

NACO National Association of Counties CountyNews

A Flood of concerns

Texas Gov. Greg Abbot has issued disaster declarations for nearly 20 percent of the state's 254 counties due to last month's severe storms and flooding. Since May 11, 46 counties have received disaster declarations. In the Houston area over the Memorial Day holiday, storms dumped 162 billion gallons of water, according to a report in the *Houston Chronicle*. In Hays County along the raging Blanco River, three people have been killed and 11 declared missing.

Hays County, Texas Deputy Constable John Ellen patrols River Road near by the Blanco River in Wimberley, Texas on May 25, 2015. Photo by Jerry Lara-EPA

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES ■ WASHINGTON, D.C.

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Policy experts brief WIR conferees on priority issues

By CHARLES TAYLOR
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The counties of NACo's Western Interstate Region (WIR) shared their concerns — and successes — at their annual conference in Kaua'i County, Hawai'i.

While the list of issues was a familiar one, each year brings new challenges in the realm of permanent funding for the Payment in Lieu of Taxes program, the future

of the Secure Rural Schools program, which compensates forest counties for lost timber revenue from federal lands, local costs of wildfires, endangered species and genetically modified crops — a particularly sensitive issue in Hawai'i.

See **WIR OVERALL** page 9



The new WIR leadership team (l-r): Immediate Past President Lesley Robinson, commissioner, Phillips County, Mont.; President Gordon Cruickshank, commission chair, Valley County, Idaho; First Vice President Doug Breidenthal, commission chair, Jackson County, Ore.; and newly elected Second Vice President Joel Bousman, commissioner, Sublette County, Wyo. Photo by Charles Taylor

Final WOTUS rule comes up short

By JULIE UFFNER
ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) announced their final Clean Water Rule: Definition of Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule, which would increase the number of streams and wetlands that are protected under the Clean Water Act (CWA). The rule, announced May 27, will take effect in 60 days after its publication in the *Federal Register*.

In a statement released the same day, NACo Executive Director Matt Chase said the rule falls short of adding clarity to protecting the nation's waters and adds costs with few benefits.

"While we appreciate the agencies' recent efforts, the flawed consultation process has resulted in a final rule that does not move us closer to achieving clean water goals and creates more confusion than clarity," Chase said.

"Counties support common-

sense environmental protection, but the final rule expands federal oversight and will create costly delays in critical work without any proven environmental benefit."

NACo is undertaking an exten-

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U.S. Supreme Court hands Maryland counties expensive defeat

By LISA SORONEN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
STATE AND LOCAL LEGAL CENTER

As the term nears its end, U.S. Supreme Court decisions are rolling out the door. Three of the latest are of special interest to local governments.

Maryland. v. Wynne

Counties in Maryland face refunding \$200 million to state taxpayers in the aftermath of the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Maryland State Comptroller of the Treasury v. Brian Wynne*. The 5-4 decision found the state's practice of allowing tax credits against state income taxes, but not against so-called "piggyback" county income taxes to be unconstitutional.

The decision will have a significant impact on the state's counties, according to the Maryland Association of Counties. Reports in *The Baltimore Sun* say Baltimore, a county-equivalent, had set aside \$4.2 million to reimburse city taxpayers. It is expected to lose \$1.4 million annually in revenue. The hardest hit

is Montgomery County with revenue losses expected to run \$24 million annually.

The ruling may also affect counties in North Carolina and Iowa.

No decision on ADA impact on arrests

In a 6-2 decision, the Supreme Court declined to decide one of the most important questions this term for state and local government: whether Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires police officers to accommodate suspects who are armed, violent and mentally ill when bringing them into custody.

When police officers entered Teresa Sheehan's room in a group home for persons with mental illness to take her to a hospital for psychiatric care, she threatened to kill them with a knife she held, so they retreated. Before backup arrived, the officers decided to reenter her room to prevent her from gathering more weapons or escaping. Upon reentry, Sheehan still had the knife in her hand and yelled for them to leave. One officer pepper

sprayed Sheehan but she refused to drop the knife. The officers then shot her multiple times but she survived.

Title II of the ADA provides that qualified individuals with a disability must be able to participate in the "services, programs, or activities of a public entity," and that their disability must be reasonably accommodated.

The 9th Circuit held that the ADA applies to arrests and that a jury should decide whether the police officers should have accommodated Sheehan by, for example, respecting her comfort zone, engaging in non-threatening communications and using the passage of time to defuse the situation.

The Supreme Court expected San Francisco to argue that Title II doesn't apply to arrests at least until the scene is secure. Instead, San Francisco argued that Sheehan wasn't a qualified individual with a disability because she was a "direct threat" to the officers.

Because the parties did not have a clear dispute over whether Title II of the ADA applies to arrests, the court dismissed the issue. But it did hold

that the officers in *City and County of San Francisco v. Sheehan* were entitled to qualified immunity.

Qualified immunity protects government officials from such lawsuits where the law they violated isn't "clearly established" such as the application of ADA to arrests.

Stay tuned; the court is likely to again hear a case involving the question of whether and when the ADA applies to arrests.

In other Supreme Court business

The court has denied a petition from the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America that challenged an Alameda County, Calif. ordinance, adopted in 2012, requiring drug producers to collect, transport and dispose of unwanted prescription drugs. Similar ordinances have been adopted by King County, Wash. (June 2013), the City and County of San Francisco (March 2015) and San Mateo County, Calif. (April 2015).

Nominations re-opened for NACo second VP

NACo is re-opening nominations for second vice president. The former and sole declared candidate has withdrawn from the race.

Any elected official from a current NACo member county is eligible to run for the office of NACo second vice president.

Interested members should submit a letter of intent to President Riki Hokama by June 12. Please mail the letter to: National Association of Counties; Attn: President Riki Hokama; 25 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Suite 500, Washington DC 20001.

NACo will still publish candidate statements and provide mailing lists for all declared and eligible candidates. NACo will also host a conference-wide Candidates Forum during the Annual Conference in Mecklenburg County, N.C. for members to hear the views and visions of each candidate prior to the election.



★ ★ ★ COUNTY PROSPERITY FORUM: Innovative Economic Development in Small and Mid-Sized Counties

SUNDAY, JULY 12TH FROM 9 AM – 12 PM

NACo'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE AT THE CHARLOTTE
CONVENTION CENTER IN MECKLENBURG COUNTY, N.C.

WHEN

WHERE

This interactive forum will guide county leaders in smaller and mid-sized places to generate creative strategies for strengthening local economies by building and capturing wealth that is rooted in local people, places and firms. The forum is open to all conference participants.

Using the Ford Foundation's WealthWorks model, this forum will introduce a systematic approach to economic development that engages a wide range of partners. Attendees will participate in hands-on exercises, gain access to tools and resources and learn from the outcomes of NACo's pilot County Prosperity Summits program. **For more information contact Kathy Nothstine at knothstine@naco.org or Jen Horton at jhorton@naco.org.**

NACo Board approves office move in 2016, gets 'WOTUS' update, previews NACo BluePrint

The NACo Board of Directors, meeting during the WIR Conference in Kauai County, Hawai'i, approved the relocation of the association's headquarters in the fall of 2016 to a new building on Capitol Hill. The change will allow NACo to co-locate with the National League of Cities and create a joint conference center at 660 North Capitol Street, directly behind the association's current site.

The Board also received briefings on the proposed EPA rule related to "Waters of the U.S." (WOTUS), the NACo BluePrint, current federal legislation, the 2016 U.S. presidential campaign and the NACo Financial Services Corporation.

Samuel Brown, senior attorney with Hunton and Williams in San Francisco, Calif., spoke to the Board about the number and types of comments received during the public comment period for the WOTUS proposed rule, which ended last November. The EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

jointly released the proposed rule — Definition of the Waters of the U.S.—in April 2014. The proposed rule would impact county-owned and maintained roadside and drainage ditches, flood control channels and stormwater systems.

Brown said the agencies received more than one million comments. Some comments were substantial like the ones received from NACo, state associations and individual counties. However,

most comments were part of campaigns with identical messages sent by different people.

NACo Executive Director Matt Chase presented the NACo BluePrint, a plan that outlines the mission, objectives, performance metrics and burning imperatives for the association. Chase said a new logo, slogan and website will be unveiled during the annual conference in July.

Chase said NACo's core objec-

tives are advocacy, leadership development, county solutions, civic education and excellence in public service.

The association has the mindset of an 80-year-old start-up company that is totally invested and dedicated to the success of its members, Chase said. To achieve that success, the burning imperatives that need to be pursued are:

- drive relevancy of county government in the national policy arena
- refresh NACo's brand through contemporary style, narrative and communications platforms
- intensify membership engagement, especially with newly elected officials
- strengthen existing programs while pursuing new enterprise and membership services, and
- nurture an organizational culture of public service excellence.

The Board also received a legislative update from Deborah Cox, legislative affairs director, and learned about "Counties Connect

America," NACo's effort to engage and educate candidates for U.S. president in 2016 about counties and county issues.

Information and a progress report on the NACo Financial Services Corporation (FSC) was provided by Bill Jasien, executive chairman of the FSC, and David Thompson, president and managing director of the FSC.

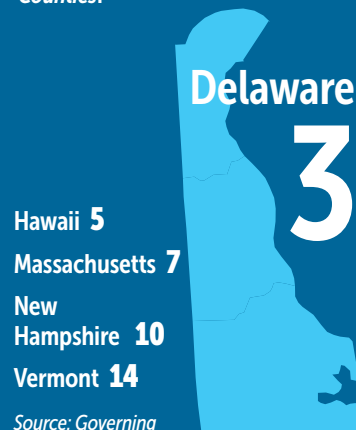


Tarrant County, Texas Judge Glen Whitley, past NACo president, raises questions about a committee report at the Board meeting. Photo by Tom Goodman

QUICK TAKES

STATES WITH THE FEWEST COUNTY GOVERNMENTS

Not including DC or the Geographical Counties.



Source: Governing

Father's story of anguish ends with son's second chance

BY ERWIN LENOWITZ

By the time my son was 30, he'd had various run-ins with the police due to drug and alcohol abuse and an inability to respect authority. Once, he spent nine months in a state forensic facility in Oregon, where he refused to adhere to any treatment plan—medication, group sessions, or private sessions with a psychiatrist. They released him since he wasn't cooperating.

After that, he came home to Carmel, Calif. to live with us, but his behavior was intolerable. He would be very agitated and start talking to himself and screaming. We didn't know how to deal with him and we were scared. Eventually we decided that he couldn't stay with us anymore, so he lived out of his car.

On one occasion, my wife and I were out of town and he came back to our house. When the neighbors called the police, he got into a shouting match with the police officer who tried to calm him down. He lashed out, saying that he had a right to be there and became agitated. The police officer who responded, Chris Johnson, knew Jeremy's

THE STEPPING UP INITIATIVE

mental state and recognized that he needed help.

Jeremy was working out two to three times a day at that point and only eating protein drinks. So he was extremely physically fit and tough to handle. Chris wrestled him down and was able to get Jeremy into a hospital. Later I learned that had he not gone to the hospital, Jeremy might have died within days.

Chris got him into the hospital and introduced us to the Monterey County, Calif. Behavioral Health Department, which runs a court-supervised program called Creating New Choices (CNC). Because he only had a misdemeanor charge, Jeremy was eligible for the program. It requires a three-year commitment: during the first six months you live in a residential treatment

facility and attend group or private counseling sessions all day. Jeremy was very reluctant and at first he refused. The judge said that if he didn't, he would have to go to prison. We spoke with Jeremy, then Chris Johnson spoke with him, finally he elected to participate.

Two years in, he's doing exceptionally well. He understands his situation and circumstances. He knows he's on meds for life. He tells long-time friends that he doesn't drink anymore and won't go out for beers with them.

About nine months ago, he registered for college classes. He didn't tell me and his mother, he did it on his own. He was only a few credits short of a bachelor's degree when his illness escalated. The first course he took when he returned

to college was advanced calculus and he got an A. In his fourth year level econometrics course, he got a B+. He's taking additional course work for his own enjoyment during his remaining time in the CNC program.

When he successfully completes the program, all his records will be expunged.

Erwin Lenowitz is a financial executive living in Carmel, Calif.

This profile is part of a series that featured a new story for each of the 31 days of May, which is celebrated annually as National Mental Health Awareness Month. Developed in partnership with the National Alliance on Mental Illness, it focused on personal stories colored by the interplay of the criminal justice system and mental illness.

The series illustrated the promise of the recently launched Stepping Up initiative — co-sponsored by NACo, the Council of State Governments Justice Center and the American Psychiatric Foundation — that seeks to reduce the number of people with mental illness in jails. Learn how you can Take Action at www.stepuptogether.org

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New law will fight trafficking

By YEJIN JANG
ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

The Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act (JVTA) is headed to the president's desk for his signature after it swept through the House May 20 by an overwhelming bipartisan vote of 420-3. The bill passed the Senate unanimously in April.

Human trafficking is particularly pronounced in larger, urban counties, although it is also found in scattered rural communities.

The new law would provide a number of resources for counties including:

- domestic Trafficking Victims' Fund, with awards to states and local governments to combat trafficking, provide protection and assistance for victims of trafficking, develop and implement child abuse investigation and prosecution programs and provide services for victims of child pornography

- program of three-year renewable block grants that may

be used to establish or enhance specialized training programs to identify victims and acts of child human trafficking and facilitate the rescue of child victims for law enforcement officers, first responders, health care and child welfare officials, juvenile justice personnel, prosecutors and judicial personnel. Also would fund anti-trafficking law enforcement units and problem-solving court programs for trafficking victims

- requires that state missing

child reports include a recent photograph of the child and notification to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children of each child reported missing from foster care or childcare institution.

- requires the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to operate a Cyber Crimes Center to

ficking. These types of programs are commonly run by a combination of county agencies such as the sheriff's office, family services and prosecutor's office among others. The JVTA would enable continuation of county human trafficking programs through the new grants established under

NACo policy supports "increased Department of Justice funding for grants to state and local governments to combat child sex trafficking and assist its victims"

provide investigative assistance, training and equipment to support domestic and international investigations by Immigration and Customs Enforcement of cyber-related crimes which shall: coordinate all ICE child exploitation initiatives; focus on child exploitation prevention; provide training and technical expertise to law enforcement, among other items.

A 2014 NACo survey concluded that 86 percent of counties with populations greater than 250,000 considered sex trafficking a problem. Fifty-five percent of counties with a population greater than 250,000, have county programs focused on reducing human traf-

the act.

NACo policy supports "increased Department of Justice (DOJ) funding for grants to state and local governments to combat child sex trafficking and assist its victims including funding for victim-centered services, law enforcement, training and multi-agency collaborations." NACo sent a letter to House leadership in mid-May to voice its support and urge swift passage of the measure. NACo members are encouraged to thank their federal legislators for passing the JVTA.

The measure was introduced in the Senate by Sen. John Cornyn (R-Texas) and in the House by Rep. Ted Poe (R-Texas).

COAL-RELIANT
COMMUNITIES

INNOVATION
CHALLENGE

apply for the INNOVATION CHALLENGE!

Counties and regions impacted by the contraction of the coal industry are invited to apply to attend the Innovation Challenge workshop on September 16-18 in Grand Junction, Colorado.

Who should apply?

Counties and regions looking for tools and resources related to economic diversification, job creation, workforce training and more. Applicants must demonstrate how they are linked to the coal industry, whether coal-producing or home to significant concentrations of coal processing and related facilities.

What do we win?

Winning teams will attend a three-day training workshop in Grand Junction, Colo., and receive pre- and post-event support.

What is the purpose?

This workshop and associated resources will support county and regional leaders in coal-reliant communities with retooling their economies to become more resilient to changing conditions.

Where and when is the workshop?

Grand Junction, Colorado on September 16-18.

How do I apply?

Counties and regions must form teams to apply to attend the workshop. Teams must consist of at least one county official and at least one representative of a regional development organization (such as an Economic Development District or Council of Governments).

To access the application, FAQ and additional information, visit:
www.naco.org/innovationchallenge

Questions? Contact Jen Horton on NACo staff at jhorton@naco.org or 202.942.4274.

APPLICATION OPENS: FRIDAY, MAY 29
DEADLINE: FRIDAY, JULY 17 AT 5:00 P.M. EDT

S.C. county nabs planning awards for growth management



Downtown Beaufort, S.C. would retain its charm.

By CHARLES TAYLOR
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Today Beaufort County, S.C.'s population is almost double what it was 25 years ago, when about 80,000 people called it home.

With more residents — now 176,000 — has come increased development pressure, and correspondingly, the need to manage growth while protecting the assets that make the county an attractive place to live.

County Council and planning staff have been working to guide that growth so historic communities like Beaufort, the county seat, and touristy Hilton Head Island, can retain their compactness, while ensuring that lower-density growth doesn't strain infrastructure or damage the county's sensitive estuarine environment.

Their efforts are paying off. Beaufort County recently received two national awards.

The Form-Based Code Institute (FBCI) honored the county with a Driehaus Award for its "multi-jurisdictional, form-based code." Historically, zoning has been exclusionary, segregating uses such as commercial, residential and industrial with little flexibility for mixing uses. "Form-based codes address the relationship between building facades and the public realm, the form and mass of buildings in relation to one another, and the scale and types of streets and blocks," according to FBCI. For example, form-based codes (FBC) might encourage residential units atop retail in what traditionally had been a commercial district. One common goal is to promote walkability, vitality and an inviting sense of place.

"The jury was impressed with how the code frames a county-wide range of place types, rural to urban, into a format that is easy to understand, nicely illustrated, and with rules appropriate for those places," FBCI wrote.

Beaufort County also won the Congress for the New Urbanism's (CNU) Charter Award of Merit, which recognizes outstanding achievement in design and planning, for its Community Development Code — adopted in collaboration with municipalities within the county, Beaufort and the town of Port Royal.

The code anticipates development in the form of neighborhoods, hamlets, town centers and other "place types" with a definable character.

The community development code will compensate for mistakes made decades ago, according to County Councilmember Brian Flewelling, who previously served on the county's planning commission.

Tony Circiriello, the county's planning director, said, "What we had in the past was 'zoning shopping' as a result of municipalities offering concessions to developers from the county ordinance requirements, and so it allowed for sprawl to occur in a very unregulated way."

Future development will occur in a "smarter" way, Flewelling added, which encourages density where it's appropriate and walkable communities.

Circiriello said the county, with input from residents, is embracing planning that preserves and protects the rural quality of life that attracted people to the area in the first place. He advises that county leaders interested in taking a similar approach to work with their city and town officials to develop a vision of their community's look and feel 20 to 25 years into the future.

"Try to get your comprehensive plans aligned with that, and then ... your regulatory ordinances should be coordinated so that there's an ability of a developer or property owner to understand what they can and can't do with their property."

See BEAUFORT page 6

NACo on the Move

► In the News

• An op-ed blog, "Policy Dose: A Crisis in Our Jails," written by NACo President **Riki Hokama** and Dr. Renee Binder, incoming president, American Psychiatric Association, appeared in *U.S. News and World Report's* opinion blog, May 14.

► NACo Staff

• **Emilia Istrate**, research director, was a panelist at the Organization for Economic and Co-operation and Development Rural Development Policy Conference in Memphis, Tenn. May 19. She explored the theme, "Telling the rural story: using



Istrate

data to inform policy" with four other representatives from the U.S., Canada and Italy.

► Coming up

• **Andrew Goldschmidt**, membership marketing director, will represent NACo at the Colorado Counties, Inc. annual summer conference in Summit County June 1–3 and at the Florida Association of Counties 2015 Annual Conference and Educational Exposition in St. Johns County June 16–19.

• **Daria Daniel**, associate legislative director, will exhibit on

behalf of NACo at the Mississippi Association of Supervisors Annual Convention in Harrison County June 15–18.



Koroknay-Palicz

• **Alex Koroknay-Palicz**, membership coordinator, will exhibit on behalf of NACo at the Kentucky County Judge/Executive Association Annual Conference in Louisville-Jefferson County June 17–18.

• **Caitlin Myers**, membership services associate, will represent NACo at the Arizona Association of Counties 2015 County Leadership Conference in Pima County June 22–24.

NEW IN JUNE FROM NACo's

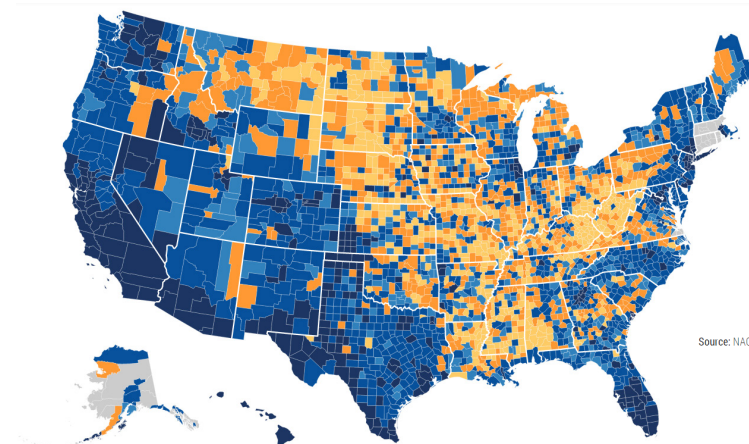
COUNTY EXPLORER

24% of counties have more than 1,000 naturalized citizens, as of 2013.

10% of counties have more than 10 percent foreign born residents, as of 2013.

115 counties had over 100 refugee arrivals in FY 2014.

147 counties had 50 or more unaccompanied children released to sponsors in FY 2014.



2013 Immigration and Ancestry
Percent of Foreign-Born Residents

1.0% 2.0% 3.0% 10.0%

*county data is unavailable if the county is colored grey

Source: NACo Analysis of U.S. Census Bureau - American Community Survey (ACS) 5 year estimates, 2013

www.NACo.org/CountyExplorer

County, municipalities plan together

BEAUFORT from page 5

Joel Russell, executive director of the Form Based Code Institute, called the cooperation between the county, city and town “groundbreaking.”

“It created a forum in which the communities could work together collaboratively to overcome whatever rivalries or differences they’ve had in the past,” he said, “to see the interdependencies — that the city depends on the county and the county depends on the city, and that it’s in their mutual interest to work together.”

Ditches defined as tributaries

WOTUS from page 1

sive analysis of the rule’s impact on counties.

Following are initial highlights.

There are eight categories of waters that fall under federal jurisdiction — traditional navigable waters, interstate waters, territorial seas, impoundments (i.e. dams), tributaries, adjacent waters and specific regional features/100-year floodplain/4,000 feet from WOTUS with a significant nexus.

- The first four categories are essentially unchanged from current rule — traditional navigable, interstate, territorial seas and impoundments

- Ditches and channels are classified as tributaries. However, the final rule contains exemptions for certain types of ditches. NACo is assessing whether the language is helpful for counties

- Prairie potholes, Carolina bays and Delmarva bays, pocosins, western vernal pools and Texas coastal prairie wetlands may be jurisdictional

- All waters located within a 100-year floodplain and all waters within 4,000 feet of the high-tide line or ordinary high water mark may trigger the significant nexus determination and be subject to WOTUS regulation.

- Storm water systems and wastewater recycling structures are exempt if they are built on “dry land.” However, it’s less certain whether storm water systems that have a portion of the system built in floodplains or adjacent to a WOTUS, are exempt.

*See this story at www.countynews.org for resource links about the new “Waters of the U.S.” rule.

Legal pot issues ‘slant’ westward, have implications for broader U.S.

By CHARLES TAYLOR
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

“Don’t make the same mistakes that we did.”

That warning came from Colorado and Washington state association of counties’ officials at a packed WIR workshop, Medical and Recreational Marijuana Legalization: Impact on Counties.

In the fall of 2012, voters in Washington and Colorado passed ballot initiatives legalizing the use, possession and cultivation of recreational marijuana.

“One of the things that I will say was a personal failure of mine and an organizational failure of ours that I want you to learn from,” said Brian Enslow, senior policy director for the Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC):

The association erred in seeing itself as simply a “creature that lobbies the legislature.” “We have some laws that don’t allow us to take positions on initiatives, so we don’t have an initiative focus as an association. We don’t, we haven’t, and we should have.”

Enslow, Chip Taylor, executive director of Colorado Counties Inc. (CCI), and Keith Kamita, chief special agent, Hawai’i Narcotics Enforcement Division, took a deep dive into how recreational and medical marijuana laws are affecting counties in their states. They also discussed approaches other counties might wish to take.

Recreational and medical marijuana has been an issue that “slanted towards the West,” Enslow said, because several western states allow citizen-led ballot initiatives. Ten of the 15 WIR states are dealing with the issue in one form or another, Taylor added. Considering just medical marijuana, 23 states and the District of Columbia have authorized medicinal pot, either legislatively or through voter initiative.

Enslow said when his association became aware that then recreational marijuana issue was ripe as an issue — that the ACLU was working on a ballot initiative — WSAC should have reached out to them. “We should have started influencing the process there, not after the fact.”

As for CCI, Taylor said it was not pro or anti marijuana. “We are pro-local control. “But as an association that represents counties commissioners with varying views,



Kauai County, Hawai’i Councilmember JoAnn Yukimura asks panelists a question after the workshop, Medical and Recreational Marijuana Legalization: Impact on Counties. Photo by Charles Taylor

he said, “my challenge is trying to serve all of these commissioners.... How do we represent pros and cons?”

The Obama Administration’s Justice Department (DOJ) has not interfered in individual states’ marijuana laws, “But that’s this administration,” Enslow said. Directives from DOJ have been: “Don’t let kids get it. Don’t let the cartels get it, and don’t let it go out of state.”

Colorado is being sued by neighboring Nebraska and Oklahoma because of the “leakage” of pot across their borders, where those states say it’s having an impact on law enforcement, courts and jails. “They’d very much like for the feds to do more. Those states would like Colorado to do more,” Taylor said. “The next president may have a whole different idea and direct the DOJ to do something completely different.”

During questions and answers, Rachel Richards, a Pitkin County, Colo. commissioner, said another issue counties are facing is where marijuana “grow” facilities should be allowed to locate. “The odor is the biggest thing,” she said. “People are afraid of crime from it.”

Taylor, who lives in Denver, said industrial areas have been overtaken by indoor grow facilities. “People who are growing marijuana don’t want to be subject to whether or not it rains, whether or not there’s an early freeze,” he explained. “And they’re taking over warehouse space; and consequently, the price of getting warehouse space in industrial zones in Denver

is going through the roof.”

Enslow added that in Washington, small rural ports that rent industrial space to pot producers are “booming.” “You can get four crops a year rather than just one growing outside.”

Kathie Wasserman, executive director of the Alaska Municipal League, said that while recreational marijuana has been legalized in her state, a prohibition against smoking in public will prove to be problematic, especially for marijuana tourists. “You can’t smoke in a hotel room, [a person] sure can’t take marijuana on a boat and go out in U.S. waters, you can’t take it on a plane, so, if you’re in Juneau, where are you going to go?” As a result, she added, one of the biggest issues is her state is “pot clubs.”

For those reasons, at least in Washington state, Enslow said, edible marijuana products seem to have taken a larger share of the market. “Public consumption issues are somewhat resolved through edibles, brownies, soda pop, things like that,” which are indistinguishable from pot-free varieties of the same products.

Taylor said Colorado just approved rules last fall that say edibles have to be produced in serving sizes, “so you can’t sell somebody a cookie and then tell them they have to cut it into 10 wedges.”

There’s also the issue of quality control, he added. “Testing is a growth market for us in Colorado — being able to make sure that whatever you’re producing isn’t 2 milligrams in one (product) and 25 milligrams in another.

“It’s a really big issue because the department of public health and environment would ordinarily do food safety testing, but they can’t approve as safe for consumption a product that contains a Schedule I drug,” Taylor added. “So we have now a whole market developing around who’s going to do testing, and who’s going to certify (quality).”

Legal marijuana can be a “significant” revenue generator. There can be local excise or sales taxes, state business licenses, application fees. However, that’s not a good argument for legalizing pot, Taylor said. “But there are loads of impacts; you want to be able to understand those, you want to be able to address them.”

Marijuana sales in Colorado in 2014 amounted to \$700 million, more than half of which was for medical pot, Taylor said. “In March alone, we had \$32 million worth of medical sales and \$42 million worth of recreational sales.

“That tells me there are entrenched interests. There are folks who are coming to the legislature anxious to protect their business, and with that kind of money on the table, they’re going to fight hard to protect it.”

Hawaii state Sen. Josh Green, M.D., who was in the audience, said, there’s a lot of lobbyist money out there that could make the issue “too big to fail.” “It’s going to be too big for any of you to stop unless you have the absolute, impenetrable support of your leadership and your constituency. Be prepared for that.”

Financial Services News

Counties Have Access to a Competitively Designed Deferred Compensation Program

NACo and Nationwide have been partners for more than 35 years, both dedicated to ensuring that counties can make high-quality supplemental retirement plans available to their employees.

Nationwide recognizes that the association, the state associations of counties and the counties themselves are partners who expect an intuitive understanding of trends, insights on coming innovations, in-depth analysis of regulatory changes and thought leadership on industry issues affecting them. As provider of the NACo Deferred Compensation Program, Nationwide brings this expertise to counties through its competitive products, services, tools and pricing.

Every plan sponsor is looking for something specific when considering what deferred compensation plan they should offer to their employees. So finding a provider who doesn't offer a one-size-fits-all solution is

important when choosing the right plan and provider. That's why the NACo program offered through Nationwide gives counties flexibility to pick-and-choose the products and services most aligned with their goals and employees' needs.

NACo and Nationwide also have long held a commitment to diversity in the products and services counties receive through the NACo program. That focus on diversity extends to money managers. Counties looking to augment their commitment to diversity can elect to offer the Nationwide Diverse Managers Fund. This unique fund is co-managed by Garcia Hamilton & Associates, Herndon Capital Management, Strategic Global Advisors and Ariel Investments — four successful money management firms that are either majority or entirely owned by women and minorities.

In recent years, counties have realized that many workers would

like help with more than retirement planning. That's why the NACo program offers Nationwide's Participant Solutions Center (PSC). This optional service can help county employees and their families assess their future financial needs through Nationwide's exclusive financial needs and health

Every plan sponsor is looking for something specific when considering what deferred compensation plan they should offer to their employees.

care assessments. Using financial products and services outside of the standard deferred compensation plan, the PSC can help each county worker build a more comprehensive retirement financial strategy to fit their unique situation.

Last year, Nationwide expanded its suite of 457(b) plan options and brought new expertise to its Nationwide Freedom Series by teaming up with Morningstar Associates, LLC

to provide investment fiduciary support. Nationwide works with county employers to choose the best option for their plan.

Most important to the NACo-Nationwide partnership is what Nationwide brings to the leaders and employees the NACo program serves.

Nationwide surrounds county leaders and employees with the support they need to help them reach their goals and seeks to simplify the complexities of retirement planning for them and their families.

County employers who want to learn more about the award-winning services, action-oriented communications and program features available through the NACo Deferred Compensation Program should contact

Linda Barber at barberl@nationwide.com.

(Bob Beasley, communications consultant, Nationwide, wrote Financial Services News.)

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

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BREAKING NEWS More than 2,000 county officials are poised to gather in Mecklenburg County, NC for our Annual Conference

ENVIRONMENT

BLOG
NACo Advocates for Greater Collaboration in Defining "Waters of the U.S."
NACo has testified in congressional hearings four times over the past year, and continues to work with federal agencies and lawmakers to represent county perspectives on Clean Water Act provisions.

FEATURES

ALL DATE MOST POPULAR TOPIC MEDIA TYPE

INFRASTRUCTURE

PUBLIC LANDS
62%
OF COUNTIES HAVE
FEDERAL LAND
WITHIN THEIR BOUNDARIES

HEALTH

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KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED
AND YOUR DEVICES READY!

WE LAUNCH JULY 2015



Prince William County, Va.'s Splash Down waterpark is open and business is booming during some late-Spring temperature swells. Photo courtesy of Prince William County, Va. Parks and Recreation

A BUMMER OF A SUMMER

Vacations are mere fantasies for busy county employees this season

By CHARLIE BAN
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

As the heat cranks up and the calendar turns to June, packed up SUVs and spikes in sunscreen purchases foretell summer vacations, but for county government folk, summertime is crunch time.

Hurricane season started June 1, and that means the idea of vacation is tantamount to obscenity for Bill Johnson.

The director of emergency management for Palm Beach County, Fla. is settling in for six months of vigilance that, with any luck, will seem like overkill in retrospect.

The county hasn't seen landfall from a hurricane in 10 years and fingers crossed, that will continue. But in that time, an estimated 160,000 new residents have moved the county.

"Chances are they don't have any

experience in a hurricane," Johnson said. "We'll be doing a lot of training and educating. This is a very busy time to reach out to the community."

Johnson and his staff participated in a recent statewide hurricane exercise in which they invited major stakeholders in for a multi-agency dress rehearsal.

This year brought the introduction of the Sea, Lake and Overland Surges from Hurricanes computer model that predicts how ocean water would come onto land, which will influence how evacuation orders are decided.

"Palm Beach is one of the largest counties east of the Mississippi, so we're dealing with a lot of coastline," Johnson said. "We might be in a position where we only have to evacuate our southernmost zone, for instance."

Other counties will swell with

visitors, like Dare County, N.C. on the Outer Banks. The 35,000 permanent residents will be dwarfed by the estimated 300,000 visitors over the summer months, and that means all hands on deck for county employees.

"Public works guys who were painting over the winter, they're going to be doing garbage pickup," said County Manager Bob Outten. "All departments are staffing up as much as we can—EMS, sheriff. We have our work schedules finalized and we're ready for it. We're pretty much used to it, but every year is different."

Like Palm Beach County, Dare County has its disaster preparations complete.

The county also prepares public service messages on social media and public access television to reach out to visitors who are new to the area.

"We let them know that this will

be a different experience than Myrtle Beach or Virginia Beach, it's a lot less urban," Outten said. "We try to keep people informed, but that will often fall to property management companies."

Outten said using the management companies as liaisons to visitors has been successful and allows county employees to focus on doing their jobs and handling the swell of visitors.

St. Tammany Parish, La. has been getting ready for a horde of new residents since January.

Seven or eight part-time employees of the parish's mosquito abatement district have cruised around in jeeps doing larva sighting and treating potential nests with oil and biological control agents to try to control the populations, but it's a big county, and control agents can't be everywhere.

"People always ask us what species is going to be bad, but we honestly don't know until they're already out in full force," said Viki Taylor, supervising entomologist. "We're dealing with 38 to 40 different species, and one always manages to break through and have a 'good' year."

She said 2012 was probably the parish's worst year in recent memory and since then, the abatement district has done more work in the woodland areas, which has reaped benefits in the last two years.

"There's no way to predict what's going to be bad, but if we do enough

work in the months leading up to when the rains really start, we at least we have a foundation in place," she said.

West Nile Virus season is already in progress, but Taylor said numbers have been down this year and she is encouraged they'll stay that way.

In Prince William County, Va., two county-run waterparks opened over Memorial Day weekend and will be open seven days a week once the school year ends.

"It was a smashing weekend, fantastic weather," said Dianne Wahl, spokeswoman for the parks and recreation department.

The weather is looking hot and dry in Washington state, according to a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration briefing Okanogan County received in late May.

Maurice Goodall is in his second month as the county's emergency manager and he is looking ahead at forest fire season, following the largest wildfire in the state's history last July following a lightning strike. The fire consumed more than 300 homes and one death, and one of Goodall's priorities is improved communication.

"We're coordinating closely with tribes in the area that have different guidelines for selling fireworks and they're open to working with us," he said. "The major issue we

See SUMMER page 9

SUMMER from page 8

need to address is that society wants information now, and that often leads to incorrect information getting out and circulating. We want accuracy, because panic and misinformation doesn't help anyone."

The county is encouraging residents to register their cell phone numbers with a notification system, and working to program notifications through cell phone towers, so visitors can also receive emergency communications.

The county's conservation district has been doing home inspections to help homeowners understand how they can better protect their houses from forest fires.

For Goodall, keeping people vigilant will help prevent unnecessary loss.

"People forget pretty quickly when they see green trees that we had such a problem last year," he said.

Meanwhile, rain is getting in the way in Woodward County, Okla., usually known for its hot and dry weather. Summer is typically the time for the county to do a lot of chip sealing on its roads, but recent heavy rains have delayed the work Commissioner Tommy Roedell hoped would be done by now.

"We've had much heavier rains in the last few years, so we're behind schedule," he said.

After working short-staffed, the roads department has hired two new employees, and Roedell hopes they can take care of more than 450 miles of county roads, though recent state transportation funding cuts have made that harder.

"We've been more fortunate than south central Oklahoma with the rains, but we're still seeing bridges washed out and eventually the legislators are going to realize that they can't keep cutting when the budget barely covers when things go well," he said. "We've built for a hot and dry climate."

The rain has delayed the completion of the parking lot at the Woodward County Fairgrounds, which will debut its new 60,000-square-foot facility this summer, along with refurbished existing buildings.

Roedell hopes the new facility will allow the already-large stock, and oil and gas shows to grow and make Woodward County an agritourism destination in Northwest Oklahoma.

"The new space is going to give us a lot more capacity to hold more people, be able to do more with animals," he said. "I think we can become one of the largest oil and gas shows in the state."

Appropriately enough, one of the remaining steps to completing the fairgrounds work is installation of a new statue that will greet visitors.

"It's a man standing with a child on his shoulders," Roedell said. "It's called 'looking towards the future.'"



WIR Conference discussions fuel debate on funding for timber counties

WIR from page 1

But WIR members, federal and state officials also discussed solutions to address issues unique to their states, where billions of acres of nontaxable, federally owned land constrain local budgets and resources.

Doug McKalip, senior advisor to Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, a featured general session speaker, offered hope and help on two fronts that are WIR and NACo priorities: forest health and infrastructure funding. On the former, he said proposed changes to the Forest Service's budgeting process could make more money available for forest planning.

"That's something that will have, once it passes, a very important impact for the Forest Service to be able to execute timber sales, be faster on all the paperwork and reviews that have to go into timber sales, and help us get on track to execute more timber sales," he said. "Obviously that means more money for your school budgets and your tax base as well."

McKaliip added that fixing crumbling infrastructure will require federal and local collaboration. His agency has built more than 12,000 dams since the 1940s, many of them in the mid-1960s. "Those dams were all constructed with a 50-year design life," he explained. "There is one dam per day out there that is meeting and then exceeding its design life in terms of components, the actual lifespan of the metal components and so forth."

USDA will spend \$200 million on rehabilitating dams this year. "Chances are many of these structures I'm talking about are located in one of your counties, and we want

to work with and help identify those and to rehabilitate them."

Capping the three day meeting, May 20 – 22, WIR's new leadership team took the reins of the caucus with the installation of officers at the closing luncheon: President Gordon Cruickshank, commission chair, Valley County, Idaho; First Vice President Doug Breidenthal, commission chair, Jackson County, Ore.; newly elected Second Vice President Joel Bousman, commissioner, Sublette County, Wyo. and Immediate Past President Lesley Robinson, commissioner, Phillips County, Mont.

Another highlight of the concluding event was presentation of the Dale Sowards Award — this year to Commissioner Mike Murray, Lewis and Clark County, Mont. — which annually recognizes a WIR member who has demonstrated "outstanding service" to public lands counties. Murray led WIR in 2010.

During the conference, which coincided with NACo's spring Board of Directors meeting, WIR members were briefed on a range of issues, including cultivating a recreation economy, infrastructure financing and drought in the West. The WIR board also received an update on FirstNet, the nationwide public safety broadband network.

Among the presentations that sparked lively debate was one focused on policy options to fund the Secure Rural Schools program in the long-term future; SRS will expire Oct. 15. Mark Haggerty, an economist with Headwaters Economics, explored the possibility of replacing SRS with a national, natural resources trust fund. Revenue from commercial activities on federally owned land — whether timber har-

vesting or mineral extraction, for instance — would be invested in a trust, managed by the states. The fund would make payments to state and local governments, or back to the federal treasury to lower the cost of appropriations.

Commissioner James Chmelik of Idaho County, Idaho was lukewarm, at best, to the idea of any continued federal dole. "SRS, it's a welfare payment," he said. "It takes from one part of the country and pays us not to produce. Accepting these welfare payments from Congress and wanting to put up with it is not a solution."

Ford Fuchigami, director of Hawaii's Department of Transportation addressed conferees on infrastructure innovations in the Aloha State. "Being an island state,"

he said, "one of the things that we're very good at is sustainability." His department oversees highways, 15 commercial and general aviation airports, and six harbors. He cited HDOT's use of energy savings performance contracts for the airport system with a goal of reducing energy consumption by 49 percent.

WIR workshops covered a broad spectrum of issues, of interest both to western counties and to counties nationwide. They included Medical and Recreational Marijuana Legalization: Impact on Counties, and Engaging County Leadership to Address Heroin and Prescription Drug Use (see page 6) and a leadership session focused on effective communication.

Next year's conference will be in Teton County, Wyo. May 26-27.



Profiles in Service

Tyler Massey

NACo Board Member
County Treasurer
Hidalgo County, N.M.

Number of years active in NACo: one

Years in public service: six

Occupation: county treasurer

The hardest thing I've ever done: running for public office

Three people (living or dead) I'd invite to dinner: my late grandmother, Ellen DeGeneres and Oprah Winfrey (if she's buying dinner)

A dream I have is to: travel the world

You'd be surprised to learn that I: am a licensed foster parent and an EMT.

The most adventurous thing I've ever done is: rock climbing.

My favorite way to relax is: sitting at home watching movies.

I'm most proud of: my family.

Every morning I read: the news, from various news agencies.

My favorite meal is: meatloaf.

My pet peeve is: people who chew with their mouths open.

My motto is: "Always remember you're unique, just like everyone else."

The last book I read was: *An Officer and a Spy* by Robert Harris.

My favorite movie is: *Simon Birch*.

My favorite music is: pop and rock.

My favorite president is: Ronald Reagan.

My county is a NACo member because: NACo provides resources to our county which enhance our mission of serving the taxpayers.



The most adventurous thing I've ever done is:
rock climbing
— T. Massey

What's in a Seal?

Lancaster County, Pa.



The Lancaster County Board of Commissioners on Jan. 10, 1979 adopted as its seal a heart within a heart. This is a symbol from Lancaster County's early art which signifies the heart of a man living in the heart of God, thus recognizing the freedom and diversity of religion in the county and its strong influence for virtue, truth and honesty.

Within the heart is a Conestoga wagon, a product of the ingenuity and craftsmanship of the county, surmounted by Pennsylvania rifles, a similar product. The fertile earth is displayed in the base of the heart to mark the residents' appreciation of its beneficence and the stewardship of Lancaster County's farmers. Piles of husked corn lie on the ground in tribute to this native grain.

Adapted from county website, www.co.lancaster.pa.us.



News From the Nation's Counties

► ALASKA

The state's newest borough, **PETERSBURG**, incorporated in 2013, may soon exercise its **zoning and subdivision authority** beyond the boundaries of the old city of Petersburg, said an online report from radio station KFSK. Planning consultants hired by the borough met recently with the Borough Assembly, school board and other stakeholders to preview the draft of a comprehensive planning document that includes land use designations for the entire borough.

At least one borough assembly member is unhappy with the prospect. During the preview presentation, Assembly Member Bob said that a promise in the formation of the new borough was no zoning extended outside the old city limits. "And I can tell you, people outside of town that I'm associated are not at all in favor of it."

► CALIFORNIA

• As the **state's drought** continues, **PLACER** and **MERCED** counties are losing a big-name business. Starbucks is moving its bottled water business from the two counties to Pennsylvania, according to a report in the online *ClimateProgress*. Water for the Starbucks-owned brand, Ethos, was being extracted from Placer County's groundwater and bottled in nearby Merced County. The announcement from the company came after a *Mother Jones* magazine investigative report spotlighted the company's practice.

But Starbucks isn't the only bottled water company drawing water from drought-affected areas. PepsiCo and Nestle brands such as Aquafina, Pure Life and Arrowhead also use ground water and municipal water supply for their products from drought-afflicted areas in California, according to the *Huffington Post*.

• Could be the grass may never be greener on the other side of some fences if the **RIVERSIDE COUNTY** Board of Supervisors approves a staff recommendation to **disallow natural turf** in the front yards of any newly constructed home. According to *The Press Enterprise*, the county's transportation and land management agency is proposing changes to the landscape ordinance that would essentially forbid builders from planting lawns in homes' front yards. Grass also would be banned for new commercial and industrial projects and public road parkways.

• The game is on again to **add more supervisors to L.A. COUNTY's** longstanding five-member Board of Supervisors. A proposed state constitutional amendment would expand all boards from five to seven members in counties with more than 2 million in population. Voters have consistently turned down such efforts, according to a report in *L.A. Now*, and analysts say the proposal — if it makes the ballot in 2016 — would likely meet the same fate.

► FLORIDA

Although they didn't find a rocket-propelled grenade launcher in a shed in **MARION COUNTY** — as a tipster suggested — **sheriff's deputies** did find 22 firearms, containers of black powder, more than a pound of marijuana, cocaine, prescription pills, other drug paraphernalia and two bulletproof vests. The sheriff's office had been advised that the rocket launcher was to be used in an attack against the local police department. Two men who were in the shack at the time of the raid were arrested.

► MARYLAND

HOWARD COUNTY's Department of Fire and Rescue Services (HCDFRS) was honored with the American Heart Association's **Mission: Lifeline EMS Bronze**

Award. HCDFRS was selected for implementing quality improvement measures for the treatment of patients who experience severe heart attacks. These award-winning measures and protocols are now being taught regionally through the Department's Resuscitation Academy.

"We are fortunate in Howard County to have one of the best EMS systems in the nation. The department has made tremendous strides in responding to incidents that involve cardiac arrest," said County Executive Allan H. Kittleman.

► MICHIGAN

WAYNE COUNTY hopes to **save \$3 million** a year by consolidating three departments. *The Detroit News* reports that a plan approved by the Wayne County Commission, May 21, calls for combining the county's Children and Family Services, Health and Human Services and Veterans Services departments into a new department of Health, Veterans and Community Wellness.

The plan, from County Executive Warren Evans, also calls for shifting the Department of Economic Development Growth Engine's functions to the Economic Development Corp. Wayne County faces a \$70 million deficit.

► NEW JERSEY

A pilot program, funded by forfeiture funds, federal grants and the local prosecutor's office, will supply 47 **body cameras** to the **BERGEN COUNTY** Sheriff's Office.

"We believe these cameras are a tool that will be effective in protecting both law enforcement and members of the public in a manner that best serves the people of Bergen County," County Executive Jim Tedesco said, via the N.J. Advance.

► NEW YORK

WESTCHESTER COUNTY is hoping **incentives** will prompt enough retirements to save \$1.6 million in next year's budget.

The incentive will offer a \$1,000 bonus for every year of employment, which could total \$700,000 this year, *The Journal News* reported.

► OHIO

A savings account for every **CUYAHOGA COUNTY** kindergartner is likely to be cut by the County Council, *The Plain Dealer* reported.

Started two years ago, the program set aside \$1.5 million each year to open **\$100 college savings accounts** in the names of each of the county's estimated 15,000 kindergartners in the fall of 2013 and 2014.

A combination of cost and low

participation led to the introduction of repeal legislation. Since the savings program began it has cost \$293,000 for salaries and benefits to administer the program, \$73,000 for contracting services and \$45,900 in mailing costs. Of the 10,500 accounts created last year, only about 400 had been registered by parents or guardians and of those, only 55 had received additional deposits from family members.

► OKLAHOMA

During the past 10 years, **TULSA COUNTY's** health department has redistributed \$16.8 million in **unused medication** to low-income residents, *Morning Edition* reported. Social Services Director Linda Johnston has recruited 22 retired doctors to visit 68 nursing homes to collect the unused medication and transport it to the county's pharmacy. Johnston said the program has cost less than \$6,000, mostly for packaging and storage materials.

► OREGON

Nearly three-quarters of **BENTON COUNTY** residents **rejected a ban on biotech crops**.

Some 73 percent of voters rejected Measure 2-89, which would have prohibited cultivation of genetically modified organisms. Though researchers at Oregon State University in the county would have been stymied by the ban, it may not have mattered in the end, *The Capital Press* reported.

Legislation passed by lawmakers in 2013, Senate Bill 863, precluded most Oregon counties from regulating GMOs.

Voters in **JACKSON** and **JOSEPHINE counties** passed GMO prohibitions last year. Josephine County's ordinance is pre-empted by state law, but Jackson County was exempted from SB 863 because its initiative was already on the ballot.

► TEXAS

An election on property tax relief would cost counties more than \$13 million, the **TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES** estimated.

The average homeowner could save an estimated \$126 annually under the extra \$10,000 property-tax exemption that is being discussed. An election would be required to raise the exemption, and there is a question over whether it would be in September or if the issue would be added to the November ballot.



► FLORIDA

BROWARD COUNTY Commissioner Barbara Sharief shares seats with participants in the **Third Annual Autism in Flight Program** at Fort Lauderdale Hollywood International Airport. Fifty children and their families boarded a JetBlue

Airways plane for a mock flight intended to help with the challenges faced by families with autistic children when travelling.

"Taking a family vacation with a child who has autism was often an impossible dream. I embarked on an effort to change

that," Sharief said.

Sharief, Broward County Public Schools, JetBlue and the Broward County Aviation Department joined forces to create a real-life travel experience for autistic children.

Photo courtesy of Broward County, Fla.

The H.R. Doctor Is In

Exploring New Horizons

When I have the chance to visit with students, I encourage them to act now and not put off opportunities in their lives to learn and to explore. When we fail to do that, we doom ourselves to a life of missed chances and a life which may be described as “normal” — perhaps even as rather boring and dull.

Exploring is a defining evolutionary trait that helps mark our species as advanced. Exploration is driven by curiosity and the courage to look at possibilities. It is rooted in education, history and imagination. How could the lessons of history help change for the better what our futures might be?

Imagine living 500 years ago and beginning to hear, principally by word-of-mouth, and increasingly by reading printed words, that explorers have come back from the “New World” or from journeys around the Cape of Good Hope or even around the world. How exciting and compelling it must have been to hear about the adventures of those who had the courage to take risks. Whether the goals were economic gain, currying favor with some ruler, converting primitive populations to the church or simply seeking out new life and new civilizations, the result in many ways is very similar. Exploration means discovery. Discovery means refreshing our ways of thinking and opening up new and better thoughts about what the future could be like.

Imagine living 200 years ago in the still young United States in a time

of new institutions such as the postal system and widely read newspapers. Information about adventurers like Lewis and Clark could be relayed to a wider audience faster than ever before. Today, we don’t fret over the expedition’s cost. Rather, we see the broader value of an enterprise that opened new visions of the American future.

So it is with the explorations our society undertakes in the 21st century to explore some of the broadest questions we will ever consider — the nature and the origins of the universe. Our sailing ships have given way to robotic telescopes such as the Hubble Space Telescope, now in its 25th year of astounding discoveries, as well as exploration vehicles that have landed on Mars and on a comet. Next month after a journey of nine years, another emissary of our species will arrive at the largest of the “dwarf planets,” Pluto. Last month the Dawn spacecraft made it into orbit around Ceres, the second largest of the dwarf planets. The New Horizons and Dawn missions will bring back knowledge which will lead to new discoveries, new answers to old questions, and new questions.

As an avid amateur astronomer, I increasingly find time in the observatory to be a mixture of art and science.

The more I develop my knowledge of the discoveries of modern astronomy, the more I realize that even the centuries-old debates between science and religion are giving way gradually to an increasing synergy

“So it is with the explorations our society undertakes in the 21st century to explore some of the broadest questions we will ever consider”



between the two.

Science and its methods of the pursuit of knowledge provide answers. However the answers science tends to produce are based upon theories and data that supports, refutes or modifies the last set of answers. The truth of science is fluid and changes over time as we broaden our insights and develop new means of overcoming obstacles to our vision.

The mixture of science and art that I explore on clear nights in my observatory causes me to ask questions and strive for answers. These quests for knowledge are fueled by the courage to explore and to see things with a longer-range imagination and curiosity.

These are exactly the tools that the

most successful public administrators bring to their work. When we don’t have a forward-thinking, strategic view of how to govern a county or city, we are doomed to miss opportunities to do great long-lasting things. As elected and appointed officials, we are stewards of the future. That stewardship role cannot be fulfilled only by adopting the budget of the moment or writing a memo that is purely tactical. We need the courage to admit that the infrastructure is failing and to attack the problem with innovation, passion and by enlisting others to join in.

We must have the courage to admit that pollution endangers health, which in turn endangers our future. These and many other questions are

inconsistent with the tactical, limited vision approach too often defining public administration. Increasingly we all need to think and act for the future like our ancestor explorers did in creating their legacies. Follow the adventures of the New Horizons mission in its visit to Pluto — coming up on July 14. View with wonder what the Dawn spacecraft keeps revealing about Ceres. Then think of how you can become more of an explorer in your own life!

Phil Rosenberg
The HR Doctor
www.hrdr.net

CN JOB MARKET

County Administrator — Franklin County, Wash.

Salary: \$116,000.00 – \$121,000.00

Franklin County is accepting job applications for a County Administrator. Full Time. Full Benefits. Applicants must submit a resume and completed application to hr@co.franklin.wa.us or in person. Go to www.co.franklin.wa.us/humanresources for application and full job description.

Franklin County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Director of Facility Services — Hennepin County, Minn.

Salary: \$109,636.80 – \$151,480.16

We are seeking a senior-level professional who has knowledge and experience to be accountable for leading a team of individuals who provide facility planning, and delivery of operational and capital projects and programs, while also advancing and supporting technology, security and safety within numerous Hennepin County

facilities. We are seeking a leader demonstrating strategic analysis, effective communication, project and program management skills and competencies delivering operational and capital projects and programs within a multi-disciplinary team environment with varied customers and stakeholders, including executive leadership and elected officials.

Position requires a related bachelor’s degree or higher and at least seven (7) years of supervisory or managerial experience.

For consideration, a resume and cover letter outlining your qualifications are required as part of the Hennepin County’s online application process. To view the complete posting and access the online application visit www.hennepin.jobs. This posting is open until filled and candidates will be referred on a regular basis. Contact Leanne.Rajtar@hennepin.us or 612.348.9045.

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A new resource from NACo

N.C., Tenn., Utah counties selected for County Health Learning Challenge

Cabarrus County, N.C.; Knox County, Tenn.; and Salt Lake County, Utah have been selected to participate in NACo's yearlong County Health Learning Challenge. Teams from each county will focus on achieving goals based upon the County Health Rankings & Roadmaps model of community health.

Cabarrus County, northwest of Charlotte, will focus on housing and employment. Healthy Cabarrus, a long-running community partnership in the county, will lead the effort to address the county's two priority health needs.

Knox County, in eastern Tennessee, will focus on the physical environment by targeting subdivision regulations to improve the county's built environment to promote active lifestyles; and Salt Lake County will focus on teen pregnancy in its Latino community. The teen pregnancy rate in the Latino community, the fastest-growing population in the county, is double the county rate. Through these efforts, the county seeks to affect high school graduation and poverty rates.

Beginning at the 2015 NACo Annual Conference and Exposition in Mecklenburg County,

N.C., the teams will embark on a collaborative effort with their communities and Roadmaps to Health community coaches from University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute (UWPHI) to reach their goals. The progress of each county team will be featured at the conclusion of the Challenge at the 2016 NACo Annual Conference and Exposition in Los Angeles County, Calif.

While county teams are designed to address their identified focus areas, they generally composed of county elected officials, county agency leadership, non-profit partners, local businesses, community advocacy groups and other key stakeholders. The three county teams were selected in a competitive process from among 25 county applicants.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the UWPHI support NACo's County Health Learning Challenge.

For more information about the NACo County Health Learning Challenge, visit www.naco.org/countyhealthlearningchallenge or contact Andrew Whitacre at awhitacre@naco.org.

Forsyth County, Ga. PIO wins NACIO scholarship

A veteran county government communications professional has been selected to receive the National Association of County Information Officers (NACIO) Scholarship for the 2015-16 session of Texas Christian University's Certified Public Communicator (CPC) Program.

Jodi B. Gardner, Forsyth County, Ga. director of communications, was chosen by NACIO to receive the scholarship. NACIO will pay 50 percent of the tuition costs for Gardner to attend the program. The association is a NACo affiliate.

The Certified Public Communicator Program at TCU is a post-baccalaureate, graduate-level residential program for two summers (one week each in 2015 and 2016), plus a two-day winter session. The program is taught by strategic communication professors from TCU's Schieffer School of Journalism.

Professional communicators working for city, county and public-sector agencies create three-year comprehensive communication plans for their organizations during the program. The CPC program is a partnership of TCU's Schieffer School of Journalism,

Extended Education and the Texas Association of Municipal Information Officers.

"The program is the only continuing education opportunity in the nation that is geared specifically for local government public relations professionals," said NACIO President Todd McGee, who is also public relations director for the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners.

Gardner has been with Forsyth County government for 10 years. She and her three staff members manage the communications needs for a county that is consistently ranked among the fastest growing in the nation. Their work includes operation of TV Forsyth, the county's 24-hour government cable channel, media relations, publications and special event planning and more.

As an active NACo affiliate, NACIO works to promote the value of professional PIOs to county governments and also to promote a better understanding among the general public of the roles and responsibilities of county government.

For more information about NACIO, visit www.naco.org.



Jodi B. Gardner

Milwaukee County fights food deserts

NEWS FROM *from page 10*

That figure was extrapolated from information provided by numerous counties, including BEXAR, which had a \$1 million estimate, according to *The Express News*.

► WISCONSIN

MILWAUKEE COUNTY will launch a **mobile market** to sell locally grown produce to seniors and low-income residents.

The Sowing, Empowering and Eliminating Deserts (of food) program, or SEED, includes adding up to 20 acres of community gardens on vacant county-owned land.

The mobile market's partnership with the Hunger Task Force will be one way to bring fresh vegetables and fruits to food deserts, which are areas without a full-line grocery store.

Produce would be sold at regular prices, and the mobile market would not serve as a food pantry, *The Journal Sentinel* reported.

The county will spend up to \$200,000 this year to set up the SEED program.

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