

Sex trafficking a growing problem for large counties

NACo survey shows two-year increase in 40 percent of urban counties

By CHARLES TAYLOR
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

It's hard to not grow up feeling "dirty" and "disgusting" when all you've known at home is abuse — emotional and physical — and sexual exploitation from the age of 3 to 12 years old.

That's what happened to Jessica M., a Los Angeles County woman, now 29, who escaped the hell of human sex trafficking and became an advocate for girls trying to break free.

"Girls are abused at home and run to the streets desperate for love and attention or even sometimes for basic needs like shelter and food," she said.

A new NACo survey report, *The Problem of Human Sex Trafficking in America*, tells in data the story of the "Jessicas" in counties across

the United States. It found that sex trafficking involving children age 18 and younger is a growing problem, especially in large, urban counties such as L.A. — those with populations of 250,000 or more.

Eighty-six percent of larger counties said human sex trafficking is a "major" or "minor" problem. Forty-eight percent said it is a "major" problem.

Among smaller counties, those

Legislation on sexual exploitation, foster care advances

By MARILINA SANZ
SENIOR LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

The House Ways and Means and Judiciary committees approved four bills regarding youth in foster care and sex trafficking by unanimous votes April 29 and 30.

Three of the bills are of particular interest to counties: Preventing Sex Trafficking and Improving Opportunities for Youth in Foster Care (H.R. 4058, Ways and Means), the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act (H.R. 3530, Judiciary) and Stop Exploitation through Trafficking Act (H.R. 3610, Judiciary). The expectation is that the four bills



Photo courtesy of Escambia County, Fla.

This damaged neighborhood is another casualty of flooding that inundated the Escambia County, Fla. jail, prior to its explosion April 30. The blast killed two inmates and injured more than 100 jail staff and other inmates. The remaining 600 inmates were transferred to jails elsewhere in the county or nearby Santa Rosa County. Escambia County received up to 23 inches of rain on April 29, flooding the jail's basement, which had previously flooded in 2012. The county is working on a long-term plan for housing displaced inmates.

Proposed GROW AMERICA Act could modernize transportation policy

By JESSICA MONAHAN
ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) introduced the GROW AMERICA Act, the Obama Administration's proposed federal surface transportation reauthorization bill. The current transportation funding law, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21), is set to expire at the end of September.

The Administration's bill, introduced April 29, would replace MAP-21 by providing a four-year authorization of federal highway, transit and rail programs at an increased funding level of \$302 billion.

MAP-21 passed Congress in the summer of 2012, providing a two-year authorization of federal surface transportation programs with essentially level funding (a total of \$105 billion for FY13 and FY14). The programs authorized

by MAP-21 are primarily funded through the Highway Trust Fund, which collects revenue from the federal motor fuels tax.

The Administration proposes funding the programs with current revenue plus \$150 billion in one-time transition revenue from business tax reform.

Similarly, in February, House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Dave Camp (R-Mich.) released his tax reform proposal, which included \$126.5 billion in dedicated revenue to cover the Highway Trust Fund for eight years (at current spending and gas tax levels). The trust fund revenue identified in Camp's proposal would be raised by a new two-tiered tax on repatriated overseas funds.

Of particular interest to counties, the bill would:

- provide increased funding for federal surface transportation programs, including \$199 billion for

highway and road safety programs, an increase of about 22 percent above FY14 enacted levels, and

CountyNews Features

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



Preparedness speeds county response to Arkansas tornadoes
➤ Page 7

National County Government month is over, but good memories linger
➤ Page 2

Counties in Southwest stung by illegal immigration's costs
➤ Page 2

Want to serve on a NACo committee? Here's how ➤ Page 4

Counties get creative with NCGM activities



Photo courtesy of Mobile County, Ala.

Commission President Connie Hudson, Mobile County, Ala., reads to first graders at E.R. Dickson Elementary School as part of the county's National County Government Month outreach.

By CHARLIE BAN
STAFF WRITER

Summit County, Utah knew to get them hooked early.

What better way to get its young residents familiar with county government than to involve its children, who would talk about it to anyone who will listen? An effective way to spread the word that county government is something special.

That's one of the goals of National County Government Month (NCGM), as it has been celebrated in counties across the country during April since 1991, and more than 100 counties participated in 2014 with programs, proclamations and promotional efforts.

Summit County distributed an essay question to every fourth grader in the school system: What can I do to prepare myself and

my family for an emergency? This year's NCGM theme was Ready and Resilient Counties: Prepare. Respond. Thrive. in keeping with NACo President Linda Langston's yearlong resiliency initiative.

The six winners, chosen by County Manager Bob Jasper, were deputized as honorary fire chiefs and sheriff's deputies. Kennedy Heavrin, one of the winners, was described by her mother as feeling

like a queen for a day when she was sworn in, a memorable experience for the family.

NACo encouraged members to spend the month focusing on outreach and education about what counties do and how residents can participate in county government. Throughout April, counties engaged their residents by publicizing their special events on social media, like Twitter (hashtag #NCGM) and Facebook, and traditional news media outlets.

Phelps County, Mo. recognized the occasion by holding five commission meetings in different towns throughout the county.

"We call it the dog-and-pony show," said County Clerk Carol Bennett. "It's not just the County Commission — all of the county officials get out there and meet the public."

Pitt County, N.C. officials appeared on a local television news station on Wednesday afternoons to explain how their departments help

the county advance. They included the county manager, sheriff, public health director, development commission director and emergency management director.

The California State Association

See NCGM page 11

Costs mount for counties as immigration reform languishes

By CHARLES TAYLOR
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

In Deep South Texas, Brooks County officials are seeing one of the seldom-mentioned consequences of a broken immigration system all too often.

Chief Deputy Benny Martinez recalls the sheriff's office receiving a 911 call: A woman, lost in a remote area of the 944-square mile county — her husband gravely ill.

It's dark and the wife, an undocumented immigrant, doesn't know where she is. Her cell phone is dying. The only advice the sheriff's office can give is to turn off her phone, to conserve its battery, and call back after daybreak, when she could, perhaps, identify a landmark. Morning came too late. The man had died amid the scrubby brush land.

His was one of the 300 bodies to be recovered in the last three years, Martinez said, and the county of

7,200 — one of the poorest in the state — must "eat" the associated costs. It does not touch the Mexican border, but is one county, Hidalgo, removed.

"It's difficult in the sense that it creates a hardship on the office because not only do we have to process those bodies, as mandated by law, but we also still have everything else that comes along with it," Martinez said, "whether notifying family members or family members calling in from various states throughout the U.S. or countries, whether it be from central America or Mexico"

While immigration reform is stalled in Congress, Brooks and other border and near-border counties find themselves caught in the middle of a seemingly unresolvable dilemma.

In 2013, the sheriff's office

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Tweeting NCGM

Throughout April, and earlier, counties nationwide took to the "Twitterverse" to tout their National County Government activities and celebrations. Here's a small sampling.

• **Fulton County Georgia @FultonInfo Apr 23**

learning about emergency preparedness with @AFCEMA team at the Fulton Government Center #NCGM pic.twitter.com/m4RTWNPu4q

• **Durham County, NC @DurhamCounty Apr 23**

Our experts for today's chat are Durham County's Emergency Medical Services Director & Public Health Preparedness Coordinator #AskDCo #NCGM

• **Lake County IL Gov @LakeCountyIL Apr 2**

Visit the @AlertLakeCounty website to learn how to prepare and respond to emergencies. #NCGM <http://ow.ly/viHw1>

• **Linn County, IA @LinnCounty Apr 1**

April is National County Government Month. See Why Counties Matter in this short video <http://youtu.be/PVRpCxx-6ls> #NCGM

• **Liberty County Ga @libertycounty Mar 31**

Celebrate National County Government Month with Liberty County during April! #NCGM <http://fb.me/6HVVDE9rS>

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Quick Takes

MOST MEDICALLY UNINSURED (UNDER 65)

Miami-Dade County, Fla. ... 743,689
(34% of population)

Dallas County, Texas. 661,690
(31% of population)

Harris County, Texas. 1.1 mil
(29% of population)

Los Angeles County, Calif. ... 2.2 mil
(25% of population)

Cook County, Ill. 852,369
(19% of population)

2011 U.S. Census Data

Non-border counties see stress from handling undocumented immigrants

spent more than \$155,000 out of its \$615,000 budget on transport, autopsies and fees related to migrant death investigations.

Martinez said there is no federal aid to help — which the letter was requesting — and the county's

budget is already stressed. Last fall, elected officials and the sheriff took 10 percent pay cuts; other county employees were cut 3 percent.

County officials wrote members of their congressional delegation in December in a cry for help.

"It is now a daily practice for the Brooks County Sheriff's Department

to respond to stranded, vulnerable, weak and many times deceased immigrants in the punishing desert-like terrain of Brooks County," County Judge Raul Ramirez wrote in a letter, signed by all four members of the Commissioners Court.

In another non-border county, Pinal County, Ariz., the county Board of Supervisors has put the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) on 100-day notice that it will cease to house ICE detainees unless payments to house them can be increased.

The existing *per diem* of \$59.64 was agreed upon in 2006, according to county officials, but it's been a money-losing proposition ever since — costing approximately \$3.5 million a year.

County Manager Greg Stanley, who was not county manager at the time the deal was inked, said the true cost of housing ICE detainees is closer to \$75 per day.

"We'd still like to come to an agreement," Stanley said, "and locally we have a really good relationship with the local ICE office." The county is open to continuing negotiations. But if a deal can't be worked out, he foresees "pretty

significant" staff cuts.

Southeast of Pinal County, Cochise County — an actual border county — has seen its first-responder resources strained by illegal-immigration-related duties.

"We're pretty much a pass-through community here," said Bill Miller, fire district chief and chair of the Cochise County EMS Association. Fire districts in the county, funded by local taxes, are absorbing the costs of responding to undocumented immigrants.

"They come over the Huachuca Mountains and they figure it's a shortcut into the large cities such as Tucson and Phoenix," he said. "In reality it's not." On the mountain, nighttime temperatures can dip below freezing; in daylight hours the mercury can top 100 degrees.

Miller said smugglers knows as "coyotes" often mislead their human cargo into thinking they are being dropped off closer to big cities than they actually are. "Sometimes they just abandon them; they just drop them off and say, see those lights? That's Phoenix."

In a group of "20, 40, 50" immigrants, if some lag behind because of age or medical problems, the rest

of the group will leave them behind.

"So what will end up happening is that they get distressed," he said, "and they'll try to find their way down through the mountain or they find a hiker; they'll call for assistance. And that's where your EMS providers, our fire department providers will have to call out our tactical rescue teams to go up there and remove them from the mountain."

Such rescues can take several hours even up to half a day, he said, depending on their complexity.

"Border patrol will assist us in getting them off the hill; they're very cooperative about that, but they're not placing them into custody," Miller said. "We'll transport them into to the hospital, and typically what ends up happening, we eat the transport cost," which can run to \$1,500 per ambulance trip — much higher if a medevac helicopter is involved.

"Our best-case scenario would be, we'd like to get reimbursed from the federal government, and our federal government charges the Mexican government," he said. "It's beyond me how they would do that."

In Case You Missed It

News to Use From Past County News

► Hot Topics: Mental Health Services now available

Missed the latest issue of Hot Topics in *County News*? Visit www.countynews.org and click on "Hot Topics" to download the latest edition on counties and mental health services.

► BJA grant to provide funding for counties to improve pretrial justice systems

The Bureau of Justice Assistance seeks applications by May 27 for its Smart Pretrial Demonstration Initiative, an opportunity for counties to improve their pretrial justice systems. NACo, partnering with the BJA and Pre-trial Justice Institute, will present an informational video available at <http://youtu.be/bzcRTmJOCCw> and will host a Q&A session May 6.

For more information, visit www.bja.gov/Funding/14SmartPretrialSol.pdf or contact Kathy Rowings at krowings@naco.org or 202.942.4279.

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MEMORANDUM

TO: NACo Members
FROM: Riki Hokama, First Vice President
RE: 2014–2015 Presidential Leadership and Committee Appointments



Looking ahead to my year as NACo president, I want to take this opportunity to let you know about the appointments that I will have the privilege of making to NACo's leadership team. These appointments are for one to three year terms and membership on some of these committees has specific requirements. Following are the appointments along with the qualifications required for each.

Steering Committee Leadership

The 10 steering committees will each have a leadership team consisting of a chair, an appropriate number

of vice-chairs, and subcommittee chairs and vice-chairs. Those applicants who have been active members of the steering committee will be given preference in consideration for these appointments. The applicant should be willing to help coordinate leadership conference calls, develop the meeting agendas, and testify before Congress if necessary. These appointments are for one year.

RAC and LUCC Caucus Steering Committee Leadership and Members

The Rural Action Caucus Steering Committee and the Large Urban

County Caucus Steering Committee will each have a chair and an appropriate number of vice-chairs and committee members. Applicants who have been active members of these caucuses will be given preference in consideration for these appointments. These appointments are for one year.

At-Large Appointments to the NACo Board of Directors

Each president appoints 10 at-large directors to the NACo Board of Directors for a one-year term. These appointments are to add balance to the board with respect to any inequities between urban and rural, gender, geography and minority representation. As with our communities, our strength is in our diversity. These appointments are for one year.

Standing Committees

The Standing committees take direction from and report directly to the Officers:

- **Finance Committee** advises the Officers on the annual budget of the association before it is presented to the Board of Directors and provides oversight on other financial issues as directed by the Officers. (Appoints three members for a three-year term with a background in finance and/or investment.)
- **Information Technology Committee** advises the Officers on information technology issues and provides oversight on NACo information technology projects. (Appoints the chair, two vice chairs, and 22 members for a one-year term.)
- **Programs and Services Committee** advises the Officers regarding the development and evaluation of programs and services for NACo members. (Appoints the chair for a one-year term and eight members for three-year terms. Selects one or two vice-chairs from the membership of the committee.)
- **Membership Committee** actively recruits and retains member counties, parishes and boroughs in order to increase NACo's total membership. (Appoints the chair and vice-chairs for a one-year term.)

Ad Hoc Committees

The Ad Hoc committees are as follows:

- **NACo Defined Contribution**

and Retirement Advisory Committee provides oversight to the NACo Deferred Compensation Program, administered by Nationwide Retirement Solutions. (Appoints the chair for a one-year term and five members for a three-year term) from participating entities in the NACo Deferred Compensation Program and who are also Program participants.) In 2014, the open slots are for two appointed county officials and three elected county officials.

• NACo Financial Services Center Advisory Committee

helps to administer existing programs such as U.S. Communities, the Public Finance Authority, defined contribution and post-employment health plans and develop new programs that deliver value-added services, enhanced benefits and reduced costs to counties. (Appoints nine members for a one-year, renewable term, as follows: county executive or manager; county finance officer; county purchasing agent; two state association executives; NACo First Vice President; and three county elected officials.)

• **Arts and Culture Commission** demonstrates how the arts can be used by county officials to promote economic development and provide solutions to many of the challenges that they face, through workshop sessions, field trips and special publications. (Appoints the chair, vice-chair and 25 members for a one-year term.)

• **Cybersecurity Task Force** educates NACo member counties about the scope of the cyber security problem and provide resources, information and programming to address the emerging threat. (Appoints the chair and vice chair for a one-year term.)

• **Essential County Technology Subcommittee** identifies technologies that are essential to county government operations and works to find ways to provide these technologies to county governments that don't have them, such as having larger counties provide smaller counties with shared services. (Appoints the chair and two vice chairs for a one-year term.)

• **Geospatial Information Systems Subcommittee** provides geospatial technical advice to NACo Officers and steering committees, provides geospatial policy guidance to the Telecommunications and Technology Steering Committee, and serves as geospatial subject matter experts to all county officials and staff. (Appoints the chair and vice-chair for a one-year term.)

• **Green Government Advisory Board** provides information, guidance and support to the NACo Green Government Initiative. (Appoints the chair, vice-chair(s) and members.)

• **Healthy Counties Advisory Board** provides information, guidance and support to the NACo Healthy Counties Initiative. (Appoints the chair, vice-chair(s) and members.)

• **Immigration Task Force** educates Congress, the administration and NACo members on the impact of immigration on counties and helps advocate for NACo's priorities. (Appoints chair, vice chairs and members. Appointments are for one year.)

• **International Economic Development Task Force** provides information, guidance and support for international economic development activities. (Appoints the chair and vice-chair(s).)

• **Veterans and Military Services Committee** engages NACo and its members to develop and highlight county best practices and policies to promote innovative programs, services and benefits for our nation's military, veterans and their families. (Appoints the chair, vice chairs and members.)

The Presidential Appointments Application Form must be completed by everyone who wants to be considered for a leadership or committee appointment on a standing or ad hoc committee for the 2014–2015 presidential year. The application form is now available online at NACo's website, www.naco.org.

The deadline for submitting your application is **Friday, June 6**. I look forward to receiving your application.

Please direct any questions you may have to Karen McRunnel at 202.942.4238 or by email at kmc-runne@naco.org.

Steering Committee Membership

IMPORTANT: Steering Committee Membership is not a part of this application process.

The NACo President appoints only the steering committee leadership. The State Associations of Counties are responsible for nominating general steering committee members.

To become a member of a steering committee you must contact your state association directly and they will submit a nomination form for you to NACo. Please complete an online application if you are interested in being considered for a presidential appointment to any committees or to the NACo Board of Directors.

STEERING COMMITTEE EXCEPTION: LUCC and RAC

The president appoints the membership of these steering committees as well as the leadership. They are included in the appointment application.

Profiles in Service



Todd McGee

NACo Board of Directors
 Public Relations Director
 North Carolina Association of County Commissioners

Number of years active in NACo: 12

Years in public service: staff member for North Carolina Association of County Commissioners – 13 years

Occupation: public relations director, North Carolina Association of County Commissioners; president, National Association of County Information Officers (NACIO)

Education: B.A. – communications, North Carolina State University

The hardest thing I've ever done: raise four children

Three people (living or dead) I'd invite to dinner: Abraham Lincoln, George Washington and Tom Hanks.

A dream I have is to: play in the World Series of Poker.

You'd be surprised to learn that: I play the piano.

The most adventurous thing I've ever done is: backpacked through Europe one summer in college.

My favorite way to relax is: watch television and surf the Internet.

I'm most proud of: my four children.

Every morning I read: my email.

My favorite meal is: lasagna.

My pet peeve is: people who don't put on their turn signal when turning.

My motto is: "If whatever you're doing isn't fun, then do something else."

My favorite movie is: *Roman Holiday* (Gregory Peck/Audrey Hepburn version).

My favorite music is: classic Rock-n-Roll ('70s) and New Wave ('80s).

My favorite President is: Abraham Lincoln. An amazing leader for a tumultuous time.

Administration bill would put some transportation needs on 'FAST' track

\$72 billion for transit systems and expanded transportation options, a nearly 70 percent increase above FY14 enacted levels

- establish an Infrastructure Permitting Improvement Center, housed at U.S. DOT designed to reduce project delivery time by coordinating interagency action, supporting innovative pilots, and providing tools, training and technical assistance

- prevent new Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) from being designated within metropolitan statistical areas already served by an existing MPO and require coordinated planning and performance target-setting in those areas already served by multiple MPOs

- authorize the secretary of transportation to identify a subset of MPOs serving areas of 200,000 and above as "higher performing MPOs" based on a set of established criteria. Those MPOs would then qualify for a 50 percent increase in suballocated funds from the Surface Transportation and Transportation Alternatives

programs. States would also be required to suballocate obligation authority to all MPOs representing areas with populations of 200,000 or more, on an annual basis, which would be available for four years. In addition, the high performing MPOs would receive an amount of obligation authority distributed to the states for federal-aid highways and highway safety construction programs.

- provide funding for two new discretionary programs through DOT, including \$1.25 billion for a TIGER-like program and \$1 billion for a program called the Fixing and Accelerating Surface Transportation (or FAST) program. The FAST program is to be modeled after the Department of Education's Race to the Top and would award funding to a states, tribes or MPOs to spur the adoption of bold, innovative strategies and best practices in transportation. Twenty-five percent of the FAST funds would be set-aside for the higher performing MPOs. While local governments would be eligible applicants under the TIGER program, they would have to partner with the state or MPO in order to receive funding

SpeedRead » » »

- » Would replace MAP-21 by providing a four-year authorization for federal highway, transit and rail programs
- » Bill focuses on increasing federal investments while providing new resources and incentives for local governments



federal investments, while also providing new resources and incentives for local governments," said NACo President Linda Langston, supervisor, Linn County, Iowa. "With the pending insolvency of the federal Highway Trust Fund and expiration of MAP-21, we're encouraged by the renewed attention by the Administration and key transportation leaders in Congress."

The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee is expected to be the next to release its bill, with the House following a goal of introducing legislation in the late spring or early summer.

In April, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee leadership announced their plan to provide a six-year bill that would authorize highway and transit programs at current funding levels, plus inflation. With current Highway Trust Fund projections, even level funding will not be possible without congressional action to fix the trust fund's solvency.

NACo continues to advocate for county priorities in MAP-21 reauthorization, including increased investment in locally owned infrastructure in local areas of all sizes.

Investments Program, to reduce the number of structurally deficient bridges on the interstate system, target safety investments on non-state-owned roads, and support a state of good repair on the National Highway System

- add a discretionary component under the Bus and Bus Facilities program, under which projects would be competitively selected for funding, and

- amend the urbanized area transit formula (5307) program to allow general public demand-response service operators in large urbanized areas to use Section 5307 funds for operating assistance.

"We're pleased the administration's bill focuses on increasing

from the FAST program.

- make changes to the TIFIA (Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act) program, which would include defining a "rural infrastructure project" as a "surface transportation infrastructure project located outside of a Census Bureau-defined urbanized area." It would also give the secretary of transportation the authority to use up to \$5 million from the program to assist with the TIFIA-related fees collected from the sponsors of small projects (projects with eligible costs not exceeding \$75 million) — these fees are typically between \$300,000–\$500,000

- establish a Critical Immediate

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Past two years show rise in minor sex trafficking in 40% of large counties

with populations of 50,000 to 249,999, half said it is a major or minor problem. Four hundred county sheriff's offices and police departments were surveyed by telephone April 9–21.

In the past two years, 40 percent of large counties said sex trafficking has increased, while 51 percent said it has stayed the same. Counties with

populations from 50,000 to 249,999 reported an 11 percent increase, while 77 percent said it had not changed.

"This is a difficult problem for many of our larger counties," said Matt Chase, NACo executive director. "Counties like Los Angeles County and others are making a major effort to help the victims and deal with this problem. It is a community, economic and moral issue that has

long-term effects on the children that are impacted by it."

The Polaris Project, in a recent report — *Human Trafficking Trends in the United States* — found that from 2007 to 2012, cases of human trafficking were reported in all 50 states, based on victim calls to the National Human Trafficking Resource Center hotline. More than 42 percent were about sex trafficking incidents; the traffickers were most often male U.S.

citizens victimizing young adult or minor females.

L.A. County Board of Supervisors Chairman Don Knabe presented the results of the NACo survey at the

National Press Club April 29, as he stood between Jessica and Rep. Ted Poe (R-Texas), who has sponsored

See **TRAFFICKING** page 7



Photo by Sylvia Johnson

Supervisor Don Knabe, chairman, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, shows the prototype for his county's transit signage to raise awareness of sex trafficking. Jessica M., a former victim, is to his right.

Bills protect minors from sexual abuse

will be bundled into one package for floor action.

H.R. 4058 makes several changes to data-gathering and state plans for children under the responsibility of the state, including:

- procedures to train caseworkers to determine appropriate action for children believed to be victims or at-risk of being victims of sex trafficking
- identify, document and report victims of sex trafficking to law enforcement within 24 hours and
- state plan requirements to locate and respond to children who run away from foster care; and submit data on the annual aggregate number of children of foster children who are victims of sex trafficking.

The bill also restricts the option known as "Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement" (APPLA) by eliminating it for children under 16 and adding new "case plan" requirements for children over 16. APPLA covers children for whom it's been determined that adoption,

family reunification, guardianship or placement with a relative is in the best interests of the child. Counties who are responsible for administering the federal foster care program would have to meet these requirements.

H.R. 3530 creates a victim-centered child human trafficking program in the U.S. Department of Justice. State, county and city governments can apply for the block grants. The new program would be funded by fines imposed on individuals convicted of human trafficking, sexual abuse and related crimes. The grants may be used for a variety of functions, including:

- specialized training for state, county and city government agencies such as law enforcement, first responders, juvenile justice personnel and child welfare and health care officials
- establishing or enhancing dedicated anti-trafficking law enforcement units
- dedicated anti-trafficking prosecution units
- establishing child human traf-

ficking victim safety assistance and relocation programs

- collaborative efforts among child welfare agencies, law enforcement, housing agencies and organizations serving trafficking victims

- assist in the development of state and local laws to prohibit, investigate and prosecute acts of human trafficking and

- implement and provide education on safe harbor laws aimed at preventing the criminalization and prosecution of child sex trafficking victims for prostitution offenses.

H.R. 3610 mandates states to enact safe harbor laws within three years that treat minors engaged in commercial sex acts as victims rather than criminals and encourages diverting them to child protective services. States that fail to comply could lose Byrne Justice Assistance Funds. NACo policy encourages counties to treat these youth as victims, and many counties and state legislatures are already considering this type of legislation.

Human Trafficking Trends in the United States

Statistics from the National Human Trafficking Resource Center hotline (2007 - 2012) polarisproject.org/traffickingtrends



65,557 calls
5,251 emails
1,735 online tip forms

72,543
total interactions

9,298
cases of potential human trafficking

Top 3 Sex Trafficking Industries

1. Pimp-controlled prostitution (hotels/motels, streets, etc)
2. Commercial-front brothels
3. Escort service/Delivery services

Top Labor Trafficking Industries

1. Domestic labor
2. Restaurant/Food service
3. Peddling ring
4. Travelling sales crew

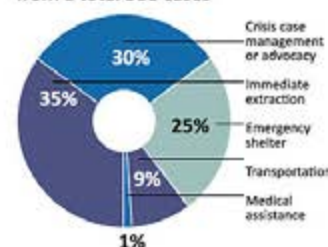
41% of sex trafficking cases and **20%** of labor trafficking cases referenced U.S. citizens as victims



Top 10 Child Trafficking Industries

1. Pimp-controlled prostitution
2. Peddling rings
3. Pornography
4. Escort service/Delivery service
5. Commercial-front brothel
6. Residential brothel
7. Traveling sales crew
8. Domestic work
8. Restaurant/Food service
9. Personal sexual servitude
10. Hostess/Strip club

Services Requested by Survivors in Crisis Cases from a total 588 cases



Primary Language of Survivors Contacting the Hotline

1. English
2. Spanish
3. Tagalog
4. Amharic
5. Russian
6. Korean
7. Mandarin
8. Arabic
9. Portuguese
10. Cantonese

These statistics are based on aggregate data collected from the NHTRC hotline between Dec. 7, 2007 and Dec. 31, 2012. All hotline interactions are confidential.

Contact us: 1-888-373-7888 | Send a text: BeFree (233733)
traffickingresourcecenter.org | nhtc@polarisproject.org

POLARIS PROJECT
FOR A WORLD WITHOUT SLAVERY

County braced for tornado after years of disasters

By CHARLIE BAN
STAFF WRITER

When a tornado tore 42 miles through north-central Arkansas in late April, Faulkner County was ready to respond, thanks to a series of disasters, including another tornado, over the last three years. The tornado was one of an outbreak of seven over four days in the central and southern states that lead to at least 35 deaths.

“We’d been having weekly disaster preparedness meetings for the last year for just this kind of event,” said David Hogue, the county attorney and public information officer. “As much as we complained having those meetings once a week, we were prepared because of that. We’d been ready for months.”

The April 27 tornado’s north-western path took it through the two sites of recent disasters — Mayflower, where crude oil



Photo courtesy of the National Weather Service

A strip mall in Vilonia, Faulkner County, Ark. was gutted by an April 27 tornado that killed 11 and destroyed 328 homes.

spilled out of a ruptured pipeline in 2013; and Vilonia, site of another tornado three years and two days before. That twister claimed four lives.

The Mayflower oil spill, shortly into then-recently appointed County Judge Allen Dodson’s tenure, prompted him to prioritize disaster planning.

“We were in that frame of mind,” he said. “We were dealing with the oil spill in our own county and then the Moore, Oklahoma tornadoes happened (killing 24 people in May 2013). That naturally led to thoughts that something like that could happen anywhere” — and it had already in Faulkner County.”

As of May 1, 328 homes in the county were destroyed and President Obama had approved a disaster declaration for the county. The National Weather

L.A. County focuses on education, outreach to combat sex trafficking

legislation to stiffen penalties on human traffickers, the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act, H.R. 3530.

Poe said this is a federal issue because girls are moved across state lines or can be marketed on the

Internet, and Jessica bore witness. “This story is not unique to me or to Los Angeles County,” she said, “in fact, I was trafficked from Hollywood, California to Hollywood, Florida, in Arizona, Nevada, Texas and even right across from the White House....

In big cities and small towns and truck stops in between.” Knabe said three years ago, he was briefed by two county probation department staffers about a growing issue occurring “right in our own backyard.” Girls as young as 12 years old were being bought

and sold on the streets of Los Angeles County for sex, he said. And many were no strangers to human services and programs or the courts.

The survey found a link between sex trafficking and minor children who have been in the foster care system, group homes or involved in child-abuse cases. Sixty-two percent of large counties said there is a strong or somewhat strong link.

“We have certainly seen this in Los Angeles County,” Knabe said, “where last year over 80 percent of minors brought in on prostitution charges were already known to us, either through our foster care or juvenile justice systems. Clearly much more must be done to identify vulnerable minors and put prevention programs in place.”

Advocates say that while pimps and their clients are the groups most often arrested for sex trafficking — in the larger counties, 43 percent of sellers and 23 percent of purchasers respectively, according to the survey — far too many minor children (even though only 13 percent of those arrested) are being taken into custody.

“We have to change the mindset in this country,” Poe said, “to treat these victims as victims and not child prostitutes, and not just treat them as runaways and throwaways and stowaways.

“They are victims of crime. And we need to rescue them.”

A safe harbor law to prohibit

prosecuting minors for prostitution also appears to be needed. Thirty-six percent of counties surveyed said their states do not have a law, and 38 percent said they do not know if there is a law.

The counties surveyed indicated that providing a safe shelter or transitional housing is needed to combat sex trafficking and help its child victims:

- To combat human sex trafficking, 62 percent of counties said that funding to provide a safe shelter where victims can receive comprehensive support and rehabilitation services is what is most needed.

- 48 percent said stiffer penalties for sellers are necessary.

- 33 percent said stiffer penalties for purchasers should be instituted.

With all the stigma sex-trafficked girls and women face, Jessica ended her remarks with a plea. “Please don’t call me or any of these young girls prostitutes; we already feel enough guilt and shame,” she said. “The danger of referring to exploited children as prostitutes gives a person the perception that consent was involved. Trust me, no 12 year old would ever, ever in life choose this particular type of life.”

Today, Jessica is a member of the L.A. County’s STAR Court team, assisting police when young children are rescued from the streets. She’s currently working on a degree in sociology and hopes to become a probation officer.

Bus cards, billboards, courts fight exploitation of children

Supervisor Don Knabe outlined at the news conference on April 29 the actions and programs that Los Angeles County, Calif. is taking to combat sex trafficking of children under the age of 18. The efforts began with raising awareness. Additional action has focused on creating a video, establishing a special court and pursuing legislative remedies. Here’s what has been done:

- More than two years ago, the county launched a campaign to post information, in English and Spanish, about sexually trafficked youth on all 3,000 Metro buses, rail cars, trains, and at stations, and on all Metrolink trains to raise awareness about the problem.

- The county recently launched a follow-up campaign focusing on the young victims. The county used a campaign that was created by Alameda County, Calif. and adapted for its use.

- The private sector has supported both campaigns. Clear Channel and Lamar Advertising have donated hundreds of billboards.

- A video, titled *Manipulated*, was created to tell the story of child sex trafficking through the eyes of a survivor and an undercover officer. The video has had over 62,000 hits on the county’s website and has been viewed in 171 countries.

- Using a federal grant, the county has trained more than 5,000 people, including judges, attorneys, community partners, county staff and other stakeholders who regularly come in contact with victims.

- The federal grant also enabled the county to create a Collaborative Court to focus specifically on the victims of child sex trafficking. Through the court, the county provides the victims with a response team to help them with their physical and mental health issues, and to support them with housing, education and training services.

- The county hosted two of the first-ever national Empowerment Conferences for the victims and at-risk girls to help them overcome their challenges, heal their wounds and look toward the future.

- The county developed a curriculum, “My Life, My Choice,” that is being used by probation agencies. The hope is to have it become part of the curriculum in select middle schools where exploitation is highest.

- Earlier this year, Knabe joined a bipartisan group of California state legislators to support a “War on Child Sex Trafficking” legislation package. This legislation will change the way sex buyers will be prosecuted and punished in California, including longer jail time and increased fines.

NOBCO marks decades of economic development focus

By **DARIA DANIEL**
ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

The National Organization of Black County Officials (NOBCO), a NACo affiliate, held its 30th Annual Economic Development Conference in Shelby County, Tenn. and Tunica County, Miss., April 23–27.

NOBCO Chairman Roy C. Brooks, commissioner Tarrant County, Texas, noted that the conference theme, “The Grass is Greener Where You Water It,” reflects the need — in a challenging economic climate — to find solutions that will nurture businesses and improve conditions of the nation’s local communities.

Featured speakers included White House officials U.S. Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx and Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy at the Shelby County administration building.

“In terms of the way forward,” Brooks told County News, “both Secretary Foxx and Administrator McCarthy were pleased with the progress of the sustainable communities initiatives which brings HUD, DOT and EPA together to fast-track local projects, to cut down some of the red tape that is involved in dealing with three agencies indi-

vidually instead of three agencies in collaboration.

“That’s something that continues to work well for counties, and we’re very pleased that there is renewed emphasis on that way of doing business.”

The Administration officials also discussed their visions on transportation reauthorization, and water and climate change issues, respectively. Keynote luncheon speakers included U.S. Rep. Emanuel Cleaver (D-Mo.) and former Shelby County Judge Joe Brown of television fame.

“We also discussed economic development in our neighborhoods — How do we grow our small businesses? How do we make sure that our educational system is A-1?” said Justin Ford, Shelby County commissioner and conference host, “because at the end of the day, if you have a poor educational system, there’s no way that you could attract some of the Fortune 500 companies here to make sure that people are going to be able to work. Education and workforce development go hand in hand, and those two issues were debated consistently here in Shelby County.” Supervisor Roderick Woullard, Forrest County, Miss., served as co-host of the conference.

Breakout sessions at the NOBCO



Photo by Daria Daniel

NOBCO Chairman Roy C. Brooks, commissioner, Tarrant County, Texas, is flanked by (l-r) NACo President Linda Langston, supervisor, Linn County, Iowa, and NOBCO Board Member Loretta Smith, commissioner, Multnomah County, Ore.

conference included the following: career opportunities for youths, held at Soulsville Charter School in Memphis; smart juvenile justice, moderated by NACo Immediate Past President Chris Rodgers; com-

munity benefit agreements; broadband and financial management.

Also attending were NACo President Linda Langston, Second Vice President Sallie Clark and Executive Director Matt Chase.

Brooks said the attendance and participation by so many of NACo’s executive leadership team was “further recognition of the work that NOBCO does.”

Conference attendees also toured historical Memphis sites including the National Civil Rights Museum at the Lorraine Motel where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated and the Stax Museum of American Soul Music, which launched the careers of singers such as Isaac Hayes and Otis Redding.

The next NOBCO Economic Development Conference will be held May 13–17, 2015 in Cook County (Chicago), Ill. For more information visit www.nobcoinc.org.

NOBCO is a 501(c) corporation established in 1982, representing a coalition of black elected and appointed officials within county government in all 50 states. It serves as an information clearinghouse for organizational concerns and provides a program and project structure to educate, train and assist government officials and community members. Current program areas of focus include, economic and community development and environmental justice issues.

Charles Taylor, senior staff writer, contributed to this report.

Working together to improve county health

By **CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON**
EDITORIAL ASSISTANT



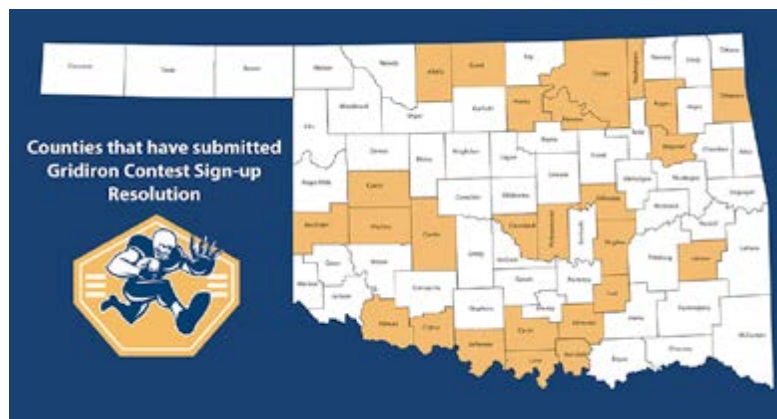
Many counties across the country are looking for creative ways to promote health and wellness. The Association of County Commissioners of Oklahoma (ACCO) developed a health and wellness awards program called the Gridiron Game, where county employees commit to four months of healthy living and exercise.

“This is about more than just weight loss,” said Dale Frech, ACCO safety director. “It’s getting

county employees to be active and commit to health and wellness.”

Sponsored by the ACCO insurance program, the Gridiron Game season is a four-month period from Feb. 1 to May 31. Like football, the 26 participating counties are scored on important (6-point touchdowns), intermediate (3-point field goals) and effortless activities (2-point safety or an extra point). Each employee is scored individually based on the activities they complete each quarter of the game.

To be eligible for the points awarded to the group accomplishing a task, players must complete a majority of other individually



measured activities for the quarter. There is a possible 100 points for each individual within the game. Any county that chooses to go beyond the game requirements is encouraged to do so, but it has no extra effect on the final score. The winning county receives \$10,000 to go towards their health and wellness council.

All non-elected, full-time employees of each county participating in the ACCO insurance programs, including office personnel, road workers, secretaries, sheriff’s deputies, jailers, field deputies and maintenance employees are eligible. County elected officials can partici-

pate, but will not be counted in the points tallied. Any costs are minimal and incurred by each county.

Rogers County is one of the state’s fastest growing counties and Human Resources Director Jenny Bentley knows now is the time to focus on health.

“We want to be an example of what rural communities can do,” she said. “With the state being ranked 44th [in the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s County] Health Rankings, participating in the ACCO challenge is a great way for counties to promote wellness and turn the ranking around.”

The county created a wellness day health fair event, set for May 24, that focuses on getting the community out to enjoy the resources. Local gyms and doctors within the county, among others, will have booths to educate the community on what they can offer.

The ACCO Gridiron Referee Committee, aka Wellness Committee, consists of a head referee and four other ACCO staff members. The committee serves to review all quarterly submissions from counties and awards the points. Thirty days after the close of the season, each county’s results will be reviewed and approved to determine the grand prize winner.

Each county is assigned a handicapped number. This is determined by a consistent formula based on a number of reported employees to the head referee by each county. The result ensures that smaller counties will have the same advantage as larger ones.

**See this story online for more information on how your counties can benefit at www.countynews.org.*

NACo JOBS ONLINE

Good employees are crucial to getting the job done!

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Treasury forms new municipal issuers oversight unit

A new office at the U.S. Treasury Department will focus on state and local finance issues, including monitoring of state and local government bond issuers and management of pensions and other unfunded liabilities, according to an April 17 report in *The Bond Buyer*.

Current JPMorgan managing director Kent Hiteshew will lead the new Office of State and Local Finance when he takes it over in mid-May. He will report to Matthew Rutherford, Treasury's assistant secretary for financial markets.

Hiteshew currently oversees public finance for the Northeast region and the housing finance group at JPMorgan, where he has been since 2008. The new office will be a central resource for Treasury to evaluate state and local finance issues as well as developments in the bond market, according to a Treasury spokesperson.

"The office will serve as Treasury's liaison to state and municipal officials and associations, monitor developments in municipal bond markets, support policies to improve the management of public pensions and other liabilities, and develop potential federal policy responses to issues that emerge in municipal financing markets," the spokesperson said.

According to *The Bond Buyer* and other sources, the idea for the office originated, in part, because the White House kept getting requests for assistance from troubled local governments, but lacked any centralized group capable of coordinating a federal response, said a source familiar with it. Detroit, for example, had reached out for help restructuring its finances, the source said.

Treasury's tax-exempt bond group will remain separate from the new office, which will not be involved in tax law or regulations, sources said.

NACo staff is reaching out to the new Treasury office. Since counties nationwide manage more than 3 million county employees and their benefits, and are one of the primary stakeholders in the municipal bond market, NACo encourages members to become familiar with this office as its operations get underway.

Full details of the office's future work plan have yet to be formalized, however, NACo is interested in what the potential interaction between the office and county governments will look like. NACo staff will report developments to members as they occur.



Kent Hiteshew, incoming head of the new Treasury Department Office of State and Local Finance, discusses public-private partnerships and mechanisms for financial leverage in housing at the International Congress on Housing and Urbanism in Sao Paulo, Brazil in 2011.

2014-2015 NACo resolutions process now underway

BY HADI SEDIGH
ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR



In anticipation of NACo's 2014 Annual Conference and Exposition — July 11–14 in Orleans Parish (New Orleans), La. — NACo members are invited to submit policy resolutions and platform changes for consideration at the conference.

Submissions received by June 11 will be considered by one or more of NACo's 10 steering committees, and if approved in committee, the Board of Directors will recommend them for approval by vote of the membership.

The NACo resolutions process provides members with the ability to participate in the creation of national policies affecting county

governments. The American County Platform and the association's policy resolutions are carefully considered statements of the needs and interests of county governments throughout the nation.

These two sets of policy statements serve as a guide for NACo members and staff in the year ahead as they work to advance the association's federal policy agenda before the White House, Congress and federal agencies.

Each year all resolutions automatically expire at the Annual Conference, including those interim resolutions adopted by the NACo Board of Directors during the Legislative Conference in March.

Resolutions that members deem relevant must be reintroduced at least 30 days in advance as a new

resolution to be considered by the appropriate NACo policy steering committee. There is no reaffirmation process. Resolutions cannot be used to overturn or modify existing language in the platform.

Steering committees may also consider other resolutions or platform changes that were not submitted within the 30-day period.

However, these federal legislative or regulatory matters must be emergency in nature, meaning that they could not have been foreseen 30 days prior to the conference, and the subject matter is an issue of a timely nature that NACo should consider immediately.

Steering committees receiving emergency resolutions or platform changes may consider them only if two-thirds of the steering committee members present vote to review them. Inaction on the part of a submitter is not grounds for an emergency resolution.

All resolutions and platform changes must be submitted electronically (preferably Word document) via email to resolutions@naco.org by June 11, 2014. Submissions must identify the title and issue area in the email subject line (e.g. CDBG Appropriations, Community and Economic Development).

Resolutions should be no more than one page in length. The standard format includes:

- **Issue:** short sentence stating the purpose of the resolution
- **Proposed Policy:** concise statement specifying a position or action by NACo and/or other entities
- **Background:** one or two paragraph statement clearly outlining the county interest in the particular issue
- **Fiscal/Urban/Rural Impact:** short statement addressing the potential impact(s) for counties in the specific issue area and
- **Sponsor:** name and contact information of NACo member sponsoring the resolution.

In addition, please provide the appropriate contact person and information so NACo staff can follow up for any additional or required information.

Please contact Deborah Cox, NACo legislative director, at dc Cox@naco.org or the appropriate steering committee liaison to address questions or concerns.

*See this story online at www.countynews.org to access the Legislative Department contact list.

Oil spill jump-started emergency exercises, weekly meetings

Service rated the tornado EF4, with winds between 166 and 200 miles per hour, and noted it was the first EF4 tornado of 2014. The 2011 storm was EF2, with winds between 111 and 135 miles per hour.

The response to the 2014 twister has been quick and organized, Hogue said. "It's been machine-like."

"(OEM Director) Sheila McGee is wonderful at her job because she's had these experiences and can put them to use," Hogue said. "People learn from her quickly. We had our crews clearing the roads that allowed linesmen to come in and restore power, and our search and rescue operations were complete within a day. Those personnel moved onto damage assessment and debris removal."

After the storm, the county registered more than 12,000 households without electricity, which was down to 4,000 the next day and roughly 1,500 four days after the twister.

"Road crews knew what to do. The county administrator knew what to do; law enforcement knew; the IT department knew what to do," Hogue said. "IT has been especially important because they've

helped with public information throughout this.

"At this point, we had enough experience in our county administration that instead of catching us off guard, this tornado just felt like 'challenge number three.'"

Dodson said the county's expanded exercises handling several potential disasters, including tornadoes and train derailments, has helped the county of 113,237 north of Little Rock prepare more comprehensively.

"The people whose job it is to prepare for disasters, you don't have to motivate them, they know it's important," he said. "It's the other departments and stakeholders whose lives don't revolve around these things, that's who you have to convince."

Dodson said that was accomplished by letting representatives from other departments and jurisdictions see the approach the office of emergency management brings to the exercises.

"Pull in the other big stakeholders so your attendees see the value of the other disciplines," he added. "Content drives success, so bring in your city and county representatives, law enforcement, state and federal environmental protection representatives and get everyone on the same page. Go big. Get real, and do it."



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If you have questions, please contact nacomeetings@naco.org or call 202-942-4292.

Plan your participation at www.naco.org!

Supreme Court takes on traffic stop cases

By LISA SORONEN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
STATE AND LOCAL LEGAL CENTER

WEB* CONTENT

During the week of April 21, the U.S. Supreme Court decided a Fourth Amendment search case involving a traffic stop and accepted another case involving a traffic stop, to be decided this winter or next spring. Both cases will affect county police officers.

Anonymous Tips

Does an anonymous, unverified

tip of dangerous driving justify a traffic stop? Yes, says a divided Supreme Court.

In *Prado Navarette v. California*, an anonymous 911 caller reported that a vehicle had run her off the road. When police stopped the car, they smelled marijuana. A search of the vehicle revealed 30 pounds of pot.

The court held 5-4 that the police stop complied with the Fourth Amendment prohibition against unreasonable search and seizure because, under the totality of the circumstances, the officers had reasonable suspicion that the driver was intoxicated.

Justice Antonin Scalia, in a dissent joined by Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan, accused the majority of departing from normal Fourth Amendment requirements that anonymous tips be corroborated.

Scalia wrote: "Law enforcement agencies follow closely our judgments on matters such as this, and they will identify at once our new rule: So long as the caller identifies where the car is, anonymous claims of a single instance of possibly careless or reckless driving, called in to 911, will support a traffic stop."

Mistakes of Law

In *Heien v. North Carolina*, a police officer pulled over a car because he thought that North Carolina law required motor vehicles to have two working brake lights. It turns out the officer was wrong. The North Carolina Court of Appeals, interpreting a statute over a half-century old, concluded that state law requires motor vehicles to only have one working brake light.

Why such a fuss over a brake light? When the driver and the passenger offered different stories as to where they were going, the officer asked to search the vehicle.

Consent was granted and cocaine was found.

The U.S. Supreme Court will decide whether a traffic stop is permissible under the Fourth Amendment when it is based on an officer's misunderstanding of the law.

If the court reverses the North Carolina Supreme Court (and even if it doesn't), counties should consider revising outdated traffic laws so that misunderstandings of law are less common.

**To read the decision in this case, see this story online at www.countynews.org.*

NCGM displays county preparation, response to disasters

NCGM from page 2



of Counties used NCGM to highlight a series of videos and blog posts about innovative county programs, statewide, showcasing inventive approaches to solve problems and improve services. They included Riverside County's dramatic reduction in surgical site infections at its hospital, San Bernardino County's aerial West Nile Virus surveillance program and Sacramento County's smartphone voting app.

Larimer County, Colo. coupled the occasion with the looming threat of spring flooding to get a point across from Lori Hodges, the county's emergency management and recovery director. She wrote a column in the *Reporter-Herald* newspaper explaining the role the county played in recovery from the fires and floods in the year prior. She could speak directly to how Larimer County has been and could continue to be resilient in the face of the threat of natural disasters.

"Key questions out there right now concern spring run-off, and we're preparing for that," she wrote. "One way is by encouraging people to move debris."

"It is vital that flood-related debris is removed prior to spring run-off. The program allows people to take debris to the right of way of approved county roads."



Photo courtesy of Cape May County, N.J.

Sheriff Gary G. Schaffer poses with the winners of Cape May County, N.J.'s My County poster contest. The winners were selected from among 365 entries submitted by fourth grade students from 11 elementary schools countywide. The winning posters will be featured on a 2015 color calendar distributed at the year-end to elementary schools.

Paul Smith, the mayor of the Phelps County town of Doolittle, requires students in his Missouri University of Science and Technology class to attend a public meeting. Three made it to the April 29 meeting, just before the end of the semester.

"It's informative for everyone," Bennett said. "It gives the county officials a chance to get to know

city and town staff better and bring the county business into people's hometowns. We'll get a few complaints from residents at the meetings, but the residents get to say them right to their officials' faces."

**See this story at www.countynews.org to view CSAC's selection of videos featuring California county programs.*



Photo by Aaron Osowski/Park Record

South Summit Fire District Capt. Jackson Coleman teaches Josh Harris, 10, how to use the 'jaws of life' during Summit County, Utah's open house. Harris, who was sworn in as an honorary fire chief, was one of two winners in his school district's Emergency Essay Contest for National County Government Month. Sworn in as Honorary Fire Chief for the day.



Photo by SP Murray for Chapelboro

A resident learns about an Orange County, N.C. department at the Orange County Expo, held in April. The expo gave residents a chance to ask questions about more than two dozen county departments and tour emergency services and police vehicles.

STATE ➡ TO ➡ STATE

MISSOURI NORTH CAROLINA



MISSOURI

Show me the money, or let us raise our own. It could be the rallying cry of counties in the Show-Me State as the Missouri Legislature enters the home stretch towards its targeted May 30 adjournment.

The Missouri Association of Counties (MAC) has been focused on two major priorities of its members this session: state reimbursement of jail costs and a 911 wireless communications fee.

The state has been underfunding the costs of housing jail inmates, reimbursing counties \$19.58 — less than half the per diem cost of incarceration, MAC Executive Director Dick Burke said.

“These are people being held or eventually convicted on state charges, and we believe strongly they are a state responsibility,” he added. County officials have been hard at work lobbying General Assembly members, and there is hope for a \$3 increase in the daily rate.

“This would be the highest we’ve seen historically,” Burke said. “It would be a major step forward and one that is both overdue and desperately needed.”

Regarding 911 fees, Missouri is the only state in the nation that has no fee on wireless devices to help support 911 emergency-response networks.

“Landline surcharges are no

COUNTY MANAGEMENT



IN MISSOURI'S 115 COUNTIES, THERE ARE

389 county board members and executives.

5 are elected county executives.

IN NORTH CAROLINA'S 100 COUNTIES, THERE ARE

579 county board members and executives.

county-by-county basis with a vote of the people) up to a \$1.50 fee on any device that can access 911. The bill has passed the House of Representatives and is pending in the Senate.

Burke said previous attempts at a statewide fee have been especially unpopular with the Legislature, hence the local-option route.

Another thing Missouri lacks is the ability to conduct early voting.

“While our association has no position on the merits of early voting,” Burke said, “we are very concerned about the potential cost associated with it.”

Two initiative petitions are being circulated statewide that would constitutionally authorize an extended early voting period, he added. Both would specifically exempt the state from assuming the costs which Burke said “would be exorbitant under these proposals.” Alternative measures are pending in the Legislature which would shorten the time frame and require the state to fund it.

Beyond pressing business, the state’s counties continue to deal with many of the same issues as counties in other states, Burk said: “An eroding tax base and unfunded mandates. The continued impact of remote sales on county revenues is particularly important here as counties are very heavily dependent on sales taxes as opposed to property taxes.”



NORTH CAROLINA

Many states throughout the country have a common theme during their legislative sessions: a climate of uncertainty coupled with a sense of genuine opportunity. The latter is what North Carolina counties are hoping for in the upcoming short session, which convenes May 14.

The biggest issue debated last session was tax reform. Legislators passed a reform package that benefitted counties because it eliminated several sales tax loopholes and expanded the sales tax base. The revenue stream is nearly \$280 million annually to counties.

“We worked with the legislature to ensure county revenues were not harmed by the state’s attempt to modernize the tax structure,” said David F. Thompson, executive director, North Carolina Association of County Commissioners.

Victories for counties also come with challenges. The biggest in North Carolina: educating legisla-

tors about county government. The North Carolina General Assembly experienced an unprecedented turnover in the last two elections.

Currently, more than 100 of 170 legislators are in their first or second two-year term. With most not holding elected office before, the familiarity with the state-county relationship is brand new.

“We have reached out to these legislators,” Thompson said. “It is important to educate them about the importance of the state and counties working together for the betterment of residents.”

Things are looking brighter on the horizon. Working with the Legislature, counties are seeing significant pieces of legislation that benefit them pass during a time where financial constraints are significant, Thompson said.

However, if the state’s revenue picture doesn’t improve over the next fiscal year, he worries that intrusions on county revenue streams and shifts in responsibilities from the states to the counties could occur.

Public employment also affected by Supreme Court decision

By Lisa Soronen
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
STATE AND LOCAL LEGAL CENTER

The U.S. Supreme Court’s recent affirmative action ruling should be viewed through the lens of public employment and not just public universities.

In *Schuetz v. Coalition to Defend Affirmative Action* the Supreme Court held 6–2 that voters may, by ballot, prohibit affirmative action in public universities’ admission decisions.

While this case was limited to the use of race in public university admission decisions, Michigan’s constitutional amendment, which the voters also approved, likewise prohibits the use of racial-preference in state and local government employment contracting. Presumably, these provisions are also constitutional.

A number of states prohibit the use of affirmative action in local government employment and contracting.

In 2003, in a case involving the University of Michigan, the Supreme Court held that public universities may consider race in admission decisions. In 2006, Michigan voters adopted a constitutional amendment that prohibited preferential treatment in admission to public universities on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity or national origin.

The majority of the court held this amendment does not violate the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. Justice Anthony Kennedy, in a plurality opinion joined by Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Samuel Alito, concluded that this case is about who — and not how — should resolve the debate over racial preferences.

“There is no authority in the Constitution of the United States or in this Court’s precedents for the Judiciary to set aside Michigan laws that commit this policy determination to the voters,” the justices wrote.

For the first time since she joined the court in 2009, Justice Sonia Sotomayor read a summary of her dissent, which Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg joined, from the bench — signaling her displeasure with the court’s decision. Justice Stephen Breyer provided the sixth vote in favor of the amendment, but wrote separately; Justice Elaine Kagan did not participate in the case.

While those for and against the ballot measure disagree about the wisdom of the court’s decision, both agree that it will be only a matter of time until more states follow Michigan’s lead.

WORD SEARCH

Imperial County, Calif. Facts

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

ALAMO (the river that flows through the county)

DESERT (region is mostly desert)

DUST BOWL (caused migration to the area)

EUROPEAN AMERICAN (culture of people in county)

HISPANIC (culture of people in county)

IMPERIAL VALLEY (where name of county originated)

IRRIGATION (used to foster agriculture)

LA PAZ (northeast adjacent county)

OKIES (term used for Oklahomans who migrated to Imperial)

RIVERSIDE (north adjacent county)

SAN DIEGO (west adjacent county)

YUMA (southeast adjacent county in Arizona)

Created by Christopher Johnson



County Innovations and Solutions

St. Lucie County, Fla.

County Lighting Codes, Enforcement Protect Endangered Turtles

By CHARLIE BAN
STAFF WRITER

St. Lucie County, Fla. is trying to protect endangered turtles, while educating new residents and sparing them federal penalties in the process.

With 21 miles of beaches, the county is home to two species of turtles on the federal endangered species list and another listed as threatened. Development along those beaches can interfere with where adult turtles lay their eggs and where their hatchlings go, opening residents up to fines and possible jail time if they harm the turtles.

“Sea turtles search for the darkest beaches to lay their eggs,” said Ken Gioeli, a University of Florida extension agent in St. Lucie County. “If it’s too bright, they won’t come out of the water.”

More ominous, he said, are the consequences for baby turtles, freshly hatched.

“They’ll head toward the bright light that ideally ends up being the moonlight reflecting off the ocean on the eastern horizon,” he said. “If there are outdoor or indoor lights or

televisions competing, they might disorient the turtles and direct them westward, away from the ocean.”

That, he said, could lead them to become victims of predators, swimming pools or traffic.

It’s long been a concern of the county and its local community advisory committee, and starting in 2010, a joint venture among three county departments and the extension office has helped limit turtle mortality and keep penalties to residents to almost zero.

It also has limited the cost to the county by diffusing responsibilities across several departments and staff members. Gioeli pointed out that other large coastal Florida counties have dedicated staff that spend all of their time on turtle protection.

For the most part, that protection is an educational issue.

“Being a coastal community, a lot of times, we’ll have people moving in from outside of the state who aren’t familiar with our conservation issues,” Gioeli said. “They don’t even think a television facing the wrong direction could influence these turtles. It’s



Courtesy of St. Lucie County Cooperative Extension

Billboards were among the most visible outreach efforts planned to educate residents about how lights near beaches could affect sea turtles.

extremely important to help our residents avoid federal penalties (resulting from inadvertent violations of the Endangered Species Act).” St. Lucie County recorded more 280,000 residents in 2010.

The county’s mosquito control department commissions a \$5,000 annual lighting evaluation, searching for properties that projected light visible at night from the sand

dunes where turtle hatchlings would emerge. From there, the code compliance office notified residents of violations and worked to help resolve them.

“We make many efforts to reach out to residents before sea turtle season (March 1–Nov. 15) and they’ve been well received,” Gioeli said. “We go to public meetings, condo associations, distribute door hangers

and have had some billboards on major roads.”

The county’s public information office contributes to the outreach efforts, and has helped pare down the number of violations over time.

Of the 11 violators the lighting evaluations turned up in 2013, only one did not fix the issue by the county’s deadline. In 2012, three out of 90 singled out as non-compliant were not ready in time.

“We have a \$250-per-day fine for noncompliance, but we really don’t want this to end up generating any revenue for the county,” Gioeli said. “The county penalties are there to make sure there’s some kind of protection for our residents in place so they don’t get an Endangered Species Act citation out of the blue.”

On the turtles’ side, the numbers have been encouraging, with Loggerhead (a threatened species) and Leatherbacks (endangered) marking record numbers of nesting sites over a 10-year period in 2011, at 5,763 and 259 nests, respectively.

County Innovations and Solutions features award-winning programs.

Research News

Saving Green with Green Buildings

Earth Day was a reminder of all things that can go green—including energy, air quality, transportation, water quality, land use, purchasing and recycling. The Environmental Protection Agency’s ENERGY STAR program — a voluntary program that helps businesses, government entities and individuals — works towards saving money for its participants through energy efficiency.

Many people may recognize the ENERGY STAR label on electronics and appliances, but the program is not only for computers and refrigerators — commercial buildings and industrial plants can also get an ENERGY STAR certification.

ENERGY STAR-certified buildings and plants are located in counties across the country, and additionally,

many county governments have taken steps to reduce the energy consumption of their buildings, certify them and save money on energy and water use.

The EPA has a straightforward process for gaining an ENERGY STAR certification for buildings. The first step is to use the Portfolio Manager, which is free software that tracks and reports a building’s water and energy use.

Once the user enters the characteristics of the building in the Portfolio Manager such as square footage, weekly operating hours, and monthly energy and water consumption data, the Portfolio Manager creates metrics on energy use and greenhouse gas emissions. In addition, buildings may also receive a 1–100 ENERGY STAR rating,



which compares the user’s building to buildings with similar primary uses.

A score of 50 indicates that the building is an average performer, while a score of 75 or above indicates that the building is a top energy performer and it is eligible for ENERGY STAR certification.

“... many county governments have taken steps to reduce the energy consumption of their buildings, certify them and save money on energy and water use

As of April 2014, there are more than 23,000 buildings across the country with an ENERGY STAR certification and the EPA estimates that the overall energy cost savings of these buildings were \$2.7 billion by the end of 2012.

Recently, the EPA released its

2013 ranking of the top 25 cities with ENERGY STAR-certified buildings. Los Angeles, Calif. ranked number one, with 443 ENERGY STAR-certified buildings located in the city.

Not surprisingly, a large number of ENERGY STAR-certified buildings (968 buildings, as of April 2014) are located in Los Angeles County, ranging from retail stores, courthouses to bank branches. Office buildings account for nearly half of all the ENERGY STAR-certified buildings located in L.A. County, while K-12 schools have the second largest share — 37 percent.

Los Angeles County has also certified its own buildings, which include office buildings and courthouses. For example, the county’s



News From the Nation's Counties

► ARIZONA

The **COCONINO COUNTY** Board of Supervisors has unanimously passed a resolution **prohibiting the sale and use of consumer fireworks** in unincorporated areas of the county, which put the ban in place immediately until the U.S. Forest Service lifts Stage 1 fire restrictions.

The Board of Supervisors approved the resolution under a law signed by Gov. Jan Brewer (R) April 22. The legislation allows counties of under 500,000 people to regulate the sale and use of fireworks when Stage 1 fire restrictions are in place in area national forests.

Previously, counties could only regulate fireworks during times of higher fire danger, KNAU News reported. At the time of the resolution, four national forests and parts of another were under Stage 1 fire restrictions. The cities of Flagstaff and Prescott and all of Coconino County also had a fire ban in place.

► CALIFORNIA

• **LOS ANGELES COUNTY** will soon have the power to **enforce tougher restrictions on development** in its scenic Santa Monica Mountains, including banning the building of mansions on ridgelines and vineyards on hillsides.

Under a land-use plan debated for decades but now approaching final approval, the county would become the primary guardian of an 80-square-mile area with picturesque landscapes and fragile ecosystems that are impacted by multimillion-dollar construction projects.

Previously, such development had to go through both the county and California Coastal Commission, which is expected to hand over its responsibility to the county, the *Press-Telegram* reported.

• Facing a \$1.4 million electric bill, **YOLO COUNTY** began building a solar power system that, four years later, now **generates more electricity than it uses**. A 1-megawatt system at the county jail has now grown to produce 152 percent of the county government's energy needs, *EcoWatch* reported. The county sells the surplus energy to Pacific Energy for \$500,000.

► IDAHO

MINIDOKA and **CASSIA counties** are looking for better ways for law enforcement to **hold people with mental health issues**.

Minidoka Memorial Hospital CEO Carl Hanson said the

current practice of holding suspects in the hospital's emergency room during a mental health evaluation was stressful to the staff and other patients.

Cassia County Prosecutor Al Barrus added that a person's treatment fate relies on a court order, and until that order is issued, the patient is in limbo, driving up sheriff's transportation costs, the *Times-News* reported.

Minidoka Hospital may use a dedicated on-site area for the mental health checks that is outside the emergency room.

► ILLINOIS

In the interest of promoting government transparency, **WILL COUNTY's checkbook summary will be published** on its auditor's website.

The online checkbook can be filtered and sorted to view certain dates, check amounts, departments, vendors, account descriptions and merchants. Additionally, the current year-to-date and previous year reports are available for viewing or download.

► MONTANA

Restrictions on how long **political signs can be placed on private property** could be removed in **FLATHEAD COUNTY**.

The currently regulation states that the signs can't be placed on zoned private land more than 30 days prior to an election — and that signs must be removed no more than one week after the election.

The County Commission will vote on rescinding the restriction in light of court cases in other states that have determined that limiting the time period for political signs is an unconstitutional restriction on free speech, the Associated Press reported.

The state Department of Transportation has removed any time restrictions on political signs and other Montana cities have stopped enforcing similar rules.

► NEW YORK

ORANGE COUNTY Executive Steven Neuhaus said county law enforcement will be beefing up its **policing efforts near West Point** military academy.

"With the cutbacks you are seeing with some of the federal and state agencies, we are going to increasingly be called in to fill that void," Neuhaus told Mid-Hudson News Network.

The county will use a special operations group that includes

the sheriff's office and local police agencies' staff.

► NORTH CAROLINA

It's now legal for residents in unincorporated **WAKE COUNTY** to operate **home-based businesses in outbuildings** — such as garages and sheds — on their properties. Previously, residents could only operate such businesses within their homes with some restrictions.

The Board of Commissioners recently approved an ordinance change that allows enterprises such as accounting, sculpting, tailoring, home crafts, Internet sales and tutoring to be conducted in attached or detached structures, according to the *News & Observer*.

All the other rules governing home-based businesses, including the amount of space they can occupy (no more than half of the floor area of the home or 750 square feet, whichever is less), will remain the same.

► OHIO

Deaths from heroin overdose are down in **CUYAHOGA COUNTY** for the first three months of 2014 — an encouraging sign, but county officials say it's too soon to claim victory in combating the drug.

According to preliminary findings, there were 38 to 40 deaths attributed to heroin in the first quarter of this year. It's the lowest first-quarter fatality rate since 2011, when the toll was 31. County Executive Ed FitzGerald said "... the problem is still far too severe and we don't know if that's kind of a statistical anomaly or if we've really started to get the word out," the *Plain Dealer* reported.

The intervening years saw 47 deaths in the first three months of 2013 and 41 during the same period in 2012.

Since September 2012, FitzGerald's Cuyahoga County Heroin Initiative has coordinated county-wide efforts to raise awareness of heroin's dangers through medical and law enforcement partnerships.

► SOUTH CAROLINA

Concerned that unwanted Easter presents will overwhelm its parks, **ANDERSON COUNTY** is telling residents **not to abandon pet ducks** near the civic center's lake.

Overpopulation has been a problem at one particular park, where 88 ducks were removed last year. Visitors are also being warned to not feed the ducks. The county sent out a formal notice to residents, *The State* reported.

Parks officials say many ducks appear to be dropped off in county parks in the weeks following Easter, and the parks department staff do not have the capacity or expertise to care for the extra ducks.

► TEXAS

• Some meat-eating "locavores" — fans of locally grown foods — might soon be in wild hog heaven, thanks to a plan devised by **HARRIS COUNTY** Commissioner Steve Radack that also addresses the county's feral hog problem.

The Commissioners Court recently approved a one-year, \$217,600 contract with **meat processors to butcher captured feral hogs** and package the meat to donate to local food banks. The

county estimates it will be able to eliminate roughly 2,500 hogs in a year, producing about 40 pounds of processed meat from each.

Tom Harvey of the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department said that historically, hogs were a nuisance mainly in rural areas, but recently they've started encroaching on suburban and city areas.

The USDA warns that unlike domesticated pigs, wild hogs are more prone to some diseases, ABC News reported, but their meat is safe to eat with proper food handling and preparation.

• The U.S. Department of Agriculture has declared 95 percent of Texas counties a natural disaster

NACo on the Move

► NACo Officers and Officials

• NACo Executive Director **Matt Chase** attended a White House meeting led by John Podesta on the President's Climate Action Plan April 24. The meeting covered important issues from Waters of the U.S. to the Clean Air Act and discussed the creation of a State and Local Climate Action Task force to include three NACo county representatives.

• **Chase** also spoke during the general session on "Why Illinois Counties Matter" and NACo membership at the Illinois Association of Counties Spring Conference in Sangamon County April 28.

► NACo Staff

• **Calvin Okwuego** has been named a legislative intern. He previously worked as a legislative assistant to Essex County Freeholder Carol Clark. He graduated with honors from Rutgers University with a dual bachelor's degree in political science and criminal justice and will be pursuing a master's in public administration at Cornell University.



Calvin Okwuego

• **Jefferson Pecht** has been named a research intern. He is a recent graduate of the University of Maryland with a bachelor's degree in mathematics and mechanical engineering. He will be helping the research team with projects, including County Intelligence Connection 2.0.

• **Emilia Istrate**, director, research and outreach, spoke about the findings of *The Road Ahead* transportation report at the general session of the 2014 National Association of County Engineers (NACE) Annual Meeting and Conference in East Baton Rouge Parish, La. April 14.

• **Jessica Monahan**, associate legislative director, spoke about NACo's priorities for the next surface transportation bill at the NACE Annual Conference April 14.

► Coming Up

• **Andrew Goldschmidt**, director of membership marketing, will be exhibiting on behalf of membership recruitment and retention at the New Jersey Association of Counties Annual Conference in Atlantic County May 7-9.

On the Move is compiled by Christopher Johnson

The H.R. Doctor Is In

To My Dear Mom – a ‘Woman of Valor’

Mother's Day is as much an invention of the greeting card industry as it is a true holiday to express love and respect to she who bore you. In fact, every day should be a time to say things to Mom which reflect respect, thanks, and hope for the future.

As I look back, I could've and should've said these things more often to her even though my respect was often shared. You can never express love often enough. Unfortunately, we definitely don't do so enough of the time in our excessively busy routines. Sometimes, perhaps without warning or perhaps as a result of a prolonged degenerative illness, you can no longer do it in person.

In my case, Mom was crippled as an infant by polio. She was born in London and immigrated as a tiny child to America, the promised

land, through Ellis Island. She was one of millions of other people who made a similar journey in the first two decades of the 20th century.

Grandpa was a dairy farmer in Russia and could well have served as a role model for the writing of *Fiddler on the Roof*. The family fled to England to escape unwanted draft service in the Tsar's army. Later they were able to realize their dream by making it through the golden door past the immigration officers.

Mom's paralysis from the waist down would have led to one of the worst imaginable outcomes in the giant hall at Ellis Island — chalk marks being placed on your clothing by the immigration officers. That, in turn, would have led to deportation and ruined her chance for a new life.

In Mom's case, however, that



did not happen. She was carried by Grandpa and Grandma constantly for days, her feet never touching the floor. The hope was that the vigilant government officials would look at the round-cheeked, terribly cute tiny girl and not do anything horrific, like demand that she show them that she could walk. Fortunately for her (and me) that never happened.

Decades later I came into existence. In a sense, I am a descendent of an illegal immigrant not to mention a draft dodger. I hope my own service as a military officer and as a local government career executive might have allowed those grandparents and my Mom to smile and say, "We all made something of ourselves, didn't we?"

Mom's disability did not stop

“ They have the great opportunity to plant seeds of imagination and opportunity in their children, their neighbors and their communities.

her from engaging in many charitable works. Her caring directly triggered my involvement in human resources, human rights and personal responsibility.

In the 1950s this 12-year-old got to work with her in trying to create the Handicapped Placement Center of Los Angeles to encourage employers to hire the disabled. Her efforts, her passion, her persuasiveness, and even her undaunted courage to keep going when the support she needed never materialized, did not deter her from a life of giving and sharing.

Many of the readers of the HR Doctor articles are in public service as elected or appointed officials. You understand the power of giving and charitable engagement. You all should also be experts in

humility and in spending time teaching and modeling amazing behavior to help lift the spirits and sometimes the actual bodies of others.

In effect, mothers and elected officials share in common the role of Johnny Appleseed. They have the great opportunity to plant seeds of imagination and opportunity in their children, their neighbors and their communities. They nurture, protect and generally help their “seedlings” to develop and blossom.

Often all they want in return is the satisfaction of knowing that their work has not been in vain. They are, in the true sense of the Old Testament, “Women of Valor.” They will be known for their good works and will live on in the legacies they create.

Therefore, it's time to call Mom. Tell her how much you appreciate all she has done to help shape your life. Make a habit of doing that more regularly and more sincerely. If you can't directly call her anymore, remember her and live your own life as a tribute to hers.

Phil Rosenberg

Phil Rosenberg
The HR Doctor • www.hrdtr.net

Pub crawls affect Arlington county's budget mark-up

area as a result of **persistent drought conditions** since 2011. Two hundred-forty of the state's 252 counties are affected. The designation makes farmers eligible for low-interest loans.

Normally, Lubbock and its neighboring counties average about 19 inches of rain annually. But since 2011, the region has only received about half its average, Amarillo.com reported.

► VIRGINIA

• As the number and frequency of pub crawls has increased, **ARLINGTON COUNTY** officials are beginning to take notice.

“I'm becoming a pub crawl expert, not by choice,” Arlington Police Chief Doug Scott told the County Board last month. “We are receiving crawl requests at a very escalated pace because they've been very popular. We thought we were going to have three (this year); that went to nine and it's growing,” according to ARLNow.com.

During a recent budget mark-up meeting, the board approved an additional \$42,000 for police to provide “**pub crawl support**.”

A bar crawl in late June 2013 led to 13 alcohol-related arrests, and during this year's Shamrock Crawl, a woman showed up naked at the County Jail

to visit her husband who was arrested during the revelry.

• Officials in **LOUDOUN COUNTY** are warning residents — parents of teens, especially — about an **LSD-like drug** that has caused several medical emergencies among teenagers in recent weeks, *The Washington Post* reported.

The synthetic hallucinogen is known, variously, as “25i,” “smiles” or “N-bomb, and like LSD can be soaked on small squares of blotter paper for easier distribution or dosage. The narcotic can also be consumed in powder form or injected.

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration says 25i and related compounds have been linked to the deaths of at least 19 Americans aged 15 to 29 between March of 2012 and August of 2013.

Recently, Loudoun sheriff's deputies responded to a residence where they found a female who was yelling incoherently and kicking the deputies, and two other girls were behaving erratically. Authorities believe 25i use was responsible. All three were taken to a local hospital.

(News From the Nation's Counties is compiled by Charles Taylor and Charlie Ban, staff writers. If you have an item for News From, please email ctaylor@naco.org or cban@naco.org.)

Energy-efficient buildings beneficial to environment, save taxpayers money

internal services department headquarters received an ENERGY STAR certification in 2010. In other counties, different types of buildings represent the bulk of ENERGY STAR-certified buildings. For example, in Beaufort County, N.C. all four ENERGY STAR-certified buildings in the county are supermarkets.

Like Los Angeles County, other county governments are taking the initiative to improve energy efficiency in their buildings. As of April 2014, there are 229 county-owned buildings that are ENERGY STAR certified. For example, the first county courthouse to gain an ENERGY STAR certification is North Regional Courthouse in Broward County, Fla. which earned its certification in 1999.

More recently, the Benjamin Building, a county-owned office building in Ada County, Idaho, earned an ENERGY STAR certi-

fication in 2014. Ada County was also the first county to earn an ENERGY STAR rating through NACo's 2004 ENERGY STAR Courthouse Campaign for the Ada County Courthouse and Administration Building. The courthouse earned a certification largely due to its design; the building includes many environmentally-friendly features such as a geothermal heating system, insulated ductwork, window tinting and energy efficient lighting. The building achieved a rating of 76 when it first earned its certification in 2004, and the labelled rating was increased to 82 in 2012.

NACo's Green Government Initiative

To help counties save taxpayer money and protect the environment, NACo's Green Government Initiative (GGI) provides information through the County Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Portal, which includes a number

of resources to help counties make energy investments. The portal contains links to news articles and presentations related to county energy-efficiency initiatives as well as tools that counties can use to finance, install and promote clean energy.

In addition, NACo has partnered with the ENERGY STAR program and offers tools and information to help counties better understand ENERGY STAR's offerings. NACo also offers assistance to county staff in using the Portfolio Manager tool to track and measure energy consumption in county buildings.

By improving energy efficiency in their buildings, counties across the country are practicing good stewardship of their resources and reducing energy costs. NACo's Green Government Initiative helps counties deliver on their energy efficiency initiatives.

(Research News was written by Kavita Mak, senior research associate.)

Financial Services News

Top 5 Misconceptions about the Procurement of Energy Commodities

Why overcoming them is critical to reducing costs

(Note: This article first appeared in *Government Procurement Magazine*, and is reprinted with permission.)

Every day, energy decision-makers are bombarded with phone calls and emails from energy firms proclaiming they have the best ideas about how to procure energy. However, energy procurement may be just one of many hats the decision-maker wears.

The resulting confusion can lead to faulty opinions about energy procurement best practices. These misconceptions are typically held by those responsible for energy procurement — purchasing agents, facility managers, assistant superintendents, city managers, county judges, auditors and others.

While most energy managers have a great deal of expertise managing facility operations, they are not experts in the energy commodity markets.

Here, we outline the five most common misconceptions held by energy decision-makers or anyone who is part of a team making energy procurement recommendations for their organization:

1. 'I already understand the energy markets and how to procure energy.'

Especially if the decision-maker is someone who has procured energy before or has some background in the energy markets, the tendency is to believe he or she knows enough to handle things successfully. While many energy managers are certified to handle demand-side issues, which relate to how an organization uses energy once it's delivered to them, managing the physical energy commodity itself requires a completely different knowledge base.

Just as you wouldn't want to trust cardiac surgery to someone

who used to be in the medical field but never performed surgery, you wouldn't want to leave energy procurement in your own hands or anyone else's who is not fully involved every day in the energy wholesale markets. Your job is not to be an energy expert, but rather to shepherd the process for your organization — you must rely on seeking expertise to make the process successful.

2. 'I manage procurement of all commodities according to the bid calendar.'

Every purchasing professional maintains one, and it is the lifeblood of the procurement organization: the master bid calendar. This is how almost all procurement is managed, by working with contract expirations and end-user needs to determine when each contract should be bid.

The reason this doesn't work with energy commodities is the same reason energy is so unique — volatility. Energy commodities in general, and specifically electricity, are the most volatile commodities you will ever procure. The impact on your budget of locking in a fixed price for electricity on Tuesday afternoon as opposed to Friday morning, for example, can easily be a difference of hundreds of thousands of dollars annually.

While you can't do anything about the volatility itself, you can manage your procurement process by having the tools and resources in place to follow the market and lock in prices during favorable market dips, thereby saving your organization tremendously in the long run.

3. 'My supplier is very good and always helps me secure the best price.'

It has been a growing trend to foster partnerships with suppliers, and in the energy world this sometimes means sticking with one supplier and trusting that they will always help you secure the best price. We mentioned before how essential it is to follow the market in order to find the best windows to secure pricing, and relying on one supplier



“Many analytical studies show that energy is one of the top three areas of spending for organizations.”

to provide this guidance can lead to problems.

This one supplier is only able to give you their view of the market. In addition, they are only able to deliver one solution — theirs. To ensure you are achieving the best possible procurement (product strategy, price, term, contract, etc.), you must use a competitive process that incorporates supplier responses from all suppliers in the market, not just the incumbent. Don't worry — your current supplier will understand.

4. 'My contract doesn't expire for another year, I'm fine.'

So many opportunities for savings in energy commodities are lost by not being ready to execute a contract. Unless they are within six to 12 months of contract expiration, many make the mistake of believing there is no point to even discuss energy procurement.

It has been shown time and time again, though, that this strategy is the equivalent of rolling the dice and hoping for a seven.

The best approach is to continually monitor the markets, because history shows that the best contracting window may be even three years prior to the expiration of the current contract. For example, in today's market, known as a “declining market,” energy market prices are lower the more years you go out. This

characteristic can mean that a 12-month contract purchased and starting today may be priced at 7 cents per kilowatt-hour, whereas a 12-month contract purchased to start in 24 months may be priced at 5.5 cents per kWh. The bottom line? It's never too early to start looking at energy prices.

5. 'We can't control energy prices, so there is no need to monitor the market.'

This is a summation of much that has already been discussed. The misconception is that since no one has a crystal ball, there is no point in even trying to manage the process.

In this scenario, the decision-maker just throws up his or her hands and says “We'll bid this out next September.” The procurement is executed regardless of what other factors are happening in the market, and frequently attempts made by consultants and others to help are rebuffed because the belief is that no one knows the future, so why even try.

Just because you have put the energy contract to bed for the next three years doesn't mean you shouldn't be monitoring the market and your contract's performance.

This monitoring will help determine how well your previous strategy performed, as well as show you market windows to make future decisions. A continuous feedback loop regarding contract strategy and performance is essential to increase an organization's opportunities for future savings and cost control.

So all in all, don't be a reactionary victim of doing things the same old way. Many analytical studies show that energy is one of the top three areas of spending for organizations.

Take charge, and establish a proactive, managed strategy that pulls in expertise and professional resources to truly transform your organization, save thousands of additional dollars and make energy the hero of the annual budget.

(Financial Services News was written by Bob Wooten, director, government accounts, Tradition Energy.)

What's in a Seal?

► Imperial County, Calif.
www.co.imperial.ca.us



Imperial County was formed in 1907 from the eastern portion of San Diego County. The county took its name from Imperial Valley, itself named for the Imperial Land Company, a subsidiary of the California Development Company, which at the turn of the 20th century had claimed the southern portion of the Colorado Desert for agriculture.

By 1910, the land company had managed to settle and develop thousands of farms on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border. The Mexican Revolution soon thereafter severely disrupted the company's plans. Nearly 10,000 farmers and their families in Mexico were displaced by the rival Mexican armies.

The need for migrant labor in the 1930s and 1940s, especially in World War II and after the completion of the All American Canal, drove the migration of “Okies” from drought-trodden dust bowl farms. Although this region is a desert, with high temperatures and low average rainfall of three inches per year, the economy is heavily based on agriculture due to irrigation, supplied wholly from the Colorado River.

The seal shows the Imperial Valley and farmland along the Alamo River with Mount Signal in the distance. A crown sits above the mountain.

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