

CountyNews

NACO National Association of Counties

Bridging the gap

Bipartisan legislation seeks to repair funding cuts to locally owned transportation assets

By JESSICA MONAHAN

ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

Last month, Sens. Roy Blunt (R-Mo.) and Bob Casey (D-Pa.) introduced S. 1370, the Support for Bridges Act, bipartisan legislation to increase funding for locally owned transportation infrastructure.

While unlikely to pass as a stand-alone bill, the legislation serves as a marker for the reauthorization of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21). The bill would change the federal highway program and yield several benefits for counties.

See **BRIDGES** page 9

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES ■ WASHINGTON, D.C.

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Texas counties suffer significant road damage in floods

By CHARLIE BAN

SENIOR STAFF WRITER

A month's worth of brutal weather in May has battered and soaked eastern Texas to the point where Gov. Greg Abbott (R) has issued emergency disaster declarations for 94 counties, and President Obama has made additional federal funding available to local governments in seven counties. Tornadoes, heavy rains and flooding have killed at least 27 people and

caused untold millions in damage to private and municipal property.

Damage evaluations and estimates continue in many of those 94 counties, but as of June 10, 26 counties contacted by *County News* that had completed estimates reported more than \$58 million in damage to county facilities, culverts, roads and bridges, with transportation infrastructure the top tally. Many others are waiting for waters to recede to complete their inspections.

The state Division of Emergency Management cited the evaluations still in progress when declining to release the total value of claims filed by county governments.

Bruce Barr, Emergency and Floodplain Management program manager with the Texas Association

of Counties, said this flood reversed the balance of public assistance and individual assistance eligibility.

"We usually see about twice as many public assistance grants than individual assistance, but this time it's flipped," he said. "There's just not as much public property being damaged."

Most of San Augustine County's limestone and glauconite roads lost at least two inches of material, and there are very few paved roads in the county. The jury is still out on how much repairing them will cost, because they make up the majority of road surfaces in the county. The county's damage estimate was incomplete as of June 9.

See **TEXAS FLOOD** page 9



The Rakowitz Bridge in Wilson County, Texas has been judged to be structurally deficient, following May flooding, but trucks are removing barricades and crossing it anyway.

Photo courtesy of Wilson County, Texas Office of Emergency Management

MAP-21 extended again; Congress eyes next steps

By JESSICA MONAHAN

ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

On May 23, the Senate passed H.R. 2353, the Highway and Transportation Funding Act of 2015, a bill to extend the current surface transportation law known as MAP-21 through July 31. It also passed in the House and was signed by President Obama, averting MAP-21's scheduled expiration two days later. Had Congress failed to act, spending authority for federal surface transportation programs would have expired and the Federal Highway Administration would have been unable to reimburse states for construction costs incurred after May 31, including costs associated with many county projects.

When MAP-21 was passed into law during 2012, its spending authority was scheduled to expire Sept. 30, 2014. Before its expiration, Congress knew the source of funding for most of MAP-21's programs — the Highway Trust Fund — would not have enough revenue to match its obligations during the duration of the law. In response, Congress chose to transfer funding to the Highway Trust Fund and extend spending authority through May of 2015. Between the time MAP-21's first extension passed and its expiration, Congress failed to agree on a long-term solution for the Highway Trust Fund and instead

decided to pass a second extension lasting two months.

Over the next two months, it's unlikely that Congress will resolve the long-term solvency of the trust fund. Instead, Senate Republicans are already setting their sights on another short-term extension that will require additional revenue to keep the Highway Trust Fund solvent during its duration. Just this week, Senate Finance Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) and Environment and Public Works Committee Chairman James Inhofe

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NACo, NARC question proposed ozone standards at Capitol Hill hearing

At a Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works hearing on EPA's proposed ozone and air quality standards rule, Judge/Executive Gary Moore, Boone County, Ky., explained how regional and local leaders work to balance air quality needs along with measures to promote economic vitality and expressed ozone and air quality standards.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) made a special appearance at the June 3 hearing to introduce Moore. He said, "Judge Moore is uniquely qualified to speak on these matters given his leadership roles in both the National Association of Regional Councils and the National Association of Counties. He has a broad perspective on how this proposed rule would affect not just Boone County, but counties across the nation—rural, suburban and urban."

Speaking on behalf of the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) and NACo,

Moore said, "Regional and local leaders play a significant role in protecting air quality while enhancing residents' quality of life through transportation and economic development efforts."

"Ozone standards are an important part of protecting the air we breathe, but we need to fully implement and understand the impacts of the 2008 standard before establishing a new one."

In his testimony, Moore outlined three key concerns:

- **The stakes are high for counties and regions** — Counties and other local governments are responsible for more than three-quarters of the nation's road miles. A more stringent ozone standard would hinder transportation efforts that are critical to economic development.

- **A stricter ozone standard would impose unfunded mandates on state and local governments** — From the costs of compliance to the costs of delays in critical transportation projects,



Boone County, Ky. Judge/Executive Gary Moore testifies on behalf of NACo before the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works about EPA's proposed changes to air quality rule. Photo by Matt Fellows

regions and counties would face direct and indirect costs under the proposed rule, without any additional compliance funding from the federal government.

- **The process by which the new**

standards have been proposed has been confusing and counterproductive — The EPA released the implementation guidelines for the 2008 standard in February 2015.

Moore noted that ozone levels

are steadily declining as a result of current federal regulatory programs, rendering a new standard premature. Since 1980, ozone-forming emissions have been reduced by half and average ozone concentrations have dropped by a third.

He assured the committee that NARC and NACo stand ready to work with Congress and the agencies to craft clear, concise and workable rules. He added that local and regional leaders who must implement ozone standards on the ground are key partners in successful intergovernmental collaboration.

"When we work together, we can achieve our shared goals of protecting air quality, strengthening our transportation systems and promoting economic growth," Moore said.

Under the proposed rule, hundreds of counties would be considered in non-attainment, or not able to meet the current ozone standard.

Court affirms EPA's right to regulate ozone; targeted levels place burden on counties

By CHARLES TAYLOR
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

A federal appeals court in Washington, D.C. handed the EPA a victory earlier this month, when it rejected challenges to the agency's power to regulate ozone pollution under the Clean Air Act.

In *Mississippi Commission on Environmental Quality v. EPA*, the court held that the Environmental Protection Agency has wide latitude in enforcing limits on ozone air pollution.

"We have some environmental groups that wanted to very much put the Uinta Basin into nonattainment," said Mike McKee, chairman of the Uinta County, Utah Board of Commissioners. That was one of the issues raised in the court case which involved several states, counties and private entities that challenged the EPA's regulatory authority. McKee also testified at a U.S. Senate committee hearing in Washington on June 3, a day after the court decision, on "Challenges and Implications of EPA's Proposed National Ambient Air Quality Standard for Ground-

Level Ozone."

The court decision was a plus for Uinta County because it validated the county's Uinta Basin ozone status as "unclassifiable." Opponents had wanted it downgraded to "nonattainment."

EPA has proposed lowering its current 75 parts per billion (ppb) standard for ground-level ozone air pollution to 65 ppb or 70 ppb, which would push another 560 counties into ozone noncompliance, potentially harming local economies.

If the EPA's proposed new standard were to become law, it could have a "devastating" effect on the region, McKee told *County News*.

"Seventy percent of the natural gas in the state of Utah comes out of my county, and 80 percent of the oil produced comes out of Uinta Basin," he said. "The challenge if you're 'nonattainment,' the investment dollars ... would likely leave and go to other areas."

Maricopa County, Ariz. is squarely in nonattainment status, and officials there estimate an additional eight to 12 counties would be desig-

nated under the more stringent EPA standards.

Jo Crumbaker is policy advisor for the county's air quality department. She said those counties could find it difficult to attract new businesses and would face significant financial and administrative burdens to prepare plans to improve air quality and develop the codes and regulations required to implement those plans. She added that each new large polluter would have to "show that it has a net air quality benefit in order to locate in a nonattainment area."

Escambia County, Fla. has similar concerns. It meets the current ozone standard, but barely. However, it would almost certainly be in violation under either of the proposed new standards.

"Nonattainment designation to Escambia County or the Florida Panhandle would have minimal benefit to air quality but major impact on our economic development," county officials wrote in response to a NACo query. "We are recruiting finance, cybersecurity, clean manufacturing, assembly and technology

jobs. Restrictions on lifestyle and land development (even low-impact development) would hamper our efforts to turn our economy around from the Great Recession, oil spill and hurricane impacts of the last 10 years just as it is accelerating."

None of the counties interviewed

"Forty parts per billion we have no control over, it's background."

could quantify the exact damage to their economies. But the EPA has estimated the cost to states, minus California, of a 70 ppb standard to be \$3.9 billion per year; \$15.2 billion annually to lower ozone pollution to 65 ppb.

Ozone is a major component of smog and is primarily a summertime pollutant. It forms when sunlight reacts with so-called ozone precursors, including fumes from gasoline pumps (volatile organic compounds) and nitrogen oxides from power plants, industrial operations and motor vehicles.

Many of the nonattainment

counties share a common problem: A large percentage of their ozone doesn't originate within their borders but rather drifts in from neighboring states or comes from sources that occur in nature, called biogenic sources. "Forty parts per billion we have no control over, it's background,"

Crumbaker said.

Delaware is in a similar, if more serious situation, according to Ali Mirzakhali, director, Delaware Division of Air Quality. "There used to be a time that Delaware's emissions caused a lot of Delaware's air pollution," he said. "That's just not the case anymore. EPA's modeling indicates that 94 percent of our air pollution comes from upwind (states)."

The EPA won't allow the state to take "transported" ozone into account, which the recent appeals court decision affirmed, said Mirzakhali,

See **OZONE** page 9

Latest NACo Research: Professionalization of County Administration: Appointed County Administrators

By EMILIA ISTRATE
RESEARCH DIRECTOR

To deal with the complexities of county operations and increasingly complicated intergovernmental relationships, many County Boards turn to county administrators. Board-appointed administrators typically implement board policies, run daily operations and prepare annual budgets.

NACo's latest research endeavor, *The Professionalization of County Administration: Appointed County Administrators*, establishes a national baseline about appointed county administrators and managers around the country.

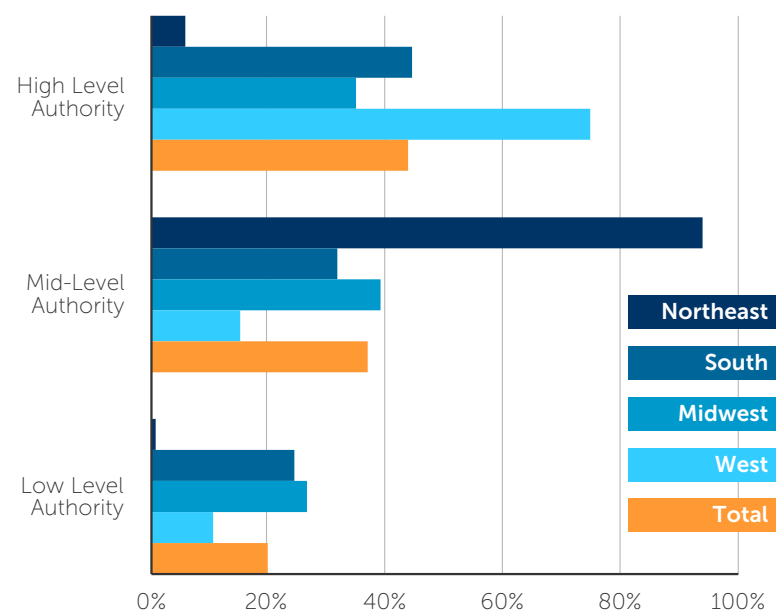
"County administrator" as a function has many possible titles and varying levels of authority. NACo's analysis found 115 possible titles of positions that fulfill the county administrator function around the country. Boards may hire an individual for the position of county administrator or may add county administrator duties to the responsibilities of a current county position, depending on the county governance structure and state statutes.

The specific position — solely dedicated to fulfilling county administrator duties—may have one of 102 titles, ranging from "chief administrative officer" to "county director." Other county staff, most often county clerks, are appointed as county administrators and perform administrator duties in addition to their main obligations.

What do county administrators do?

Almost half of the 1,322 appointed county administrators around the country have a high level of administrative authority, appointing and removing all or

FIGURE 1. LEVEL OF AUTHORITY OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATORS BY REGION, AS OF MAY 2015



Notes: National classification based on Roger Kemp, *Forms of Local Government: A Handbook on City, County and Regional Options* (Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Company, Inc., Publishers, 2007). For clarification purposes, this analysis uses the terms "high level authority", "mid-level authority" and "low level authority" instead of "county manager", "chief administrative officer" and "county administrative assistant" types identified in the mentioned study. Connecticut and Rhode Island do not have county governments.

Source: NACo analysis, as of May 2015

most county department heads, supervising county departments, preparing the budget and overseeing the day-to-day operation of the county. Three-quarters of the county administrators in western counties fulfil these responsibilities.

Another third of county administrators are in charge of the daily operations of the county and the preparation of the annual budget, but cannot appoint or remove most department directors and have no direct supervisory authority over some county departments. Most of the county administrators in the Northeast fit this description.

The remaining county administrators have a lower level of

administrative authority, mainly coordinating between county departments, ensuring administrative action on the County Board policies and the preparation of draft ordinances and reports.

The administrator is a recurring function across counties. Nearly half of counties (43 percent) have a county administrator. Counties of varying sizes, from Petroleum County, Mont. (485 residents) to Los Angeles, Calif. (more than 10 million residents) appoint county administrators. Northeastern counties are most likely to appoint an administrator, with almost three-quarters employing an administrator.

In contrast, only 30 percent of Midwest counties make use of this function, most often small counties — with fewer than 50,000 residents. All counties in Arizona, Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, North Carolina, New Jersey and Virginia appoint administrators, while there are no administrators in these five states: Arkansas, Hawaii, Oklahoma, Tennessee and Vermont.

To appoint administrators, County Boards can choose to implement an enabling state statute, enact an ordinance or merely hire an individual to fulfil county administrator responsibilities.

Thirty-three out of the 43 states with appointed county administrators have current statutes sanctioning this function. The counties in these states often decide not to use the state statute, but appoint the county administrator by county ordinance. For example, Idaho, Iowa and North Dakota have enabling state statutes, but counties with county administrators in these states did not use them. These are often appointments with more limited authority than under the state statute.

The reader can find the complete analysis at www.naco.org/countyadministrators. To access the companion interactive features and the individualized state-level profiles, go to NACo's County Explorer interactive map www.naco.org/countyexplorer and select "County Administrators" in the "County Structure" category.

You can also listen to a podcast on the added value provided by county administrators, based on an interview with Peter Austin, McHenry County, Ill. administrator and the incoming president of National Association of County Administrators.

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.

QUICK TAKES

LARGEST CAPACITY BASEBALL STADIUMS

1. Los Angeles..... Dodger Stadium
2. Denver* Coors Field
3. Fulton, Ga. Turner Field
4. New York* Yankee Stadium
5. Maricopa, Ariz. Chase Field

*combined city/county
Source: Wikipedia, List of Stadiums by Capacity

Dodgers Stadium



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The Voice of America's Counties

Apply now to attend Juvenile Justice Action Academy

NACo invites applications for its County Leadership in Juvenile Justice Action Academy: Integrating Systems & Improving Outcomes, Oct. 21–23 in Cook County, Ill.

The academy will bring together teams of county officials and local partners to learn about serving justice-involved youth in contact with the behavioral health or child welfare systems, and to create action plans to increase collaboration and improve outcomes in their communities.

The Action Academy will also allow these teams to learn with and from peers from across the country and will connect team members with experts and resources on juvenile justice reform.

NACo will reimburse up to four team members (maximum of one non-county employee) for airline travel as well as hotel and other travel-related costs in accordance

with NACo's travel reimbursement policies.

For more information and to apply, go to: www.naco.org/JJActionAcademy

The MacArthur Foundation's Models for Change Initiative funds the Action Academy. The initiative continues to play a key role in guiding advances to make juvenile justice systems fairer, more effective, rational and developmentally appropriate.

Models for Change supports counties and states in reforming the way they treat young people who are charged with crimes, and encourages jurisdictions to implement collaborative, evidence-based programs and policies that bolster public safety and improve human outcomes.

Applications are due Thursday, July 2, by 5 p.m. EDT.

New emergency vehicle boosts communications

By CHARLIE BAN
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

While serving as El Paso County, Colo.'s incident commander during the Waldo Canyon Fire, Jim Reid was better equipped to organize a basketball tournament. "I had a gym-sized room and one telephone," he said. "We got a computer a few days in, no radio because of the mountains."

Reid serves as the county's executive director of public services.

The geographic and infrastructure challenges made a 2012 disaster response feel like 1912, for all intents and purposes. But now, with the introduction of the county's mobile advanced communications (MAC) vehicle, Reid feels like the county's emergency disaster response will step into the present and be equipped for the future.

It is a technology resource hub for disaster response operations.

"Communication issues are a priority, always are in a disaster, and this equipment is just what we need," he said. "Our IT folks

responded to our problems."

That response was to gut a motor home and build it with the equipment the county's emergency response team needed.

"We have the cloud; we have a bank of computers and radios. We have a satellite dish and room for seven people inside," he said. "And charging stations for phones on the outside."

Monitors on the exterior allow for visual presentations to large groups.

The MAC can lumber around on-road at 30 miles per hour, and for more rugged terrain, a Ford Expedition, carrying a communications mast, can reach higher ground and create a radio line of sight to boost communications ability.

"It's better than the mobile hotspot we had before," he said.

An external generator, capable of "powering a small town" is on hand to run the contraption.

"It wasn't designed to be a command post, but it does augment one and give us the capabilities we need," Reid said. "It redirects

our office calls here, so you don't have to learn a new number if we're in the field. It seems small, but it makes things a lot easier."

The equipment cost roughly \$250,000 and all of the work was done in-house by county staff.

It was a new direction for the county's information technology department.

"IT had never been part of emergency response except for maps," said Imad Karaki executive director of support services. "Once we had larger disasters, with the whole alphabet soup of federal agencies on hand working together, we had to start developing voice-over-IP (Internet Protocol) to support them and it grew from there. We gave them absolutely secure communications and when we started looking at what we could do once we were able to just pump in information, it changed the way we thought about what we could, and should do in emergencies."

The MAC can do more than support first responders. During

"Communication issues are a priority, always are in a disaster, and this equipment is just what we need"




El Paso County, Colo.'s Mobile Advanced Communications vehicle can boost radio signals in the county's mountainous terrain with its mast. Photo courtesy of El Paso County, Colo.

See MAC page 6

FOR THE LATEST UPDATE ON THE WATERS OF THE U.S. RULE

Go to www.NACo.org/WOTUS



Key Terms	Current EPA/Corps Regulations	Proposed Rule	Final Rule	Preliminary Analysis
"Waters of the U.S." (WOTUS) Definition	40 CFR 230.3(s) The term "waters of the United States" means:	Define "waters of the United States" for all sections (including sections 301, 311, 401, 402, 404) of the CWA to mean:	For purposes of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. 1251 et. seq. and its implementing regulations, subject to the exclusions in paragraph (2) of this section, the term "waters of the United States" means:	NOTE: This rule will be finalized 60 days after publication in the Federal Register
Traditional Navigable Waters	All waters which are currently used, were used in the past, or may be susceptible to use in interstate or foreign commerce, all waters which are subject to the ebb and flow of the tide;	(1) All waters which are currently used, were used in the past, or may be susceptible to use in interstate or foreign commerce, including all waters which are subject to the ebb and flow of the tide;	(i) All waters which are currently used, were used in the past, or may be susceptible to use in interstate or foreign commerce, including all waters which are subject to the ebb and flow of the tide;	NO CHANGE These waters are referred to as traditionally navigable waters of the U.S. For the purposes of CWA jurisdiction, waters are considered traditional navigable waters if: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• They are subject to section 9/10 of the 1899 Rivers and Harbors Appropriations Act• A federal court has determined the water body is navigable-in-fact under law• Waters currently used (or historically used) for commercial navigation, including commercial waterborne recreation (boat rentals, guided fishing trips, etc.)

Check Out NACo's New, Revised WOTUS Comparison Chart

NACo's summary of Final Regulations chart outlines the current rule, and compares it with what was proposed and what EPA and the Corps released May 27.

Visit www.NACo.org/WOTUS

Financial Services News

NACo scholarship winners know the value of saving for retirement

BY TIMOTHY VARGO
NATIONWIDE

For the 10th year in a row, high school seniors participating in the NACo-Nationwide Scholarship Essay Contest showed off their knowledge regarding the importance of preparing financially for retirement.

Graduating high school seniors whose parent or grandparent contribute to the NACo 457 Deferred Compensation Program were eligible. They were asked to write a short essay describing why it is important for a public sector employee to start early when saving for retirement. The winning entries were submitted by:

- **Joshua Tracy**, Stearns County, Minn.
- **Juliette A. Miller**, Onondaga County, N.Y.
- **Luke MacKay**, Riverside County, Calif., and
- **Troy Hasty**, Lee County, Fla.

Each senior will receive a \$2,500 scholarship from NACo and Nationwide. Although the following excerpts of their submissions have been edited for space considerations, each student's essay showcased a superior ability to communicate the importance of preparing financially for retirement.

Joshua Tracy

According to Joshua, investing is "one of the keys to success in life."

"Investing time into your family, friends and your job results in secure relationships and life satisfaction," he writes. "Like relationships, investing money wisely can help secure life



satisfaction and self-sufficiency into retirement."

The importance of regular retirement contributions is key "to reaching your retirement goals," according to Joshua, because of how it impacts the quality of life for the retiree. He wrote, "Not having to worry about money issues will enhance retirement so that your concentration can be on the importance of relationships with family and friends."

Sponsored by John S. Tracy with

Stearns County, Minn., Joshua is graduating from Annandale High School in South Haven, Minn. He will be attending the University of Minnesota.

Juliette A. Miller

The scholarship winner from the East started her essay by identifying two main strategies of saving for retirement — "starting early" and "regular contributions." Juliette stressed these areas because of the future financial challenges retirees may face based on current trends. She writes, "While many county employees are included in pension plans, the benefits paid continue to diminish. The 457 plan will help to close the income gap that the pension plan does not cover. Additionally, medical costs are only increasing, so future retirees will need a significant amount of money for health care."

Juliette states that investing in the stock market provides the "best return over a long period of time" and explains that dollar cost averaging "protects employees from investing a significant amount of money when the stock market is high and losing money when the stock market falls."

Juliette will be attending St. John Fisher College after graduating from East Syracuse-Minoa High School and is sponsored by Geoffrey G. Miller with Onondaga County, N.Y. Water Authority.

Luke MacKay

Luke is the winner from the West region. He views saving for retirement as being a product of three areas — life expectancy, tax deferral and Social Security. "With modern medical care and a healthy lifestyle," he writes, "it is reasonable to assume that one may live to be well into their late 80s or 90s. The longer you expect to live, the more money you will need in retirement."

The benefits of tax deferrals for retirement savings are a big plus



when it comes to investing, according to Luke. "Contributing to a tax deferred 401(k) or 457(b) plan helps you by providing immediate savings on taxes, and you can use that savings to generate compound interest via investments which can create greater wealth for you later in life."

Luke also provided an assessment of Social Security and how it will impact his generation. "Social Security may not be as financially sound as it should be," he writes. "It may not be there or in the amounts as promised 25 or 35 years from now."

Although he thinks Social Security will weaken over the years, Luke believes time is the investor's friend. "Money set aside early can earn investment returns, which can themselves be invested, creating more and more money each year. A longer time frame manages your risk so that even if your investments lose value in some years, you can make up the losses when investments do better."

Luke, sponsored by Robert J. MacKay with Riverside County, Calif., will be attending Mississippi State University after graduating from Chino Hills High School in California.

Troy Hasty

Troy compares saving for retirement to making payments over time on a big purchase. "If an employee considers their retirement this way,"

he writes, "it's easier to contribute monthly over a long period of time than to try to make up for lost time with large contributions at the end of their career."

Troy advises that employees plan, budget and set goals. "Employees should calculate how much they need to save for the kind of retirement they want," he writes. He notes that some people might envision a retirement of "taking luxury vacations with cruises and trips to other countries," while others might "plan on staying home and taking up inexpensive hobbies like gardening, reading or scrapbooking."

According to Troy, knowing what kind of retirement you want allows you to "figure out expenses and what your yearly budget will require —

including health insurance, medications and any long-term care."

Troy is a proponent of using online tools and resources to help calculate retirement income. "Most employers provide websites that determine an employee's pension amount based on how many years they have been employed and other factors like their salary." Referencing the Nationwide 457(b) retirement plan, he adds, "Employees can use tools like Nationwide's Interactive Retirement Planner to get a good idea of how much income they will have at retirement along with suggestions on how much more to contribute to their retirement plan each month in order to meet their retirement goals."

Troy, sponsored by Laurel Hasty with the Lee County, Fla. Board of County Commissioners, plans to attend Southeastern University upon graduation from Evangelical Christian School in Florida.

Scholarship honors 35 years of partnership

Nationwide sponsors the Nationwide-NACo Scholarship to recognize its three-decades-long partnership with NACo and its

member counties. The scholarship is just one of the services arising out of this partnership.

For additional information about the NACo Deferred Compensation Program, please contact Lisa Cole by email at lcole@naco.org or phone at 202.942.4270; or contact your Nationwide representative by calling 877.677.3678.

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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NACo on the Move

► NACo Officers and County Officials

Second Vice President **Bryan Desloge** presented a NACo update and unveiled NACo's newest videos at the Colorado Counties Inc. Foundation Summer Conference in Summit County (Keystone) June 2.

• First Vice President **Sallie Clark** is attending the Harvard Kennedy School of Government's Senior Executives in State and Local Government program.

► NACo Staff

• **Matt Chase**, executive director, was among the panelists exploring "Counties... Transportation, Land Use and Market Trends" June 5 at the National Organization of Black County Officials' Economic Development Conference in Harris County (Houston), Texas.

• Steve Michalski has joined NACo as an administrative assistant in the Executive Management Department.

He will support the executive assistant and executive director. Before joining NACo, Michalski worked with The Heart of America Foundation as executive coordinator. He holds a bachelor's degree in human development and family studies from Cornell University.

• **Jessica Monahan**, associate legislative director, updated attendees on federal transportation policy and funding at the Wisconsin County Highway Association's Highway Conference June 9 in Wisconsin Dells.



Michalski



Communications truck offers municipalities resources for responders, survivors

MAC from page 4

the Black Forest Fire in 2013, the county had to evacuate and shut down one of its data centers, taking its capacity offline, some of which can be was picked up by the MAC. “We wanted to make sure if we shut down data centers, we could ensure continuity of service,” Karaki said. The MAC also serves as a resource for evacuees, giving them a place and equipment to communicate with relatives and friends. “We have to provide a lot for survivors, and the MAC lets us do that,” Karaki said. “Everyone is

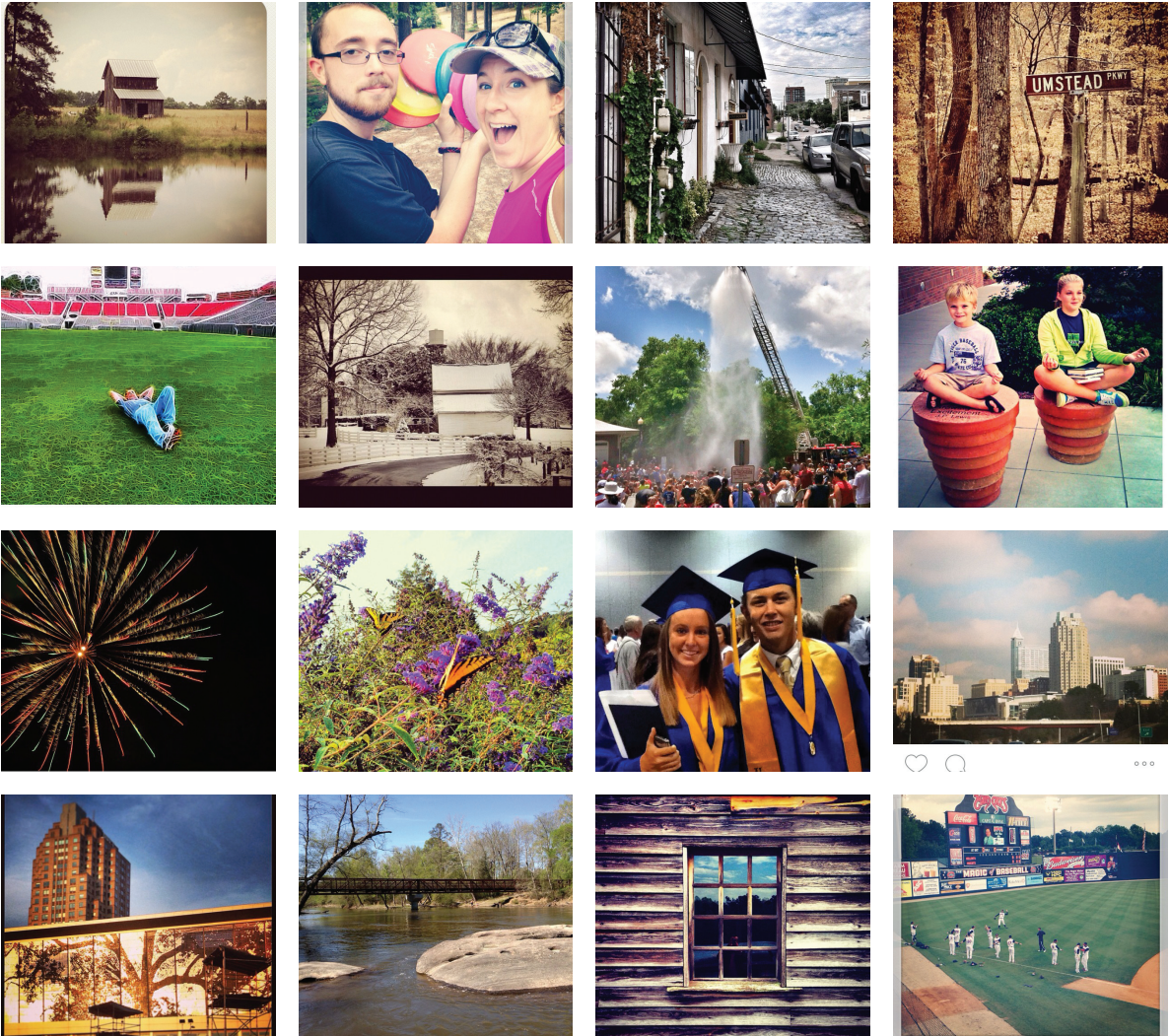
trying to call to let people know they’re alright, find out if they got grandma out of her house, find their kids, their pets.” In El Paso County and elsewhere, technology has become a core competency for providing services for first responders and recovery operations. And that competency is grounded in reliability, Karaki said. “We only want to use the proven technologies, not the pie in the sky stuff,” he said. “Services and equipment that will work when we need it to. The MAC might look like an RV, but it will do a lot for us.”



COUNTY INNOVATIONS AND SOLUTIONS

#WakeisGreat

Instagram Contest Attracts County Shutterbugs



WORD SEARCH

Tillamook County, Ore. Facts

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

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

- BLIMPS** (Tillamook County was an airbase for blimps during World War II)
- CANOES** (an important form of transportation for the original Tillamook Native Americans)
- CLATSOP** (neighboring county to the north)
- CHEDDAR** (Tillamook County is known for its cheese)
- DOLPH** (unincorporated community)
- MANZANITA** (city)
- NEAHKAHNIE BEACH** (census-designated place)
- OYSTERS** (are farmed in the bay; a major facet of the county’s)
- PINNIPED** (a.k.a. seals, native to the county’s shoreline)
- ROGERS PEAK** (the highest point in the Northern Oregon Coast range)
- SALMON** (plentiful and often fished for sport in the county)

- SCOTERS** (stocky seaducks that inhabit the county)
- SIUSLAW** (national forest)
- STELLER SEA LION** (a near-threatened species of sea lion that lives on the county’s coast)
- THREE ARCH ROCKS** (National Wildlife Refuge)
- TIMBER** (important part of Tillamook’s economy)
- TSUNAMI** (Tillamook County is the first county in the continental U.S. declared ready for a tsunami by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration)
- UMPQUA** (river that runs through the county)
- WILSON RIVER BRIDGE** (the first reinforced-concrete tied-arch span built in the Pacific Northwest)
- YAMHILL** (adjacent county to the east)

By CHARLIE BAN
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

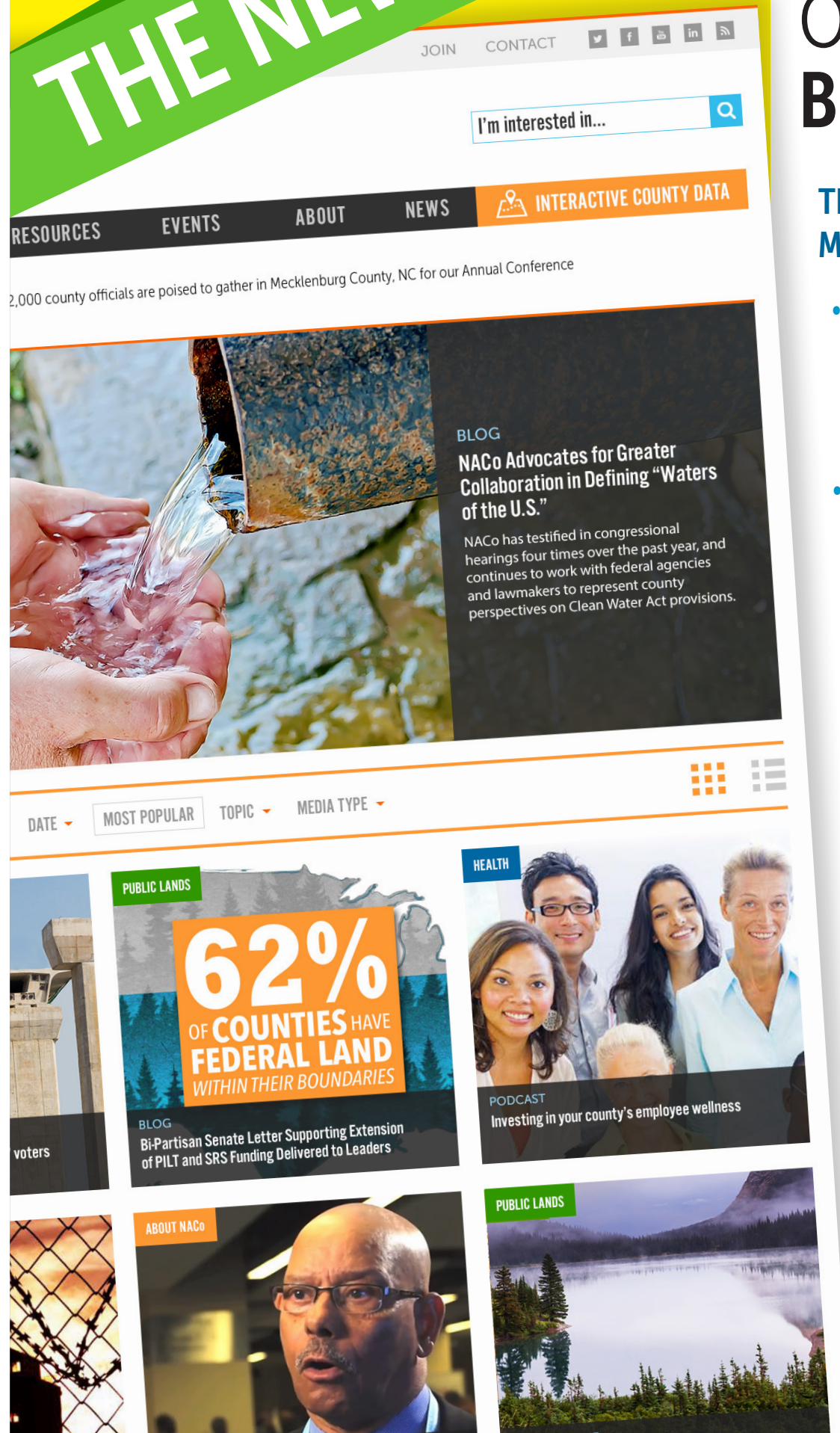
To see life in central North Carolina through its residents’ eyes, Wake County asked them to share what they saw. And by encouraging them to share their favorite sights in the county on the social media platform Instagram, Wake County helped grow its social media following and opened the door to more direct, two-way communication with residents, one of the county’s communications department goals. While looking for a way to increase resident interaction without undertaking a time-consuming process, staff floated a plan to use Instagram, the photo-sharing social media app that allows users to comment and index photos with hashtags. In 2013, more than 150 million people used the app, a number that doubled in the next two years. “It was and still is a quickly growing social media form, and we saw it as a way to reach out to our population and hear back from them,” said Sarah Williamson-Baker,

communications manager. “We were early adopters, as far as governments go. I remember a few days after we put out our press release that we were using Instagram, we heard the White House had started an account.” Staffers figured the best way to attract followers was to draw them in with a contest — the best photos of Wake County life. They could include: county programs and events; county parks and facilities; events in Wake County municipalities; festivals and ceremonies, and everyday Wake County life. Photos bearing the hashtag #WakeisGreat were entered and voted on using an online survey. All the compilation work was done by county employees, with help from an unpaid summer intern, so the program was essentially free. “We had a lot of submissions with a lot of variety,” Williamson-Baker said. “One of my favorites was a photo of people kayaking on one of our lakes, and there was a great Fourth of July photo. “We had photos of football

games, concerts, open spaces, kids on bikes ... a great summary of what goes on.” Williamson-Baker noted the county’s urban/rural dichotomy helped lead to the diversity in photo submissions. The contest drew 160 followers for the county’s Instagram account @wakegov and led to more than 120 submissions, which was the high end of the county’s expectations. More than a dozen were featured in the county’s 2013 annual report and continue to fill the pages of county materials. Along the way, the county got to see what its residents saw. Even though the contest is over, the account, and hashtag, prevail. People still use it, two years later. “It was important that we use something that would last and would be relevant for years,” Williamson-Baker said. County Innovations and Solutions features award-winning programs. Read this story online at www.countynews.org to see more submissions to the #WakeisGreat contest.

Have questions? Feedback?
Contact webmaster@naco.org
or tweet @NACoTweets

THE NEW NACo.org



WE'RE ON THE VERGE OF UNVEILING A BRAND-NEW WEBSITE!

THE NEW WEBSITE INCLUDES MANY NEW FEATURES:

- **A focus on usability and integration—** content is organized by topic area instead of department, allowing for a more intuitive, contextual and relevant experience
- **Greater emphasis on interactives and data—** we've replaced Find A County with the data-rich County Explorer and included all the functionality you've come to expect and more
- **Fresh, clean, modern look featuring responsive design—** we'll look great on any device
- **Greatly enhanced search functionality—** don't spend so much time finding what you're looking for!

Our new website will serve the needs of our members for years to come.

KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED AND YOUR DEVICES READY!

WE LAUNCH JULY 2015.

ANALYSIS



Photo illustration by Leon Lawrence III

Under the now defunct DHS Secure Communities program, **406,441 undocumented immigrants** were “removed” from the country between October 2008 to February 2015. Counties with the most removals — **L.A. County, Maricopa County, Ariz. and Harris County, Texas** — accounted for **21 percent** of the total number.

In Comes PEP, Out Goes Secure Communities

BY HADI SEDIGH
ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

When President Obama announced a series of executive actions related to immigration in November 2014, much of the reaction in Washington and around the country focused on the creation and expansion of programs that would temporarily shield some undocumented immigrants from deportation.

While these programs remain entangled in legal battles, another creation of the November executive actions — the Priority Enforcement Program (PEP) — is operational and significant to counties.

PEP enables the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to identify potentially deportable undocumented immigrants by accessing fingerprint data that is routinely sent to the FBI by state and local law enforcement follow-

ing arrests. When DHS identifies such individuals, it can request that state and local authorities notify their federal counterparts before the individual is released or transferred. Because these requests flow through DHS’s Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) division, they are often referred to as “ICE holds;” more formally, they are called “immigration detainers.”

PEP did not create immigration detainers, but rather replaced Secure Communities, a similar program that was established by the Bush Administration in 2008 and significantly expanded by the Obama Administration. Before it was discontinued and replaced in Obama’s executive actions last year, Secure Communities became so controversial that hundreds of counties across the country passed resolutions refusing to participate in the program.

In replacing Secure Communi-

ties, PEP features several policy changes that will in turn change the way immigration detainers affect counties.

Public Safety Issues

Some states and counties felt that the safety of their communities was compromised by their participation in Secure Communities.

In 2013, the California state Legislature passed a law finding that “immigration detainers harm community policing efforts because immigrant residents who are victims of or witnesses to crime, including domestic violence, are less likely to report crime or cooperate with law enforcement when any contact with law enforcement could result in deportation.”

Similarly, in 2013 the King County, Wash. sheriff stated that participation in Secure Communities “can have a significant damaging effect on the relationships between law enforcement

agencies and immigrant and refugee communities and this damage to trust between the immigrant community and law enforcement results in less public safety.”

In an attempt to address this issue, PEP has significantly limited the circumstances under which ICE will issue immigration detainers. Under Secure Communities, immigration detainers were routinely issued for undocumented immigrants who had no criminal history and had not been convicted of any crime. In King County, for example, 78 percent of immigration detainers issued between 2008 and 2011 against adults in the county jail addressed individuals with no criminal records or convictions.

According to DHS, under PEP ICE will only issue immigration detainers against undocumented immigrants who have been convicted of a crime and not against those who have only been arrested.

Further, the conviction must relate to a felony or repeated misdemeanors, excluding minor traffic violations. PEP supporters believe that if ICE conforms to these guidelines, fear among immigrant communities about the risk of deportation when contacting police should decrease — in turn increasing cooperation between these communities and law enforcement.

Constitutional Issues

Some counties participating

in Secure Communities faced lawsuits alleging violations of the constitutional rights of the undocumented immigrants they detained. The Fourth and Fifth Amendments of the Constitution, which protect against unreasonable searches and mandates due process of law, have been held applicable to undocumented immigrants, and counties risked violating these constitutional rights when they detained undocumented immigrants under Secure Communities.

A federal court held in 2014 that Clackamas County, Ore. had violated an immigrant’s Fourth Amendment rights when she was held after her scheduled release date so that ICE could investigate her status.

Days after the ruling, the Clackamas County sheriff issued a statement announcing that his county jail would no longer hold an individual based solely on an immigration detainer. Currently, San Juan County, N.M. is involved in a lawsuit brought by three undocumented immigrants who were detained in county jail pursuant to an immigration detainer.

Under PEP, ICE will not generally ask states or counties to detain any individuals in their custody for longer than they would have otherwise been held. Rather, ICE will only request that state or local authorities provide the scheduled

See PEP page 12

Bill would close funding gaps

BRIDGES from page 1

First, it continues the set-aside for off-system bridges under the Surface Transportation Program (STP) and clarifies that designated funding for bridges not on the federal-aid highway system must come out of the state's 50 percent portion of the STP rather than the 50 percent that is sub-allocated to local areas.

Second, the legislation would make more funding available for STP to support on-system and off-system bridges, along with other eligible projects. These changes aim to address what occurred when MAP-21 eliminated the old Highway Bridge Program and shifted funding away from locally owned infrastructure, which had a particularly devastating effect on funding for county-owned bridges.

Overall, these changes under MAP-21 caused a 30 percent decrease in the funding available for the types of county infrastructure that's eligible for federal aid. S.1370 would restore that 30 percent cut and increase the funding that gets sub-allocated to local areas while keeping STP and its funding flexible so states and local leaders can prioritize projects with the greatest need.

Although this bill is unlikely to pass on its own, securing support for it as a proposal for MAP-21 reauthorization is critical. Therefore, NACo is asking its members to contact their senators and request they cosponsor S. 1370, the Support for Bridges Act.

For additional information, please contact Jessica Monahan, at 202.942.4217 or at jmonahan@naco.org.

Flood damage estimates still coming in

TEXAS FLOOD from page 1

"We've lost at least one bridge," said Judge Samye Johnson. "We're a pretty poor little county, so this is going to be significant for us."

Representatives from several counties have noted that most of their culverts will have to be replaced.

In urban counties, the cities typically suffered the most damage. Austin, for example, took the brunt of the blows and left the rest of Travis County relatively unscathed. More than \$56 million of Dallas County's reported \$61 million in damage was in Dallas (\$50 million alone) and three smaller cities.

In Wilson County, most of the damage has been concentrated in one precinct, where Commissioner Paul Pfeil has been surveying it to add to the county's report.

One bridge was damaged to the point where local, state and federal evaluations deemed it structurally deficient. Pfeil has had the 20-foot-long bridge barricaded because flood waters have disintegrated the ground around one end of the span. Almost daily, those barricades have been removed, and Pfeil suspects the culprits are truck drivers for oil drilling companies.

"There's a storage facility on one side of the bridge and a detour adds at least 15 miles to the trip each way," he said. "One side of the bridge is fine, but there's a risk that someone on the other side is going to fall off or damage it even more."

Though nobody has caught a truck driver in the act of removing the barricades, county personnel have seen those trucks on the road leading to the bridge.

Williamson County Emergency Services Director John Snead said

his crews have been hard at work patching dams that were in danger of being breached.

"If we don't take care of this now, we'll have a whole other flood if it breaches," he said.

Wise County Judge J.D. Clark said though, based FEMA findings so far, he expected his county's total to come in around \$900,000 for roads; 27 private homes in the county had been destroyed by tornados.

"It puts this road damage in perspective," he said. "We'll be alright, but our residents have a long way to go. Our loss is so minor compared to theirs."

Democrats favor long-term bill

MAP-21 from page 1

(R-Okla.) suggested a patch including an extension of MAP-21 through this December and \$11 billion to keep the Highway Trust Fund (HTF) solvent. Meanwhile, Democrats are threatening a hardline strategy to oppose another short-term measure in order to force action on a long-term bill.

While a long-term bill would be most ideal for counties and transportation projects across the county receiving or expecting federal aid, it's unlikely that Congress will produce a multi-year reauthorization of the nation's surface transportation programs before the end of July. Even if a longer-term solution for the Highway Trust Fund is adopted this summer, the authorizing committees are not on track to conclude their work before the July 31 deadline.

As of now, none of the authorizing committees in the House or Senate have released or marked up legislation. That will change later this month when the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, which has jurisdiction over the bill's highway section, releases its legislation and holds a mark-up on June 24.

To view NACo resources related to transportation and infrastructure, visit www.naco.org/HTF.

Access NACo's HTF Advocacy Toolkit at www.naco.org/HTFKit

Contact: Jessica Monahan at jmonahan@naco.org or 202.942.4217

EPA: High ozone levels increase health risks

OZONE from page 2

who believes — based on expert science — that stricter ozone standards are justified.

"The current standard doesn't provide the public health protection that the Clean Air Act requires, so it should get lowered," he added. "I can't just reduce all my emissions just to make headroom for upwind air pollution. There has to be a solution that involves those entities."

Ozone poses serious health threats, according to the EPA and has been implicated in respiratory and cardiovascular harm, premature deaths and problems with the reproductive and central nervous systems. EPA has said the benefits created by lowering the ground-level standards would yield significant savings in health care costs and outweigh costs by as much as 3 to 1 and prevent up to 4,300 premature deaths yearly by 2525.



Profiles in Service

Judy Beth Hutcherson

NACo Board of Directors
County Treasurer
Clark County, Ark.

Number of years active in NACo: 20+.

Years in public service: 35+.

Occupation: Clark County, Ark. treasurer and current president of the Association of Arkansas Counties.

Education: high school, two years of college and many years of continuing education.

The hardest thing I've ever done: saying "goodbye" to my parents.

Three people (living or dead) I'd invite to dinner: my husband and the two wonderful ladies who work with me, Sandy Jester and Gloria Hart. They all take the best care of me.

A dream I have is to: ride a motorcycle around the outer edge of the United States. May take a few months....

You'd be surprised to learn that I: wore combat boots and fired "expert" with a handgun while spending eight years in the U. S. Army Reserve.

The most adventurous thing I've ever done is: pilot an airplane (while praying loudly).

I'm most proud of: my children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Every morning I read: the obituaries to make sure my name isn't listed!

My favorite way to relax is: fishing.
— J Hutcherson



My favorite meal is: Italian: spaghetti, tossed salad and garlic bread....yum!

My pet peeve is: dishonesty.

My motto is: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you" — Treat everyone with the respect that you yourself expect.

The last book I read was: *The Bible*, daily.

My favorite movie is: *The Wizard of Oz* — I was named after Judy Garland.

My favorite music is: '60s and '70s oldies....I know all the words and can really let loose singing in my car.

My favorite president is: William Jefferson Clinton because he is an Arkansan and I have met him.

My county is a NACo member because: All we have to do is look at the great benefits, services and pertinent information that are available to all counties to see what an advantage it is to be a member of NACo and have this awesome staff available to us, being our "watchdog" and an advocate for all of us (counties) in the nation's capital. What a special organization!

What's in a Seal?

Tillamook County, Ore.



Tillamook County, Ore. was formed in 1853 from Yamhill and Clatsop counties. The name comes from the Tillamook (Killamook or Calamoxes) tribe. The word Tillamook is said to mean "many waters."

The county's logo is predominantly blue, representing the sky, Pacific Ocean, bays and streams on the western coast of the county. The shape of the county's geographic boundary within the circle consists of a mountain with evergreen trees, a sail boat and a round world-famous Tillamook cheddar. The mountains represent the Oregon Coast Range where there are vast areas of forest lands, including the Tillamook State Forest. The boat on the bay or ocean is depicted with its sails and signal flag bent in the breeze. Tillamook County's 75-mile Pacific Ocean coastline boasts four bays and nine rivers.

Its economy comprises mainly agriculture, forest products, fishing and recreation. Dairy farms dominate the county's fertile valley; private and public forest lands produce excellent timber. Its forests furnish superb hunting, backpacking and other recreational activities. The county also offers deep-sea and stream fishing, charter and dory boats, clamming, crabbing, whale and bird watching, beachcombing and hiking.



News From the Nation's Counties

► ARIZONA

In an effort to **create more affordable housing**, **COCONINO COUNTY**'s planning and zoning department wants to change a county ordinance to allow residents to rent second units on their property.

Currently, county code prohibits renting detached guest homes and "accessory living quarters" that are attached to a main dwelling, the *Arizona Daily Sun* reported.

It's an idea that's been discussed for more than a decade, county planner Kate Morley said. "Even as far back as the 2003 comprehensive plan, it identifies that renting these structures can make housing more affordable in the county," she said.

► CALIFORNIA

• A proposed quarter-cent sales **tax hike to fund road improvements** fell to defeat in **SONOMA COUNTY** earlier this month. Voters rejected Measure A 63 percent to 37 percent.

"This is horribly disappointing," Supervisor David Rabbitt, a key backer of the measure, told *The Press Democrat*. The county's road network has been ranked among the worst in the San Francisco Bay Area for more than a decade, according to the newspaper.

Published reports say voters don't trust the county not to raid the fund for other purposes, such as shoring up the county's pension system.

"We would have voted for it if the money were earmarked for roads," resident Carolyn Weston said in an interview. "It's not like we're anti-tax, we just wanted an iron-clad promise, and we didn't get that."

• Lost your dog? There's an app for that. **SAN DIEGO COUNTY** Animal Services officials say they're among the first county animal sheltering agencies in the nation to use a smartphone app — **Finding Rover** — to reunite owners with their lost dogs.

It was developed by an entrepreneur with help from University of Utah researchers and uses snapshots to match the faces of lost dogs with those that have been found or admitted to county shelters.

The facial recognition technology is 98 percent accurate, according to Finding Rover CEO John Polimeno.

No Finding Kitty app yet? Animal Services says there's one in the works that could be available



Convention guests, state association officials and professional chefs judged appetizers prepared by culinary students during the 2015 NJAC Cook-Off Challenge at Caesars Atlantic City. Photo by Tom Briglia/PhotoGraphics

► NEW JERSEY

The **NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES** held its fourth annual County Vocational-Technical School Cook Off at its Annual Celebration of County Government Convention at Caesars in **ATLANTIC COUNTY**. Eleven of the 21 county vocational-technical schools are selected to compete for titles in taste, creativity and food presentation by preparing an appetizer within a \$500 budget

for 400 conference attendees.

Teams of five or six culinary arts students made creative appetizers relating to a theme. The appetizers were judged by all of the convention guests, state association officials and professional chefs from Atlantic City.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY students took home four awards, including a gold for taste and the People's Choice Award, also gold.

by August, according to shelter officials.

► INDIANA

MARION COUNTY Health Department's Mosquito Control is "tired" of the pesky critters, and to help residents reduce breeding grounds it recently hosted a **free tire recycling event**.

"Tires, as you can imagine, are a big problem for us in Mosquito Control, and the problem with tires is once the rain gets in a tire you can't shake it out," said mosquito control's Terry Gallagher. "[T]hey'll deposit their eggs inside the tire and you can have thousands of mosquitoes emerging out of one tire over the course of the summer." The event collected about 1,800 tires.

► MARYLAND

State's attorneys in **HOWARD** and **MONTGOMERY** counties will be trading places to prosecute

cases of **police-involved deaths**.

"All use-of-force cases resulting in death will no longer be prosecuted by [the state's attorney] in the county where the death occurred," said John McCarthy, Montgomery County state's attorney.

Historically, police and prosecutors from same jurisdiction have collaborated on such cases, which McCarthy said can lead to the perception that prosecutors are biased towards their own county police.

Howard County State's Attorney Dario Broccolino said, "We're sensitive to the fact that some members of the community do not think these things are properly investigated. We've always looked at these cases very critically and followed where the evidence takes us, but the perception is reality in a lot of people's eyes."

► MICHIGAN

Starting this month, a **new**

county ID card is available to **WASHTENAW COUNTY** residents who may find it difficult to obtain state or federally issued credentials.

The County Board approved the new ID card program last fall. The cards are issued through the county clerk's office and cost \$25. County Clerk Larry Kestenbaum said, "The project is intended to help, in particular, vulnerable and marginalized community members, people who need to establish and prove their identity in order to access the basic services that most of us take for granted."

To obtain a card, a resident must provide a combination of documents as proof of their identity. Different forms of documentation are awarded different points; a total of 300 points must be reached to be approved for the ID, according to the mlive.com news website.

The program is expected to cost the county approximately \$45,500 in 2015.

► MINNESOTA

The **ASSOCIATION OF MINNESOTA COUNTIES** (AMC) is pushing Gov. Mark Dayton (D) and legislators to stand behind a new law that gives counties the option of hiring **private firms to conduct annual audits**, rather than use the state auditor's office.

Minnesota Public Radio (MPR) news reported that counties have long sought such flexibility and won it this year. However, a forthcoming special session of the Legislature could change that.

State Auditor Rebecca Otto has taken to social and traditional media to blast the law. "When private sector auditors audit, their client is the County Board, not the taxpayer," she said.

"Many of our members will say this is an issue of fairness and competitiveness for counties to have the option [of private audits]," Julie Ring, MAC executive director, told MPR. "But that said, they're comfortable working with the State Auditor's office and don't see a change in law as something that would automatically result in making a change away from the State Auditor."

► NEW JERSEY

CAMDEN COUNTY will serve as the model for a **statewide 911 system** and is beginning tests of its text-to-911 system.

Before that capability was to debut, the county held up its plans

to roll out the system after they were approached by the New Jersey Office of Emergency Telecommunication Services to be the test model for a larger program.

Testing will involve sending messages through each of the major cellphone providers. Not only is the text 911 program designed to help text-crazy teens, officials believe it can be a huge help to both people who would be in danger if they were heard making a call and people with disabilities, NJ.com reported.

► NEW YORK

• **Convicted animal abusers** in **ORANGE COUNTY** will be barred from owning animals under a new law adopted by the County Legislature and signed by County Executive Steven Neuhaus, Mid-Hudson Radio reported.

Under Rocky's Law, animal abusers are placed on a registry on the county's website — similar to registries for sex offenders. The law takes its name from a dog that had to be euthanized after its owner left him chained outside in freezing weather for five weeks.

• **Anti-recidivism** efforts in 19 counties are getting a \$3.3 million boost from the state, which is making grant money available to counties that could show how they will deliver targeted, evidence-based programs and services to parolees, Fox 23 reported.

The **RENSSELAER COUNTY** District Attorney's office received \$100,000 for a partnership with six nonprofits that work directly with county parolees offering substance abuse counseling, education and training for job skills. The \$200,000 **ALBANY COUNTY** received will go to the county's Department of Mental Health to address mental illnesses.

• The state Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) will help counties prepare for **crude oil train emergencies**.

The DEC will develop individual geographic response plans for the counties, which face the prospect of explosions and spills if trains hauling volatile Bakken crude derail or get into accidents. The agency plans to work with local first responders to prepare for worst-case scenarios and to carry out detailed reviews of critical resources and key infrastructure along the rail corridors.

The state's outreach effort also

The H.R. Doctor Is In Day of the Dads

Hi Dad! It's that Father's Day time of year again. As happens every year at this time, my thoughts turn to you and to the lessons from you, which have shaped my life. Of course Father's Day is the creation of the advertising industry as much as anything else. Every day should be a day to think about dads and how much more of a role they played in shaping the behavior, the attitude and the future of subsequent generations. They are much more than a genetic contributor to the creation of new DNA.

In my case, you taught and shaped me with lessons that I hope I have taken to heart continuously. I have tried to share them with those I love and those I encountered in my work as a public administrator. That is your real legacy. That is all any of us can hope for.

Ethics and doing the right

“You played with such feeling and passion that you could literally make them cry as well as make them smile and laugh”

thing are high on that list. So is seeking out opportunities to make a difference in the world. So is a commitment to doing things you enjoy and being passionate about them.

You taught me to find the strategic in life and, while managing all the paperclips of daily minutiae that we all have to deal with, to never get buried by them. Always think beyond what I first see to look for innate and universal values.

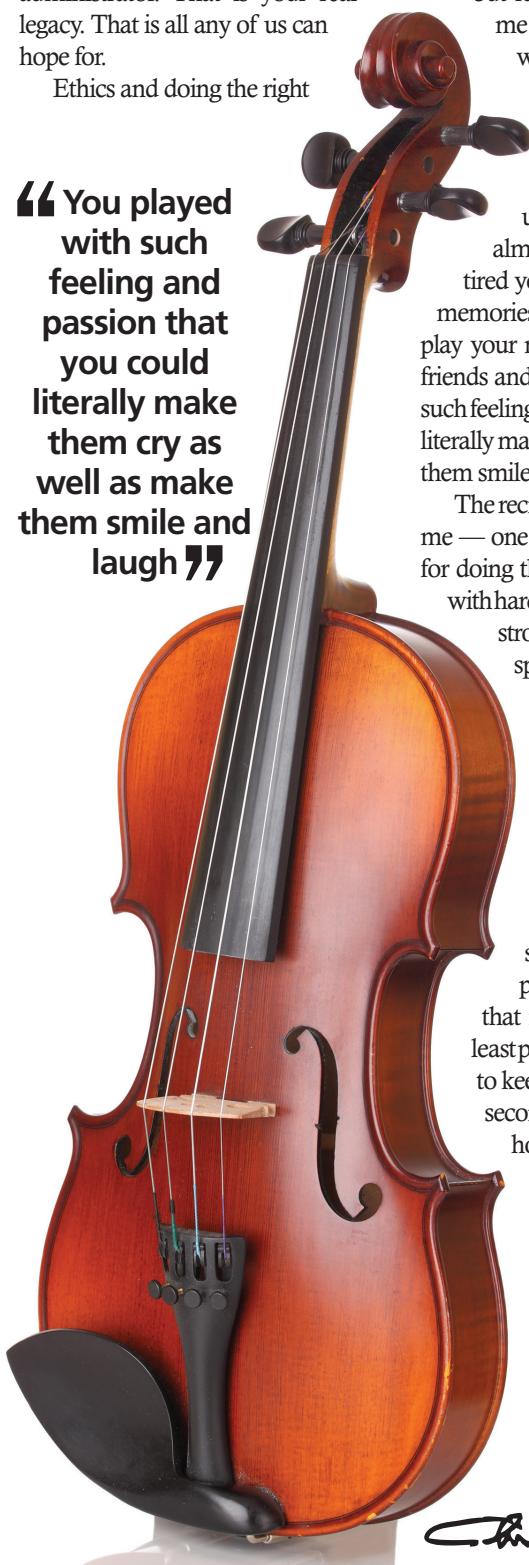
As I think of you, I always recall the constant hard work you had to do to keep bread on our table. I remember how you left every day before dawn for an hour-and-a-half-long bus ride to get to work. You came home clearly tired but full of joy to see mom and me pretty close to sunset each workday.

I saw how the relative drudgery of your work transformed into sheer joy when you picked up the violin and played almost every day no matter how tired you were. I have very strong memories of seeing and hearing you play your magnificent instrument for friends and relatives. You played with such feeling and passion that you could literally make them cry as well as make them smile and laugh.

The recipe of the soul remains with me — one large part spirit of passion for doing things you love, mixed well with hard work and high ethics, and a strong dose of humor added for spice. I can only hope I have in some measure successfully shared those lessons with your two beautiful granddaughters and your great-granddaughter.

How I wish I could visit with you right now, play duets with you and share some of my passionate pursuits with you. However, that is no longer possible — at least physically. What is possible is to keep you alive from second to second as part of my memory, by how I live my life and by how I try hard to serve others. It is fun to be a father — one of the world's most important jobs!

Phil Rosenberg
The HR Doctor
PHILROSENBERG
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Phil Rosenberg

Healthy forests need active management to thrive

By CHRIS MARKLUND
ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

NACo's Public Lands Steering Committee Chair Ron Walter, Chelan County, Wash. commission chairman, offered support for proposed forest health legislation in testimony before the House Natural Resources Committee Subcommittee on Federal Lands.

In his remarks, Walter said the legislation “would help to address the land management challenges counties face every day. It promotes active forest management, streamlines regulatory processes, supports consensus-driven decisions and encourages equitable timber revenue-sharing with counties.”

He explained that balanced, sustainable, locally driven, active federal forest management is a priority for counties, particularly for the 26 percent of counties nationwide that have National Forest land. “When it comes to national forest policy making, counties are intergovernmental partners of the Forest Service. We have a vested interest in seeing all lands within our boundaries managed actively and sustainably,” he said.

Walter outlined several key points within the draft legislation.

Provisions within the legislation,



NACo witness, Chelan County, Wash. Commission Chairman Ron Walter, presents NACo's position on new forest health legislation at a hearing held by the House Natural Resources Committee's Subcommittee on Federal Lands. Walter also chairs NACo's Public Lands Steering Committee. Photo by Matt Fellows

the National Forest Management Improvement Act of 2015, extend forestland 25 percent revenue-sharing to stewardship contracting activities on federal forests. The draft bill would also provide increased

flexibility for counties to apply funds from Title III of the Secure Rural Schools program to critical activities such as law enforcement patrols, search-and-rescue operations, training and equipment.

He noted that forest management has a direct impact on the health and safety of county residents because healthy forests are less prone to disease, infestation and wildfire.

In recent years, significantly reduced forest management activities have resulted in 58 million acres of National Forest lands being at a high risk of catastrophic wildfire. Of the 2.2 million acres that make up Walter's home county, 78 percent are federally managed. Last summer in Okanogan County, Wash., north of Chelan County, the Carlton Complex fire burned more than 250,000 acres and destroyed over 200 homes. It was the largest fire in the state's history.

He also shared his experiences working with federal land managers in his area and expressed counties' support for provisions in the bill that promote intergovernmental collaboration with counties with the goal of locally driven, sustainable forest management.

“This draft bill is a strong step toward achieving more effective forest management,” he concluded.

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South Carolina counties make headway versus mortgage recorders

NEWS FROM *from page 10*

includes buying and deploying equipment needed in oil spills, such as absorbent booms and pumps, along with training local firefighters and hazardous materials teams. The DEC said its preparedness push is based on a successful pilot project in **CLINTON COUNTY**, according to *The Journal News*.

ROCKLAND COUNTY is planning to hold a mock fire drill in July involving an oil train to see how the various agencies work together.

This year's state budget includes up to \$2.1 million to plan and prepare for potential crude oil incidents and provides funding for an additional eight employees at the DEC and six more at the state Office of Fire Prevention and Control, which focuses on spill training and response.

► OHIO

Several northwestern counties are pushing for relaxation of setback restrictions for **giant wind turbines**.

VAN WERT, PUTNAM and PAULDING counties stand to benefit from the restoration of former setback requirements. A 2014 law requires at least a 1,300-foot setback

from the property line, nearly three times the 540-foot requirement under the previous law.

The American Wind Energy Association and other advocates of the wind industry have said the new law is a deal-breaker for many potential projects in Ohio involving wind energy, one of the nation's fastest growing forms of energy production, the *Toldeo Blade* reported.

► OREGON

Commissioners declared that **LANE COUNTY** did not have the money to enforce the state's new **background check law** on private gun sales. The Board passed a resolution reaffirming its support of the right to bear arms and opposition to what they call an unfunded mandate created by Senate Bill 941.

At the local level, enforcing the law would involve responding to complaints that individuals had failed to obtain the background checks, or charging someone who, in the course of a county investigation into other violations, was found to have bought a weapon without the background check, according to the *Eugene Register-Guard*.

► SOUTH CAROLINA

Litigation by five counties, targeting banks and their **mortgage registration system** in the wake of the financial collapse of 2008, will advance.

A judge in the South Carolina Business Court has denied the request by Mortgage Electronic Recording Services (MERS) and the bank defendants to dismiss claims by counties including **ALLENDALE, BEAUFORT, COLLATION, HAMPTON and JASPER**. Without the Judge R. Lawton McIntosh's determination, the cases would have ceased, the *Savannah Morning News* reported.

The counties' law firm alleges that MERS and its member banks corrupted and destroyed the centuries-old land records system and put in its place a recording system with the MERS electronic data registry. MERS was created and is owned by most of the major banking institutions in the country.

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

Secure Communities participants often got stiffed by feds

PEP *from page 8*

release date of an individual so that ICE can detain them upon their release. This should mostly shield counties from the lawsuits they were subject to under Secure Communities.

However, PEP won't provide an ironclad shield for counties against lawsuits from detainees.

Counties will likely continue to receive some immigration detainers and they could also continue to face lawsuits for honoring these detainers.

If detainers are issued only when there is sufficient probable cause to find that an undocumented immigrant is removable, these lawsuits are less likely to succeed.

Fiscal Issues

States and counties that participated in Secure Communities often did so without much, or any, reimbursement from the federal government.

The California State Association of Counties found that in FY12, counties in California spent an estimated \$300 million

to incarcerate undocumented immigrants but received only \$21 million — or seven percent — in reimbursements from the federal government.

The federal program that provides reimbursements, the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP), has routinely been targeted for cuts and its funding has decreased by more than 70 percent since FY2000, even as the number of jurisdictions applying for its funding has doubled.

In his last two budget requests, President Obama has called for the elimination of SCAAP. Currently, the program is funded at \$185 million in FY15, and House appropriators have proposed increased funding of \$220 million for the program in FY16.

Although the changes to ICE's policies in PEP should decrease the number of immigration detainers issued to counties, and in turn the costs undertaken by counties to honor these detainers, it remains to be seen whether, and by how much, overall reimbursement rates to counties will increase.



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