counties do?

 Does your County implement innovative solutions to reduce the cost of county operations and enhance service delivery to its county residents?

Does your County provide shared services to its municipalities and other counties?

Does your County reduce knowledge risks for all other counties by enabling them to make more informed decisions to implement innovative solutions?

Then help use your expertise to answer county governments' questions online by registering with the County Innovation Network (COIN) and **become a** Helping Hand at www.countyinnovation.us.

### • CountyNews

# **Financial Services News**

# **County Workers Can Invest for Tax-free Retirement Income**

ning for retirement, taxes may not income taxes, which may make plan be the first thing that comes to mind. participation less affordable for some Yet, even in retirement, income taxes workers. In addition, reducing taxes can be significant because pensions, when one is subject to high rates, Social Security and other types of such as during working years, and income are likely to be subject to paying them later at lower rates, federal income taxation. Having typically during retirement, is usually sources to draw upon that are not considered good tax planning. subject to income tax could be very helpful

their employers' deferred compensa- be. They could be paying a relatively tion plans may have the option of smalltax cost today to forego paying receiving tax-free income in retire- taxes on a larger balance in the future. ment if the plans offer a Roth 457 Onthe other hand, if they are close to as an option.

nate some or all of their deferrals as expect to be in a lower tax bracket at where after-tax Roth contributions. Then, retirement, Roth contributions may when it comestime to consider taking be less attractive. distributions, payouts of potential earnings from Roth contributions consult with their tax advisors to would be tax-free if the requirements determine whether making Roth are met that the distribution is taken contributions could be a wise deciafter age 59 1/2, death or disability; sion and the first Roth contribution to the plan was made at least five tax to counties that sponsor the NACo years ago.

deferrals (over traditional deferred tion through its normal governance

When county workers are plan- contributions do not reduce current

In general, the longer workers have until retirement, the more at-Public workers who participate in tractive a Roth contribution could retirement, are assuming low rates of Participants may elect to desig- return, or are in a high tax bracket and

It is important that workers

Roth 457 is an option available Deferred Compensation Program if The primary distinction to Roth the employer officially adopts the opcompensation deferrals) is that procedures. As administrator of and

the NACo Program. Nationwide Retirement Solutions offers counties support for adding Roth 457, employment. including sample adoption language. educational workshops for employees and marketing or promotional materials

Being able to decide whether contributions are tax-deferred or after-tax is just one benefit that may be available to county workers who participate in the NACo Deferred Compensation Program. The program offers other features that may make participation advantageous. Among them are:

• lower pricing for options and services than you might find else-

• educational workshops that can help workers better prepare for retirement

• online account management • website that fluidly adjusts con-

tent to fit a computer. smartphone. tablet or smart TV

 service from Nationwide retirement Solutions, a leader in public employee retirement plans

• one-on-one meetings with noncommissioned retirement specialists,

• no tax penalty, regardless of age, for withdrawals after leaving more about adding the Roth 457

ested in getting more information should contact Lisa Cole by email about the opportunities available at *lcole@nacorma.org* or by phone at through participation in the NACo 202.942.4270. Deferred Compensation Program should contact the Nationwide retire- (Financial Services News was written by ment specialist serving their county, Bob Beasley, communications consultant, or call Nationwide at 877.677.3678. *Nationwide Retirement Solutions.*)

Services Corp. or Nationwide Retirement Solutions.

your own counsel before making retirement plan decisions.

What's in

Employers wanting to learn option or about the NACo Deferred Public employees who are inter- Compensation Program in general

Nationwide Retirement Solutions (Nationwide) makes payments to the National

NACo RMA and NACo RMA LLC are each a Registered Municipal Advisor and do

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.

not recommend the purchase or sale of securities and do not hold or maintain funds or se-

curities. NACoRMA and NACoRMALLC act as third party marketers/solicitors. NACo RMA receives fees from NRS for such services. Thirty-seven state associations of counties

are members of NACo RMA LLC and as such receive quarterly distributions from it.

NACo RMA and NACo RMA LLC are NOT affiliates of Nationwide Investment

to your specific questions, you should consult with your legal and tax advisors to see how

the information may apply to your personal situation. This information is not intended to

Retirement Specialists are registered representatives of Nationwide Investment Services Corporation: Member FINRA. In MI only, Nationwide Investment Svcs. Corporation.

Nationwide Retirement Specialists cannot offer investment, tax or legal advice. Consult

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be used and cannot be used to avoid penalties under the Internal Revenue Code.

and On Your Side are service marks of Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company.

Neither Nationwide nor any of its employees provide tax or legal advice. For answers

COUNTY

themselves and their new life, it's ous blemish.

BY CHARLIE BAN

For former gang members, a

visible tattoo can serve as an effec-

STAFF WRITER

obscene tattoos at no charge to help for them.' inmates reintegrate back into their communities after release.

removals. "If they get out of jail pigment. and have a gang-affiliated tattoo

NACorecently released *The Road* Ahead: County Transportation Funding and Financing, a study assessing the role of counties in transportation (roads and bridges), funding challenges and solutions for their transportation systems.

Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21), the federal surface transportation funding legislation, expires at the end of September 2014, with federal discussions surrounding reauthorization already having started. This study and the companion products will help NACo guide discussions regarding federal transportation legislation.

Together with the study, NACo's research team released the *Road* torslisted in the top menu. Once the Ahead, a Web-based interactive map user clicks on the top-level indicafeaturing state-level layers showcas- tor, the interactive map displays the state, deriving their powers and the profile outlines county authority go to www.uscounties.org/countying state and county transportation respective state-level data across authorities from state statute. The overroads and bridges and the trans- transportation-funding. statistics. The Web map provides ac- the map. The user can access the report and interactive tool highlight cess also to individual state profiles definition for each indicator by several limitations states impose on from the state and from the federal (Research News was written by Anya for the 43 states in which counties hovering over each indicator tab. counties' ability to raise revenues governments. Whereverthe data was Nowakowski, County Intelligence Conplay a role in roads and bridges.

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NRM-9927AO (01/2014)

In 1915, Mapoles introduced a bill in the Florida House of Representatives that called for the creation of a new county from the existing counties of Santa Rosa and Walton. Mapoles named the county after a steamboat called "The Okaloosa," a Choctaw word meaning black water. A temporary county seat was established in Milligan until a special election was held in 1917 and Crestview

was chosen as the new permanent seat. Lumber, turpentine and fishing are the main economic drivers of the county. Before the railroad, like the majority of the northwest Florida region, the county transported items via the rivers and bayous. The small communities that grew around the lumber and turpentine camps found themselves more mobile and had better access to large stands of virgin timber and pine.

The seal shows two fighter jets signifying Eglin Air Force Base and the Armament Museum, located in the county, the sun setting over the Gulf of Mexico and a dock as well as trees for lumber, one of the economic drivers of the county.

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

# **County Innovations and Solutions** Los Angeles County, Calif.

# **Inmate Tattoo Removal Helps Combat Recidivism**

a bad situation because someone recognizes that tattoo and takes action against them."

The medical services bureau identifies removal candidates, most tive resume. But if they're trying of whom are involved in inmate to put some distance between educational programs.

"If they go to the effort of taking a significant and possibly danger- classes, trying to improve themselves to prepare for life after their release. Los Angeles County, Calif. we can help them," Fleischer said. Sheriff's Department's Medical "For women who were involved in Services Bureau and Inmate Ser- prostitution, removing a tattoo of vices Bureau have teamed up to their pimp's name from their body help remove visible gang-related or can be psychologically liberating

Technological improvements have made a big difference. Instead "It's sometimes a matter of of surgery — covering a tattoo up personal safety," said Troy Fleischer, with another or abrasion — lasers Gang members show off their tattoos. one of two officers who perform can now help disintegrate the tattoo

visible in public, even if they aren't done eight weeks apart. The market the budget of an inmate who hasn't Fleischer said. "It's very painful. an active member of that gang, they rate for tattoo removal sessions runs worked in a while. could find themselves forced into between \$300-\$500 each, so the



Most removals take six sessions, \$3,000, which is generally outside of stantly snapped against your skin," started in 2012.

usually moreso than what it was like County Innovations and Solutions "The feeling has been described to get the tattoo in the first place." *features award-winning programs.* 

The laser used in the removal process cost more than \$124,000 and was paid for by the inmate welfare fund — proceeds from inmate telephone calls, commissary purchases and other inmate transactions. The inmate welfare fund also covers the cost for trained medical personnel like Flesicher to perform the removals.

"It's a good investment because it's going to mean a lot for these inmates' self esteem and gives them a chance to make a clean break from the pasts that got them in here in the first place," Fleischer said. "A gang tattoo can be a constant reminder of what caused problems for the inmates and put them behind bars in the first place."

More than 600 inmates have had average complete removal could run as like having rubber bands con- tattoos removed since the program

# **Research** News

# How to Use 'The Road Ahead' **Transportation Web-interactive Tool**

County Transportation Funding and Fin



The maps highlight eight indica-

over any state to see a number of data for that state.

Counties are creatures of the Additionally, the user can hover through property taxes, local gas available, the profile also provides *nection research assistant.*)

Counties in 43 states are subject county transportation from state, to some form of property tax federal and own county sources. limitations imposed by the state, including caps on property tax rates tion on state limitations on county and limits on assessment increases. property taxes. Based on authority Assessment limits, which control granted by the state, the profiles also counties' ability to raise revenue outline which of their own revenue through reassessing property val- sources counties use to supplement ues, are especially binding when federal and state funding. Each coupled with a cap on property profile details specific barriers tax rates. Counties in 16 states are counties face in funding transsubject to this binding combina- portation projects. The profiles tion of state-imposed property also highlight specific programs, tax limitations as depicted in the solutions or recent measures taken "state limits on property tax" in by counties (or measures taken by the online map.

provide more in-depth analysis of the challenges and shortfalls. role counties play in transportation funding and financing. In each state interactive tool and state profiles. portation revenue streams to counties

taxes and local option sales taxes. the revenue sources distribution for

The profiles also offer informastate that would help counties) to The individual state profiles overcome transportation funding

To access the report, Web





# **News From the Nation's Counties**

### ► CALIFORNIA

supervisors asked the newly ap- restraint system for children of marijuana industry will generate for transportation projects. pointed inspector general of the all ages. sheriff's department to study setting up a civilian commission increase the proper use of child *Chieftain* reported. that would oversee the department. car seats and seat belt use, and

created at all. They will report back children alone in the car. to the board by the end of June.

The supervisors also asked the **COLORADO** county's attorneys to look into what steps would be required to create sioners have capped the number of of which had to report sales taxes state's House-Senate Transporta- seen an increase in the so-called a commission with legal author- inmates from other municipalities Feb. 20. Most of the stores are in tion. Infrastructure and Capitals "single-pot method" of small ity rather than a purely advisory that will be housed at the county jail. body. That would probably require legislative action at the state level. dorses the three-year-old practice at

Department of Justice announced of 30 inmates at any given time from that its civil rights division would nine local municipalities. investigate treatment of mentally ill inmates in the county jail, the the subject of a lawsuit filed by five **Regional Planning Commission**. Los Angeles Times reported.

• SAN DIEGO COUNTY will give out 1,944 child car seats to low-income parents through Sep- first in the state to announce tax make up for a grant that would the responsibility for applicants' tember 2014, thanks to a \$245,500 totals from recreational marijuana have paid for professional services background checks from county grant from the California Office of sales. Traffic Safety

'Em Safe program through the producing about \$56,000 in local Administration, will also fund an only place between Denver and the Planning Commission, which process across the state and aim to education campaign, including New Mexicostate line that currently communities larger than 50,000

lation

**Audiovisual Productions** 

**Special Projects** 

Electronic Communications/

Social Media

• LOS ANGELES COUNTY lation and use of a child passenger

The request comes after the U.S. the county jail to accept a maximum **ILLINOIS** 

Denver Post the jail is too crowded.

The grant, part of OTS' Keep \$1 million in total sales in January, projects, the Pekin Times reported.

National Association of

**County Information Officers** 

Is accepting entries for

2014 Awards of Excellence Competition

presentations on the proper instal- allows recreational pot stores.

roughly \$670,000 in new tax revenue The goal of the campaign is to for his county this year, *The Pueblo* **IOWA** 

The officials will look into how to educate parents about vehicle the January pace, the county's pot complete a network of trails local such a body could be structured and safety including information on industry will make about \$11.2 mil- officials called critical to recreation, of people don't think there's meth weigh in on whether it should be air bags and the dangers of leaving lion in gross sales in 2014, almost 10 tourism, economic development here," District Attorney Kristy percent of the county's \$165 million and workforce development. total budget

> • ADAMS COUNTY commis- licensed recreational pot stores, all counties made their pitch to the county's Narcotics Task Force has DENVERCOUNTY, which hasn't Appropriations Subcommittee, batches for individual use rather The approved resolution en- vet reported its January tax haul.

TAZEWELL COUNTY joined WOODFORD and PEORIAcoun- BREMER and BUCHANAN insidiously addictive drug," he said. That limited number already is ties in bailing out the Tri-County counties. cities. Sheriff Doug Darr told *The* Contributions from Tazewell (\$100,000) Woodford (\$30,000) • **PUEBLO COUNTY** is the ness of a \$63,000 debt) have helped weapons licensing boards, shifting server Dispatch reported. Two shops had approximately ment of transportation-reimbursed State Police.

The commission serves as the

are required to have, and it serves of Supervisors is being trained The county clerk projected the to secure state and federal funding on how to stem the rising tide of

Colorado has more than 160 HAWK, LINN and JOHNSON citing the \$5.3 million their counties than sale. have already invested in the trails, according to the Sioux City Journal.

### MICHIGAN

would also decrease fees for those them and even risk their own safety National Highway Traffic Safety sales taxes. Pueblo County is the tri-county region's Metropolitan licenses, establish a uniform licensing for their pets. acceleratebackground checks, which for March 2, when demolition of are done on different schedules in a warehouse will require people different counties.

> in 1927, and under Green's bill, their to ensure that animals get to safety authority would be delegated to and have a safe place to stay until county clerks who already accept everyone can return home. applications and issue licenses.

to a county clerk's office and having tive Anthony Picente. fingerprints taken at the sheriff's office, would not change for applicants, **NORTH CAROLINA** the Bay City Times reported.

### MISSOURI

19 miles of unused rail corridor from County officials said the service the Union Pacific Railroad Co. that is intended to make the permitwill help a commuter rail system to ting process more convenient and Kansas City's eastern suburbs come less time consuming, the News & together.

The purchase price of \$59.9 million is about half of what the Union ed a purchase-permit had to visit Pacific had initially asked for the the sheriff's office in downtown property at the start of nearly two Raleigh and complete and submit years of negotiations, according to the application there. the Kansas City Star. Besides being a possible route for commuter rail plicants will still have to visit the service, the corridor has long been sheriff's office to be fingerprinted seen as key to connecting Kansas City or have their application notarized, with the Katy Trail, the cross-state "but by having already completed hiking and biking trail.

• The ESSEX COUNTY Board

### NEW YORK

methamphetamines in the county.

The county DA's office recently held a two-hour workshop to help Three eastern counties are ask- the supervisors identify, report If Pueblo's sales continue at ing the state for \$8.2 million to help and quash use of the drug in their towns, Valley News reported. "A lot Sprague said, "It's here and we just Representatives of **BLACK** have to know what to look for."

Sheriff Richard Cutting said the

"It's ... inexpensive, made right at home and creates a very, very The trails also connect to extremely addicting product, an

• A newly formed **ONEIDA COUNTY** Animal Response Team Legislation in the state Senate aims to aid people's pets during and Peoria (\$100,000 and forgive- would eliminate county concealed emergencies or disasters, the Ob-

Emergency Services Commissioner Kevin Revere said pet and front money for state depart- sheriff's offices to the Michigan owners are so committed to their animals that they sometimes refuse Republican Sen. Mike Green's bill to evacuate their homes without

> Its first big test was scheduled living within 500 to be evacuated. The licensing boards were created The team will work with pet owners

> Creating such a team has been a The process, submitting forms longtime priority of County Execu-

For a nominal fee, WAKE **COUNTY** residents can now **apply** online for pistol-purchase permits JACKSON COUNTY will buy and to carry concealed weapons. Observer reported.

Previously, someone who want-

A sheriff's spokesman said apthe necessary paperwork the process should be expedited."

See NEWS FROM page 15

great success. How can I possibly know that when this article was writtakes place? The answer is simple. It is easy to predict the future accurately when it has already taken place in the past. It is also easy to predict the future when compelling needs are evident and steps toward

a conference successful begin with our needs. Americans are, despite our tremendous national resources and national wealth, full of needs. The needy list is very long, ranging from health care to food and housing and a whole lot more.



►NACo Staff



• Jen Horton, program manager, County Solutions and Innovation, presented "Enhancing Volunteer Support for Local Restoration Initiatives" at the Social Coast Forum in Charleston County, S.C. Feb. 19. Horton also moderated "Entrepreneurship in Rural Places" at the 2014 New Partners for Smart Growth Conference in Denver County, Colo. Feb. 14.

### Coming Up



Palicz

### **Contest Rules** Categories The 2014 NACIO Awards of Excellence Competition covers projects produced and/or distributed from Annual Reports January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2013. Brochures, Multiple-Page Booklets Entries must be received by April 18, 2014. Each entry must be accompanied by an official entry form and Publications payment. The official entry form may be photocopied Writing NACIO Awards Submission Fees are \$35 per entry/pe each category for current, active NACIO members, Graphic Design through March 31, and \$50 per entry from April 1-18. Photography

there are extenuating circumstances and the awards chair agrees to accept the entries. For non-members, NACIO Awards Submission fees are

and \$65 per entry from April 1-18. No entries will be accepted after April 18, 2014. For a complete listing of rules, visit the NACIO website

www.nacio.org | www.twitter.com/nacio66 (@nacio66)

No entries will be accepted after April 18, 2014, unless \$50 per entry/per each category through March 31,

# The H.R. Doctor Is In

# **Success Before the Fact**

a solution are likewise.

The primary ingredients to make

society and the presence — or in the U.S. ten the week before the conference omnipresence — of instant communications.

> " ... we have to recognize that state governments have to be a vital partner despite their own formidable problems.

The second element is that no for our poorest citizens to questions single branch or level of government of defense, resource stewardship, in the U.S. can effectively address economic growth, education, the needs. The national will and infrastructure decay, public safety capacity to maintain and enhance a flourishing society, especially for In fact, the list of needs was very children and grandchildren, is well

NACo on the Move

• Emilia Istrate, research director, spoke about the findings of the Municipal Bonds Build America report at AASHTO Fly-In in Washington, D.C. Feb. 27. She also briefed the staff of the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works and the House of Representatives Transportation and Infrastructure Committee on the findings of the Road Ahead: County Transportation Funding and Financing report in Washington, D.C. Feb. 27.

• **Paul Beddoe**, deputy legislative director, provided an update on federal legislation regarding health matters and how to successfully navigate lobbying at the local level at the State Government Affairs Council session in Wasington, D.C. Feb 21.



Jen Horton

• Andrew Goldschmidt, membership marketing director, will be exhibiting on behalf of membership recruitment and retention at the Iowa Association of Counties Spring School in Polk County March 13-14.

• Alex Koroknay-Palicz, membership coordinator, will be exhibiting at the Michigan Association of Counties Legislative Conference in Ingham County March 24-26.

On the Move is compiled by Christopher Johnson

struggles faced by counties, cities, number of law enforcement agen- a dysfunctional and overburdened school districts and state govern- cies and other functions. We should child welfare system. If they are ments you come away with a very even dare to ask how many separate too big to manage tiny problems, serious headache. You come away human resources departments are they are also too small to manage with a sense that for our government really necessary in particular areas strategic problems faced by America representatives to waste time pum- which may have 30 or more local and by the world. meling each other, bickering and governments? failing to look at new possibilities surely adds to the problems rather need to look at themselves in a not seem like much, especially since than effectively solving them.

especially when it involves strug- and resourceful," but we have to the United Nations. However, the gling governments, which may be recognize that state governments Legislative Conference each year entrenched in ancient and venerable have to be a vital partner despite brings representatives from a great ways of doing business that have their own formidable problems. not evolved to keep up with the States are struggling with the

ence held during the first week of NACo was founded. Today's list, mighty federal government — let counties, for example, should look they want to be when they grow March in Washington, D.C. was a however, involves more science, alone the resources of the roughly at questions like how many fire up. States are too big to effectively more complexity, a more diverse 100,000 other government entities departments can fit on the head of manage "tiny" problems, like how the pin. The same question from to care for an orphaned and im-Certainly when you consider the medieval philosophy is true for the poverished infant in what may be

> thoughtful way which the Lone there are more majestic forums for Innovation is sometimes painful, Ranger might regard as "daring addressing the world's problems like

The NACo Legislative Confer- similar indeed 79 years ago when beyond the capacity of even the changing environment. Cities and very fundamental question of what

In this context, a simple thing Not only do local governments like a legislative conference may

See H.R. DOC page 16

# Texas county innovators recognized by national technology magazine

**NEWS FROM** from page 14

### ► NORTH DAKOTA

MCKENZIE COUNTY recently hired a GIS specialist to help "catch up" on a backlog created by the **region's oil boom**. On one recent Friday, he "addressed" 50 homes in a new subdivision.

Oil patch counties are also using the technology predictively, Prairie recently took two failed votes on the offenders at higher risk of re-Business reported, "Communities or issue and planned to revisit it at a offending, commissioners can take a look at our later meeting. map server and see where some of the anticipated traffic maybe," a state **TEXAS** Department of Minerals official said, "and maybe take a look at that and where their school bus routes are or COUNTY Judge Nelson Wolff CROIX, WAUSHARA, DODGE, where some heavily impacted gravel and HARRIS COUNTY CIO TREMPEALEAU, COLUMBIA. roads (are)."

Aaron Chisholm, the GIS specialist, said, "I'm branching out to use it for everything," including water in the public sector by Government convictions after three years, and 97 pipes, voter precincts, zoning and *Technology* magazine, the only percent of TAD graduates stayed school taxing districts.

### SOUTH CAROLINA

when they could be erected.

that clusters of tents can limit their ability to patrol the beaches, The menting "many trendsetting tech (News From the Nation's Counties is ability to provide a safe environ- exclusively for emergency personnel. naco.org or cban@naco.org.)

ment on Horry County beaches," **WISCONSIN** Paul Whitten, assistant county administrator for public safety, told len has announced \$1.5 million the council.

Beach Patrol

the-box-thinking Texans: BEXAR NETTE, WAUKESHA, SAINT Bruce High.

Top 25 Doers, Dreamers & Drivers cent of TAD graduates had no new county officials to make the cut.

pioning Bexar County's Biblio Tech. The HORRY COUNTY Council Launched last September, it's touted local programs saving an average of is considering an ordinance to **ban** as "America's first bookless public \$1.93 for every \$1 invested. beach tents and canopies along library." At 4,000 square feet, it's Myrtle Beach—or restrict where or one-third the size of a traditional from \$58,303 for Trempealeau library branch and costs one-third County to \$157,609 for Walworth Law enforcement officials say the price, the magazine said.

High was honored for imple-

Attorney General J.B. Van Holin competitive grant awards to 12 Police Chief Saundra Rhodes counties and one tribe to establish said issuing and explaining tent specialty court and pre-trial diverviolations is "by far" the most the **sion projects**. The funding is part most time-consuming issue for the of the Treatment Alternatives and Diversion (TAD) program used The Myrtle Beach City Council by counties to address nonviolent

Counties receiving grants for drug courts or other TAD programs are: JEFFERSON, EAU Congratulations to two outside- CLAIRE, PIERCE, MARI-WALWORTH and KENOSHA.

They've been named among the Van Hollen's office said 81 perout of state prison after completing Wolff was singled out for cham- existing programs. The return on investment is nearly 2 to 1, with

> The grants range in amounts County

State reported. "The bottom line initiatives in Harris County" based compiled by Charles Taylor and Charlie is from a public safety perspective, on collaboration, including the 2010 Ban, staff writers. If you have an item beach tents/canopies degrade our launch of a wireless LTE network for News From, please email ctaylor@

# STATE => TO => STATE

### ★ ARKANSAS ★ NEW JERSEY ★

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

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



### Arkansas Like other states

across the country, counties in Arkansas

are dealing with aging road and bridge infrastructure, an issue the Association of Arkansas Counties (AAC) is stressing this legislative session. Arkansas's 75 counties own 66 percent of the roads and 34 percent of the bridges in the state, and of the county-owned bridges, 12 percent are rated as structurally deficient.

A recently passed half-cent sales tax goes toward funding transportation improvements, with the state receiving 70 percent of the proceeds and the cities and counties receiving 15 percent each.

"It might not be the big fix we need for transportation, but it helps out individual county road budgets," said Scott Perkins, AAC's communications director.

The Legislature meets for at least 60 days and is in the fiscal session of its two-year cycle.

proposed legislation from the Arkansas Municipal League to address stagnation in turnback blind eye could be counties' edufunding.

The turnback program, through which the state would rehabilitate to the Legislature.



COUNTY MANAGEMENT

roads and turn over responsibility to the county, has not been updated in more than 25 years.

"Other agencies have seen increases in that time, some exponentially, but the turnback has been level," Perkins said. "It's seen no AAC is also looking toward incremental increases, nor adjustments for inflation."

> The key to reversing the state's cational efforts about what they do. Not to the general public, but

some of the members might not be up to speed on what counties mean to the state, what kind of load we carry," Perkins said. "You're seeing fewer and fewer who have served in county government before the Legislature."

AAC is also pushing the Legislature to modernize processes performed by county offices, mostly in digitizing billing procedures, but also streamlining some county codes.

"There are some county clerk filing fees on the books from the 1950s," Perkins said. "Some 10 cent-per-word fees that nobody pays attention to or even knows are in there. Simplifying them and modernizing the laws clerks are supposed to follow would make it a lot easier for them to do their jobs and less confusing for citizens."

County jails are almost desperately overcrowded with state inmates, which causes two problems. Financially, the state kicks in \$28 per day per inmate, when the true daily cost of housing is roughly twice that. In addition, the mix of convicted inmates awaiting sentencing and the run-of-the-mill county jail population creates some mismatches for sheriffs' departments.

"They're not the same kind of offenders you'd expect to see in our jails," Perkins said. "They're mixing in and it's hard for deputies to identify the dynamic between two **H.R.DOC** from page 15 different jail populations."

The demand for jail beds grew in summer 2013 when an eight-time parolee was charged in the murder an 18-year-old and parole boards tightened up.

Elsewhere in public safety needs, AAC is hoping for an increase in mobile phone user fees to help make up for 911 funding losses due to the decreasing use of landlines.

counties on its mind.

The issues driving this session's agenda for New Jersey's 21 counties in January included requiring employees to receive pay through direct deposit at the county's discretion and allowing charter counties to publish ordinances by title and summary.

"Both bills have since been county, remembering how it was

and are excellent examples of New Jersey Association of Counties' (NJAC) initiatives that offer county governing bodies more administrative flexibility, as well as save valuable taxpayer dollars," said Allen A. Weston, legislative director, NJAC.

But not everything is bright for counties. New Jersey's county governments dedicate approximately 50 percent of their overall budgets to employee salaries and benefits. They face a restrictive 2 percent property tax cap levy where counties must prepare two comprehensive cap calculations, using the more restrictive one.

"Under this cap, it has been a bodies to keep up with the rapid increases in costs associated with employee health care and retirement benefits, while delivering essential services and maintaining the majority of the state's aging transportation infrastructure," Weston added.

Between the ongoing implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and New Jersey's having opted into federal Medicaid expansion, counties are hopeful that the governing bodies will soon realize *report.*)

"It's a young Legislature, and signed into law by Gov. Christie significant savings on inmate health care costs — another budget-buster for counties.

> For example, the ACA authorizes eligible individuals in custody and pending disposition of charges to enroll in a health insurance plan offered through an exchange prior to conviction; or, to maintain coverage if already enrolled.

The NJAC is currently seeking guidance or best practices from the State Department of Human Services on how to identify and enroll eligible inmates for health care coverage under a health insurance exchange and as intended under the ACA.

Additionally, the NJAC is workchallenge for county governing ing with the department to develop a program to identify and enroll Medicaid-eligible inmates in order to take advantage of Medicaid's 24-hour hospital stay exception.

"It always helps to work together, whether it's counties with each other or the Legislature," Weston said. "The focus will continue to be how we can benefit our counties."

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

# Common issues, camaraderie drive conference experience

together in a spirit of camaraderie, recognition of common issues, and unity in seeking cooperation with other levels of government – especially our Washington. D.C. friends. This recognition of worth creating and attending the conference.

There is likely another important factor — one involving remembering. Many members of Congress used to be local government elected officials. It is very easy in the conference ahead (as I write the somewhat science fiction-like these words) be anything but wellenvironment of Washington, perhaps hundreds or thousands of miles from home, to see the world differently over time. It becomes more likely that many members will forget some of the core values that should not be forgotten. These are values such as remembering what it's like back in your small city or

many of America's 3,069 counties when you were looking for your first job, or serving in the military, or fighting a serious illness. These forms of background commonality shared by most of the people who will attend or be guests at the conference need to override our common interests is vital and well current tendencies toward partisanship, infighting, and congressional sumo wrestling. They need to be the focus of our attention as good citizens and as good stewards of public service.

> All this being said, how can organized by NACo's strong and competent staff? How can it not be an event which attendees will remember throughout all the years of their public service?

- Ka (Qm

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# Good employees are crucial to getting the job done!

Through Jobs Online, NACo provides a method for counties to find the right person to fill that key vacancy. Job seekers can also find this section very helpful.

www.naco.org/programs/jobsonline



The New Jersey State Legislature reconvened in 2014 with

**New Jersev**