



PUBLIC UNIONS UNDER FIRE IN HIGH COURT CASE
PG. 5



RURAL ROAD SAFETY FHWA FOCUS **PG. 6**



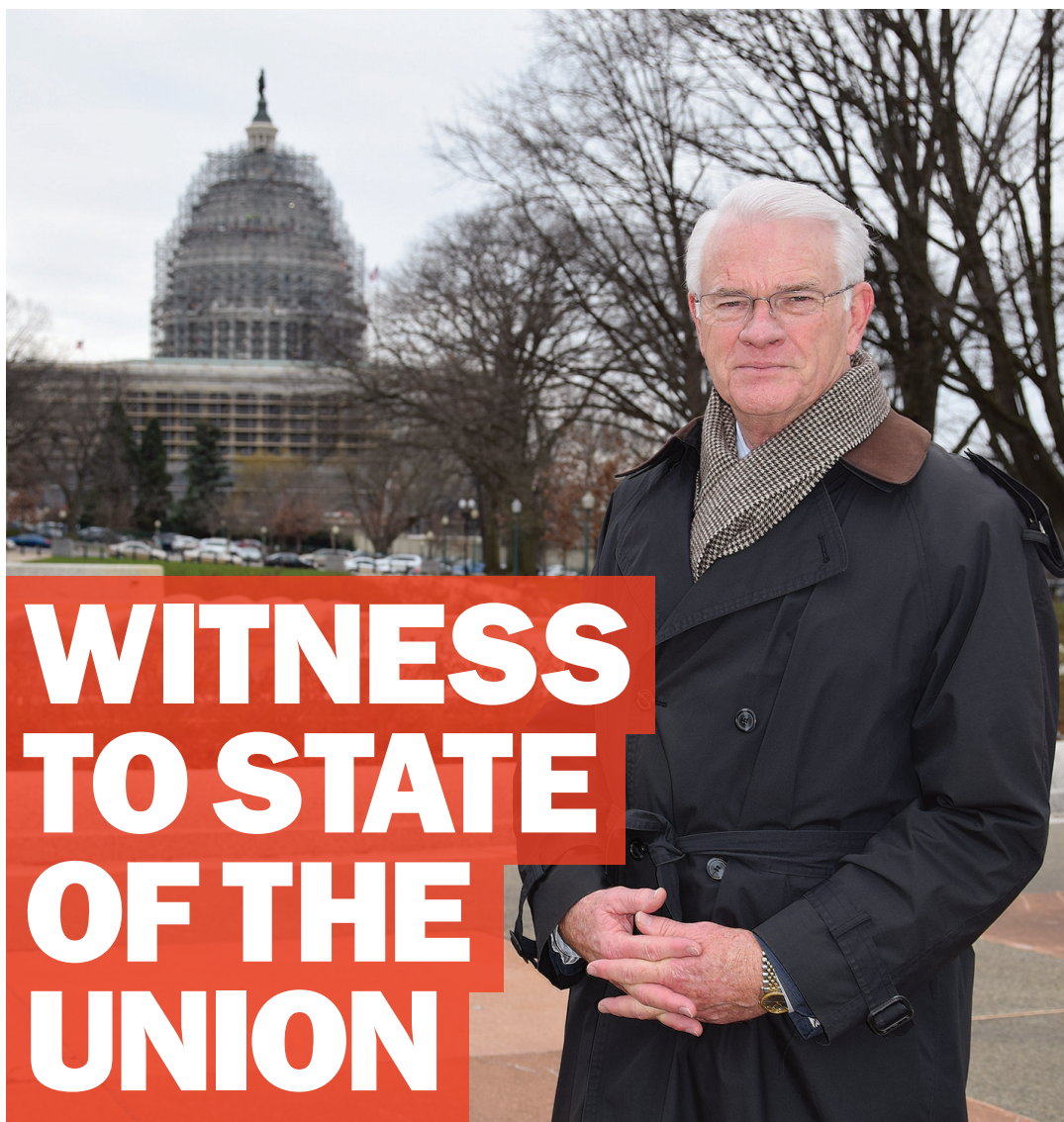
LONG-TIME NACO BENEFactor DIES AT 79
PG. 4

HUD Fair Housing rule now on the books

By Daria Daniel
associate legislative director

On the last day of 2015, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) published its final rule in the Federal Register on the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) Assessment Tool for local governments preparing Assessments of Fair Housing (AFH). The Assessment Tool is a guide that program participants who currently receive formula funding from the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG), the Home Investment Partner-

See **HUD** page 2



Shelby County, Tenn. Mayor Mark Luttrell gets ready for his trek to Capitol Hill later in the day to attend President Barack Obama's final State of the Union address. Luttrell was a guest of the president and First Lady Michelle Obama. He sat with Mrs. Obama along with another county official, Greenwood County, S.C. Councilmember Edith Childs. Mayor Luttrell, has been active for many years in leading criminal justice reform efforts. Before being elected mayor, he served as Shelby County's sheriff and earlier as a warden over several federal prisons. Photo By Alix Kashdan

Harney County stands strong amid takeover of federal wildlife refuge

By Charles Taylor
senior staff writer

How would your county provide public safety if 40 or 50 armed militia showed up in front of your courthouse?

That's a question Harney County, Ore. Judge Steve Grasty says should be on the minds of all local governments after the takeover of a federal wildlife refuge in his county by Ammon Bundy and his followers.

"We've had approaching 300 armed militia in our community at one time," he said. "County government has been consumed by this; law enforcement is consumed by this. Our jail is empty; we transferred all

See **REFUGE** page 3

Life-saving overdose drug available at deep discount

By Brian Namey
director of public affairs

Deaths from heroin overdoses have increased six-fold between 2001 and 2014, outpacing overdose deaths from cocaine, tranquilizers and prescription opioid pain killers in the same time period.

Local emergency rooms, rescue services and police are scrambling to keep up with the rash of overdoses. One of

their prime weapons is the drug naloxone.

On Jan. 14 as the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy hosted a community forum on the opioid epidemic in Knox County, Tenn., state and local leaders announced an expansion of efforts to facilitate public agencies' access to potentially lifesaving opioid withdrawal medication.

NACo, the National Gov-

ernors Association, National League of Cities and U.S. Conference of Mayors, with the U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Alliance and Premier, Inc., have reached an agreement with Adapt Pharma to offer Narcan Nasal Spray at a 40- percent discount, or \$37.50 per dose (\$75 for a 2-pack carton).

Narcan Nasal Spray, is the only FDA-approved, ready-

to-use nasal spray version of naloxone hydrochloride, a life-saving medication that can stop or reverse the effects of an opioid overdose.

"Medication-assisted opioid treatment can mean the difference between life and death," said NACo President Sallie Clark, commissioner, El Paso County, Colo. "We see the devastating effects of pre-

See **NARCAN** page 2

Counties: HUD rule is unfunded mandate

From **HUD** page 1

ships Program (HOME) and the Emergency Solutions Grants Program (ESG) must use to conduct their fair housing assessments. HUD also released the AFFH Rule Guidebook, an updated data and mapping tool and a user interface to complete an AFH.

HUD will issue separate assessment tools for states to use and for public housing authorities (PHA) that choose to submit separately from the city-county region or with other PHAs. No AFH will be due before Oct. 4.

The AFH for local governments that received less than \$500,000 in CDBG formula funding for FY15 would be due no earlier than October 2017. HUD is also encouraging grantees to conduct regional AFHs. To view a current schedule of the AFHs, go to www.hudexchange.info/programs/affh

SPEEDREAD

No Assessments of Fair Housing (AFH) due before Oct. 4.

AFHs for counties with less than \$500,000 in FY15 CDBG formula grants due no earlier than October 2017.

HUD declined to provide funding for implementation.



The requirement to submit an AFH is set forth in HUD's AFFH final regulations, released in the *Federal Register* in July 2015. The final rule on the Assessment Tool incorporates changes

ASSESSMENT TOOL SPECS

HUD's fair housing assessment tool consists of a series of questions and instructions for program participants to identify fair housing issues such as racial-ly and ethnically concentrated areas of poverty, patterns of integration and segregation, disparities in access to opportunity and disproportionate housing needs.

The Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) Data and Mapping Tool provide general data and maps to help participants complete the Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH). Program participants are required to use the HUD data, and supplement it with local data and local knowledge to complete an informed assessment.

The AFFH Rule Guidebook provides guidance on the AFFH rule and how to complete an AFH, as well as the connection between AFH and other planning processes required for participation in HUD programs. The user interface provides a secure, online portal for program participants to complete and submit an AFH. It is currently only available to program participants that have an AFH due in 2016. All other program participants will receive further instructions regarding access to the portal in spring 2016.

The Assessment Tool and other materials can be found on the AFFH page on HUD Exchange —www.hudexchange.info/programs/affh.

made by HUD based on the comments received during the 30-day comment period in 2015, and the 90-comment period in 2014. NACo submitted comments to HUD on the AFH proposed rule in the fall of 2014 during the original comment period.

At that time, NACo expressed concerns about the potential financial and administrative burdens that the assessment tool would impose on counties. Without funding provided by HUD to local governments to carry out the tool's requirements, NACo expressed concern that the tool was an unfunded mandate, and therefore asked HUD not to require its use.

HUD is not providing any financial assistance for program participants to implement this new process, but has said it will provide "robust" technical assistance.

NACo will continue to monitor the implementation process for HUD grantees, specifically, the impact on counties of the implementation of the AFH Assessment Tool.

In addition, NACo will work towards pursuing federal funding to assist program participants, including counties, in implementing this new process. **CN**

For more information, contact **Daria Daniel**, associate legislative director, at ddaniel@naco.org, 202.942.4212.

'Drug czar' applauds new deal on Narcan

From **NARCAN** page 1

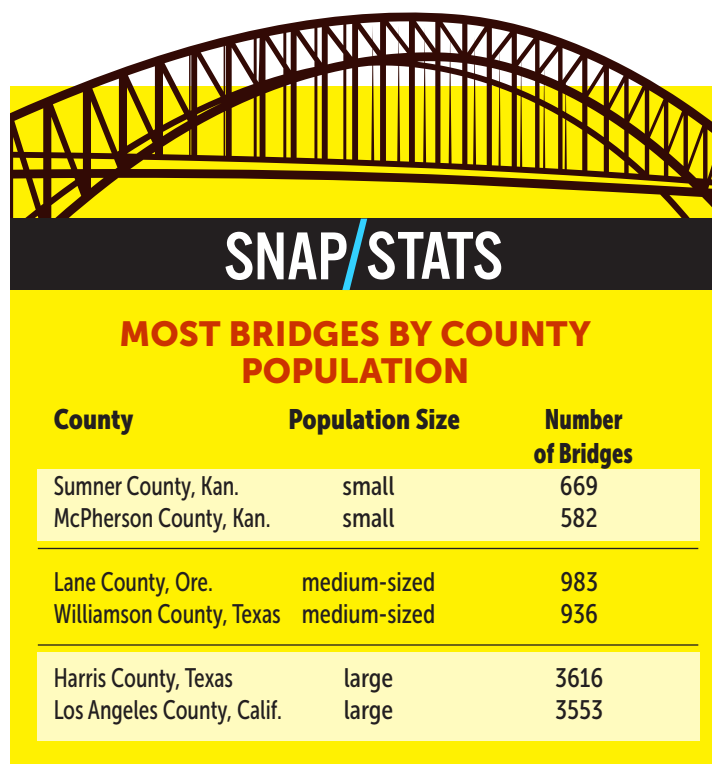
scription drug abuse and heroin use because counties are at the intersection of the local health, justice and public safety systems. We welcome this public-private partnership to support our response to this national crisis."

As part of its Safe and Secure Counties Initiative, NACo is working with state associations of counties to develop policy recommendations and promote promising practices to address the opioid epidemic plaguing communities.

The White House National Drug Policy Control Director Michael Botticelli praised the agreement between Adapt Pharma and the U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Alliance.

"The Administration has made it a top priority to expand access to the overdose reversal drug naloxone and medication-assisted treatment because we have lost too many of our family members and friends to the opioid epidemic. This public-private partnership to secure discounts for state and local agencies can help ensure that these life-saving medications are available wherever they are needed." **CN**

For more information including Narcan Nasal Spray prescribing, ordering and safety information, plus photos and videos go to <http://www.narcannasalspray.com/>



NACo-backed House bill promotes renewable energy development on federal lands

By Austin Igleheart
legislative assistant

NACo has endorsed legislation that promotes the production of renewable energy on public lands and ensures that local communities will share in the revenue generated from the development.

The proposed legislation, the Public Lands Renewable Energy Development Act (PLREDA), would make several updates to the nation's current renewable energy policy. Among the changes: It would streamline and improve the environmental review process for new wind and solar energy projects, eliminate duplicative analyses, and provide counties with an equitable share of rents and royalties from these projects to offset their impact on local communities.

Counties build and maintain 45 percent of America's roads and 39 percent of America's bridges and invest



Chris Marklund, associate legislative director, discusses the association's support of the Public Lands Renewable Energy Development Act. Photo by Alix Kashdan

millions of dollars annually to provide public safety and other critical services on federal public land. The costs of providing these services can be especially high in the

geographically large public lands counties that stand to be most affected by this legislation, underscoring the importance of revenue sharing with counties.

The legislation would establish a formula for distributing royalties paid by companies using public land for energy development. Under the formula, counties would receive 25 percent and another 35 percent would be allocated for conservation and to improve public lands access. Currently, fees paid by renewable energy developers on public lands are retained by the federal government. By reinvesting royalties into county governments, PLREDA would enable counties to continue providing critical services on public lands as development and the demand for county services increased as a result of renewable energy production.

The bill's sponsors in the House, Reps. Paul Gosar (R-Ariz.) and Jared Polis (D-Colo.), hosted a briefing on the measure (H.R. 2663) Jan. 12.

"The Public Lands Renew-

able Energy Development Act is a forward-thinking, bipartisan bill that will encourage clean energy innovation and allow all Americans to reap the benefits of increased energy production," Polis said at the briefing.

PLREDA, Gosar added, presents an opportunity to address several problems with a simple solution. "This bill will allow us to streamline the permitting process for effective use of public lands, spur development of renewable energy, allow local counties to benefit from sources developed within their borders, and support new access for sportsmen and other outdoor enthusiasts."

NACo encourages counties to pay close attention to this bipartisan legislation as it works its way through Congress and call on their representatives to support the Public Lands Renewable Energy Development Act. **CN**

National County Government Month theme announced for 2016

The theme for this year's National County Government Month (NCGM) will be "Safe and Secure Counties." Counties play an essential role in keeping America's communities safe and secure by managing justice systems, bolstering economic opportunities, responding to natural disasters, facilitating emergency management response and more.

This year's theme aligns with NACo President Sallie Clark's 2015-2016 Presidential Initiative, which focuses on strengthening counties' capacities in three areas:

- protecting public safety,
- preserving residents' health and well-being, and
- fostering conditions



that promote economic growth.

"National County Government Month is an opportunity for county leaders to raise public awareness of the critical functions we perform every day of the year," Clark said. "The 'Safe and Secure Counties' theme highlights the county role in making our

neighborhoods safer, our communities healthier and our nation stronger."

Each April since 1991, NACo has encouraged counties to actively promote county services and programs during this annual celebration of county government.

Stay tuned for NACo's NCGM 2016 Toolkit designed to assist counties with planning and publicity around NCGM. The toolkit will include planning strategies, ideas for student and school involvement, a sample proclamation, a sample press release and more. For questions about NCGM, contact Brian Namey at bnamey@naco.org. **CN**

Refuge seizure points out crisis needs

From *REFUGE* page 1

of our prisoners to another place."

In Burns, the county seat, government offices have been fortified with fencing, streets blocked by concrete barriers. "It looks like a fortress, and I was nearly in tears walking up to the courthouse thinking what this has done to our community," Grasty said of an early encounter with the added security.

Sheriff Dave Ward said in a statement: "There are continual reports of law enforcement officers and community members being followed home; of people sitting in cars outside their homes, observing their movements and those of their families...."

Gov. Kate Brown (D) called the situation "absolutely intolerable" at a news conference in Salem, the capital, adding that the occupation was costing \$100,000 per week. She and Grasty said the "feds" will get the bill.

Harney County government never used social media before this happened. Now the county judge and sheriff are using Twitter accounts to feed the media's insatiable requests for information.

"There was no social media policy, so we just had to get all that stuff put together," said Laura Cleland, communications director for the Association of Oregon

See *REFUGE* page 14

David Davenport dies at 79

By Charlie Ban
senior staff writer

John David Davenport, the father of the public employees' supplementary retirement program and a stabilizing force over the last several decades of NACo's history, died Dec. 2 in Oklahoma City, where he made his home. He was 79.

He built and sold half-a-dozen businesses in his lifetime, including the Public Employee Benefit Service Corp, which he sold to Nationwide Retirement Solutions. His \$1 million in seed money for the nascent NACo Financial Services Center (FSC) helped grow a component of the organization that significantly supports the overall operating budget and helps keep membership dues low. Over the last 22 years, the FSC has contributed more than \$70 million.

In the early 1980s, he and Nationwide loaned NACo an entire year's payroll when federal policies and a weak real estate market bankrupted the organization.

"He has helped make NACo probably the most financially solvent of the major organizations in D.C.," said retired NACo Executive Director Larry Naake, whose relationship with Davenport went back to the early '80s. "He said his relationship with NACo was the best partnership he had ever been a part of because it was such a rewarding experience. Not financially, but because it involved and benefited public servants."

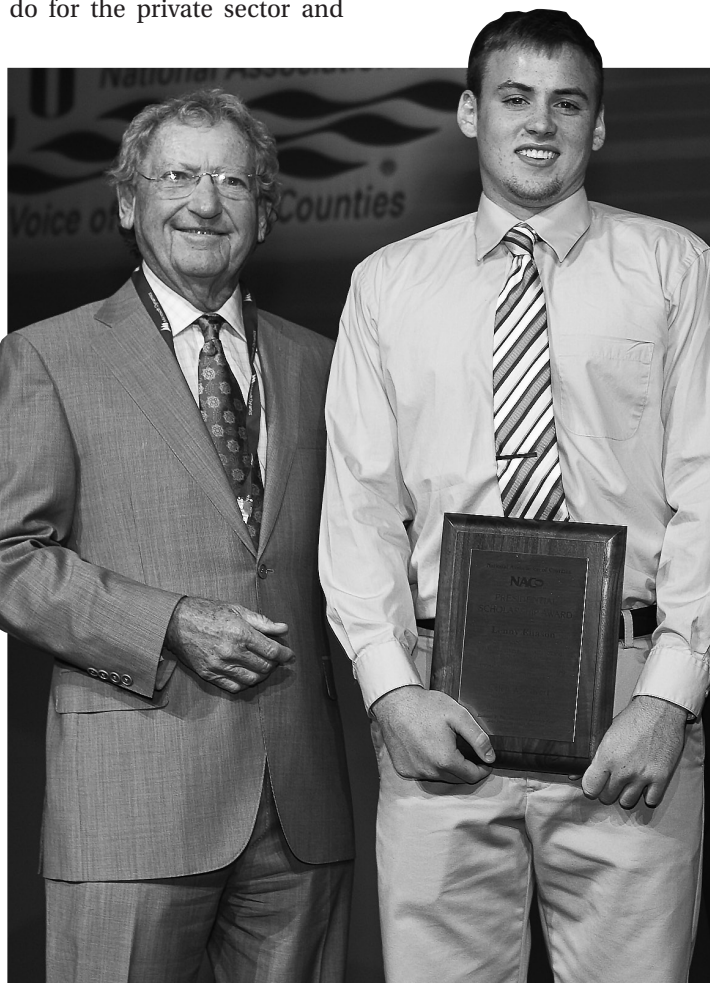
A native of Wichita Falls Texas, near the Oklahoma border, Davenport began his career as a salesman for Proctor and Gamble, traveling to independently owned gas stations in rural Texas. While talking to the owners that he recognized a glaring need for a supplemental retirement program that the nature of their businesses didn't otherwise provide. Later, in the late 1970s, he pushed for changes in the tax code to create what are known as 457 plans — deferred compensation retirement plans for government employees.

"He saw what 401Ks could do for the private sector and

asked why public sector employees didn't have that," Naake said. "He was the leading force behind getting that through Congress."

NACo Executive Director Matt Chase echoed that.

"First and foremost, David was about improving the lives of public employees," he said. "He approached our partnership through the lens of tremendous respect for public servants. He has helped 1.5 million county employees and retirees put aside billions in extra savings."



David Davenport with 2012 Presidential Scholarship winner Caleb Lee of Athens County, Ohio. Photo by David Hathcox

"David also understood the power of pooled purchasing and the importance of driving down costs for county governments. His vision and business acumen also helped NACo launch the U.S. Communities Purchasing Alliance. This partnership is now saving state and local government, including educational institutions, more than \$150 million each year in real money, let alone countless hours in procurement."

Retired FSC Managing Director Steve Swendiman spoke to Davenport, whom he called a mentor, once a day while on, then weekly after retirement.

"I saw an entrepreneur in action; I got to see how he worked," he said. "David had a wonderful philosophy that the more inclusive you are in your business operations, the larger you could grow the pie, and the larger you can grow the pie, the more everybody benefits. You aren't competing with others, you're finding others to include."

That extended to his recreation, where he invited scores of friends to join him on the golf course. He had twice qualified to play in the British Open.

Mark Johnson, executive director of the North Dakota Association of Counties, was struck by his openness and generosity.

"From the first time I met him he was just a perfect gentleman to me," Johnson said. "He offered to take me out on a couple of golf courses, and it was a thrill to play with him. He was the kind of guy who played a better game of golf because you wanted to keep up; but also, having four or five hours to spend with him was special."

Davenport personally funded the NACo Presidential Scholarship, which has been awarded to a student from the outgoing NACo president's county since the 1908s. But his support often didn't end there. Swendiman said he often maintained relationships with scholarship winners, providing advice and support as they continued their education.

Naake said NACo was like a

second family to Davenport, who loved coming to meetings and catching up with members.

"He had a genuine appreciation for our members and often went out of his way to keep in touch with them and reach out if they were having difficulty," Naake said.

"His businesses made him fabulously wealthy, but he never lost his rural Texas sensibilities," Swendiman said.

His work ethic was legendary, and at his funeral, Davenport's son, Mark, noted that his father had two speeds — park and full speed ahead.

"He lived the American dream," Naake said. "He had a feel for ideas, and he probably could come up with 100 new ideas a day. They might not all work, but he was always thinking."

That attitude, up to the end, won a fan in Joel Griffith, a new hire to the NACo FSC who got to spend two days with Davenport shortly before he died.

"I was amazed at the energy he had, both for what he was doing and life in general," Griffith said. "He brought me into discussions as a full participant, and I learned so much from him in such a short time."

Davenport gave Griffith decades-old business plans that contained nuggets of ideas he hoped would find some use.

"He knew he wouldn't be around to see a lot of these plans take shape, but he was still excited about what they could mean for everyone having a secure retirement," Griffith said. "His passion for business...that's how I want to be. Never wanting to retire, even if you have the resources to do it. I knew as soon as I met him that he was remarkable."

In addition to his son, Davenport is survived by his wife of 61 years, high school sweetheart Patsy, and four granddaughters. He was preceded in death by three daughters — Alexis, Lisa and Patricia. He was chairman of the board of directors of Quail Creek Bank in Oklahoma City and had been appointed to the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board in 1987. **CN**

New technical assistance offer shines

NACo is embarking on a new technical assistance program to help counties boost their communities' use of solar energy. As partners with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), NACo and The Solar Foundation will help counties achieve a special designation from DOE as a "SPARC" community. In September 2015, the DOE announced a new initiative—*Solar Powering America by Recognizing Communities*, or SPARC — to develop and award the SPARC designation to communities that have taken key steps to remove barriers to solar deployment and helped build more mature local solar markets.

The team, assembled by The Solar Foundation, will offer technical assistance, facilitate peer networking and provide guidance to support counties and communities seeking to pursue designation through tackling local



barriers and expanding access to solar energy technology at the local level.

Through this effort, NACo aims to bolster county leaders' ability to deliver efficient, affordable and innovative energy solutions to the communities they serve, while also expanding local economic development opportunities and lowering costs for solar customers.

Communities that commit to pursuing designation will be eligible for up to 100 hours of free technical assistance from SPARC solar experts to help them qualify for this

program.

Though the program criteria will not be finalized until spring 2016, there is an opportunity for a select few communities to join an elite group of "SPARC Early Adopters" and gain access to exclusive program benefits. The first 30 communities to receive technical assistance from the SPARC team and to be on track to implement a majority of its recommendations for improving planning and zoning, permitting and inspection, and financing options for solar by March 31 will receive recognition as an "Early Adopter." **CN**

For more information about the SPARC initiative or to apply for "Early Adopter" status, contact Kathy Nothstine, program director, knothstine@naco.org; or Jack Morgan, program manager, jmorgan@naco.org.

**GET TO
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**Leelanau
County,
Mich.**

86%
OF COUNTY
IS **WATER**



Welcome to NACo, Leelanau County, Mich.

There's more water in Leelanau County than practically in any other county in the U.S. Sitting on the northwest lower peninsula of Michigan, it boasts **the second highest proportion of water area of any county in the U.S. at 86 percent.**

Jamie Richards, executive assistant to the executive director, contributed to this report.

High court case challenges public unions

By Lisa Soronen
executive director

State and Local Legal Center

It was a typical oral argument at the U.S. Supreme Court in a "big" case. Protesters outside with opposing messages tried to out yell each other, but everyone inside was listening to Justice Anthony Kennedy.

In *Friedrichs v. California Teachers Association* the court will decide whether to overrule a nearly 40-year-old precedent requiring public sector employees who don't join the union to pay their "fair share" of collective bargaining costs. More than 20 states have enacted statutes authorizing fair share.

In its 1977 decision in *Abood v. Detroit Board of Education*, the Supreme Court held that the First Amendment does not prevent "agency shop" arrangements where public

employees who do not join the union are still required to pay their "fair share" of union dues for collective bargaining, contract administration and grievance-adjustment. The rationale for an agency fee is that the union may not discriminate between members and nonmembers in performing these functions. So no free riders are allowed.

In two recent cases — *Knox v. SEIU* (2012) and *Harris v. Quinn* (2014) — the high court was very critical of *Abood*, yet neither case squarely raised the issue of whether *Abood* should be overturned.

During the Jan. 14 oral arguments, Kennedy, whose vote could be crucial in this case, asked questions of both sides. But he repeatedly expressed the view that many teachers may disagree with positions that the teachers union takes on issues like tenure, merit pay and class



California Teachers Association member Maya Walker, a library media technician in Hayward, Calif., delivers remarks outside the U.S. Supreme Court on Monday, Jan. 11. Photo by Patrick G. Ryan

size. He characterized the real problem with agency fee as "compelled riders" not free riders.

Overturning precedent is a drastic step so, unsurprisingly, many of the questions — particularly from the more liberal justices — addressed that possibility. Justice Ste-

phen Breyer's questions were the most impassioned.

He said that overturning *Abood* would mean overturning other precedent-setting decisions including *Keller v. State Bar of California* (1990, bar dues for attorneys) and *Board of Regents v. Southworth* (student activity fees,

2000). He asked how the country would view the Supreme Court's role in providing stability if all these cases were overturned.

Many court observers after reviewing the oral arguments expect the union to lose this case, striking another blow to organized labor. **CN**

Rural Road Safety: A Focus for County Elected Officials

By **Diego Saltes Lowenthal**

Office of Safety

Federal Highway Administration

Each year a disproportionate number of the nation's fatalities occur on local roads. Working together, county elected officials and safety officials can leverage their combined knowledge on safety and community issues to reduce road crashes, injuries, and deaths. Effective collaboration and communication among community and safety stakeholders are necessary in order to achieve ambitious yet achievable safety goals.

While local roads are less traveled than state highways, they have a higher rate of crashes involving fatalities and serious injuries. In 2013, more than 12,000 people were killed on local roads across the U.S. — a fatality rate greater than 1.5 per 100 million vehicle-miles of travel, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

This is almost three times the fatality rate of the Interstate Highway System. Also in 2013, the overall cost of crashes on local roads was well over \$100 billion, accounting for fatalities, decreased quality of life due to injuries and economic costs (medical, insurance and property loss).

On July 13, 2015, Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx signed a resolution reflecting the need to improve safety on county-owned roads and affirming that the U.S. Department of Transportation will work with the National Association of Counties (NACo) to improve road safety in America's communities. This resolution underscores the important role



A crash in Dunn County, Wis., claimed one victim. Fatalities on local roads are nearly three times the fatality rate of the Interstate Highway System.

that local elected officials play in improving road safety in their communities.

Road Safety Resources for County Elected Officials

Over the years, the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Office of Safety has partnered with NACo and local officials to develop a number of informational resources to help communities improve road safety. These tools can help mitigate safety risks and reduce crashes and related injuries and deaths. Resources include brochures, technical reports and guides as well as audiovisual materials that are readily available for practical use.

FHWA recognizes the role of elected officials in roadway safety and their responsibility to road users in their communities. But we also recognize the demands on the time of an elected official.

As a result, a new FHWA Safety video titled *Local Elected Officials: Leading the Way in Local Road Safety* and an accompanying brochure

SPEEDREAD

In 2013, more than 12,000 people were killed on local roads across the U.S.

New FHWA safety video gives local elected officials a big-picture look at local road safety issues.

FHWA also launches new video for safety practitioners on best ways to work with local elected officials.

were developed to give local elected officials a big-picture look at local road safety issues, and also to provide guidance on how to engage, collaborate, and coordinate actions with safety officials.

Officials are given tips on how to get the best information for safety decision-making such as working with safety agencies to obtain up-to-date crash data or consulting with safety officials to learn how roads may be made safer.

The video features several local elected officials de-

scribing their engagement and collaboration with officials to improve safety on their roads.

One instance of such a discussion is provided by Supervisor Linda Langston, former NACo president from Linn County, Iowa, who talks about the importance of working with safety officials and supporting them to improve safety on her county's roads.

Along with Langston, Commissioner Cindy Bobbitt, Grant County, Okla., recommends close coordination with county engineers and other safety stakeholders, and learning about cost-effective treatments to address safety issues and save lives.

A related video was developed to help local safety officials better communicate safety topics with elected officials. The video, *Communicating about Local Road Safety with Local Elected Officials*, guides practitioners on how to best engage with local officials and make them aware of their vital role in preventing crashes.

They are encouraged to

communicate safety facts using clear, concise language supplemented with compelling facts about actual crashes and also with success stories of how similar communities have overcome their safety challenges. They are also advised to build and maintain relationships with other safety stakeholders to gather information and reinforce support for initiatives.

Other tips include educating officials about proven, effective, low-cost solutions; scaling proposals to a level that local officials can address; and involving officials in road safety events and offering public acknowledgment of their support.

Several officials are featured in the video demonstrating their approach to safety discussions with elected officials.

For instance, David Brand, Madison County, Ohio engineer, acknowledges the challenge of selling safety initiatives, but talks about being prepared (i.e., having the facts) and presenting the information in an understandable format.

"Safety officials can offer a wealth of knowledge to help county officials make the best safety decisions," said Michael Griffith, director, Office of Safety Technologies, FHWA.

"We believe the informational resources we are providing can help improve the interaction between officials and elected officials so that more lives can be saved in their local communities." **CN**

For additional information and resources about local road safety see FHWA's Web page for Local and Rural Road Safety at http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/local_rural/

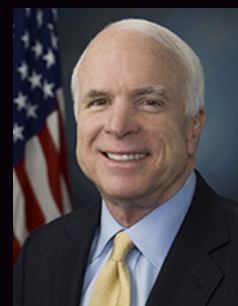


FEDERAL POLICIES MATTER TO
COUNTIES
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THE CAPITOL STEPS
Musical political satire
troupe

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Oregon county sues state over logging policy

By **Charlie Ban**
senior staff writer

Following 15 years of decreasing revenue from timber sales, Linn County, Ore. plans to file a class-action lawsuit against the state, seeking more than \$1.4 billion in lost revenue that otherwise would have gone to county and other entities'

general funds, plus interest for breach of contract.

The suit could include more than 150 taxing entities, including 15 counties, plus fire departments, school districts, libraries and others. The county sent a letter informing Gov. Kate Brown (D) and State Forester Doug Decker of its intention to sue Jan. 13, kicking off the

30-day warning period. Linn County Commissioner Roger Nyquist expected that if the state did not call in a mediator, the suit would likely be filed in mid-March. The suit also aims for an injunction to change the state's forest management practices.

In 1998, an administrative rule changed forest management policy so that revenue

generation was less of a priority. Three years later, the state implemented the new forest management plan, despite the state forestry department's objection that numbers in crucial projections were faulty.

"Folks have been talking about it and complaining about it for 15 years, this is an action step," Nyquist said. "If we're guilty of anything, it's of taking too long to talk about it before taking action."

The \$1.4 billion sought in the suit represents 15 years of at least \$35 million per year in lost revenue for all taxing entities, interest on that revenue and future damages.

The Forest Trust Land Counties Council took over hundreds of thousands of acres of forest lands that counties received from tax foreclosures during the Great Depression, with the charge to secure the "greatest permanent value" from the land. The 1998 rule change was contrary to the legislative intent, Nyquist said, as was the state's 2001 adoption of the management plan.

"The fact is, the state isn't generating the level of revenue that other county lands are, let alone private land," said Mike McArthur, executive director of the Association of Oregon Counties. "We believe the greatest value for that land is monetary, but the state differs."

Linn County has been projected to have lost \$2.4 million a year since 2001, ranking fourth in losses among the 15 counties that could enter into the class-action suit. Clatsop County tops the charts with \$12 million in annual forgone revenue.

"Every year for the last 20 years, we've had to reinvent ourselves as 2 percent less than we were the year before," Nyquist said. "You do it once, you do it twice, and over 15 years it gets pretty

SPEEDREAD

Linn County has notified the state of Oregon it will file a \$1.4 billion class-action lawsuit

The suit alleges the state hasn't lived up to a contracted responsibility to log state-managed forests efficiently for 15 years

Forgone timber revenue has cost Linn County \$2.4 million annually

difficult to keep it up."

Tim Josi, a Tillamook County commissioner and chairman of the Forest Trust Land Advisory Committee, said more efficient logging would not damage the environment, touting a plan that preserves 30 percent of the land for conservation.

He added that fear to the contrary could influence an eventual federal takeover of the land, at which point timber harvesting would plummet 97 percent under Bureau of Land Management control.

"Our fear is that this land will be less and less efficient in terms of timber production and we'll end up having massive forest fires," he said. "It's not as if increasing the harvest would harm the environment. Under the state's Forest Practices Act, it's sufficient to keep water temperatures down and sedimentation low and the fish thriving."

The counties, school districts and taxing districts aren't the only parties losing money, though. The state department of forestry came to the Legislature asking for operating expenses, which spurred Linn County to file the suit.

"A six-year-old can do enough math to figure out that this isn't viable," Josi recalled telling the forestry department. **CN**

ON THE MOVE

IN THE NEWS

NACo's release of its third annual County Economies report prompted major media attention. Here's a sample: *The Wall Street Journal*: "Six Years Later, 93% of U.S. Counties Haven't Recovered From Recession, Study Finds;" *Washington Post*: "2 maps that show why many aren't feeling Obama's 'strong' State of The Union;" *The Fiscal Times/Yahoo Finance*: "Here's Why Millions of Americans Feel Like the Recession Never Ended;" *FOX Business*: "The Myth of the 'Strong' Obama Economy."

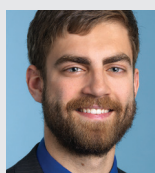
NACo OFFICERS, COUNTY OFFICIALS

It was off to the Southwest for NACo President **Sallie Clark** and First Vice President **Bryan Desloge**. Clark spoke Jan. 20 at the New Mexico Association of Counties Legislative Conference in Santa Fe County, and Desloge represented NACo at the County Supervisors Association of Arizona's Legislative Conference in Maricopa County (Phoenix), Ariz. on Jan. 21.

NACo STAFF
Daniel Brookmyer has joined the Research Department as a research

associate after interning with department since summer 2015. He is currently co-writing *Counting Money: State and GASB Standards for County Financial Reporting* and serves as a co-liaison for the International Economic Development Task Force. He has previously worked as a county civil court clerk in Palm Beach County, Fla. Brookmyer holds a bachelor's degree in political science with honors from the University of Central Florida and is completing a master's degree in public policy at George Mason University in Arlington, Va.

Jonathan Harris started working as a research associate in the beginning of 2016. He initially joined NACo as



Harris

part of the research intern "army" in January 2015. Harris has done work on the county administration and county finance projects, and he serves as a co-liaison for the International Economic Development Task Force. His next assignment will be a policy analysis of state limitations on county revenue sources. He holds a B.A. in philosophy, politics and economics from Eastern University and expects to receive a master's

degree in integral economic development policy from Catholic University in May.



Robinson

Ya`Shica Robinson, a native Washingtonian, has joined NACo as an administrative assistant, in the Executive Office, providing administrative support to the Executive Committee, Board of Directors and Executive Director.

Prior to joining NACo, Robinson was a senior administrative assistant at the American Library Association. She holds B.A. degrees in political science and in economics from the University of the District of Columbia.



Jamison

Tony Jamison has been promoted to business development manager. Jamison started with NACo as a membership intern, moved into a full-time membership assistant slot, and subsequently was promoted to corporate relations associate.

COMING UP

Andrew Goldschmidt, membership marketing director, will be exhibiting on behalf of NACo at the New York State Association of Counties Legislative Conference Feb. 1-4 in Albany, N.Y. and at the West Virginia Association of Counties' Conference of Counties, Feb. 7-9 in Charleston, W. Va.

BRIGHT IDEAS | STANISLAUS COUNTY, Calif.

The More the Merrier for Elementary School Mentors

PROBLEM: Adult participation in Stanislaus County, Calif.'s student mentoring program was dropping.

SOLUTION: Letting teams of employees and members of the business community share responsibility made it easier to find the time to participate.

By Charlie Ban
senior staff writer

A few years into the Stanislaus County, Calif.'s employee mentoring program, the initial adrenaline and enthusiasm for helping at-risk elementary school students were wearing off and participation was waning.

But then the county shook things up and changed from a one-on-one, traditional approach to a team strategy, making it easier for employees to fit participation into their schedules, and the program has survived another six years from that rocky season and is still going strong. This year, 130 adults are involved in mentoring, bringing the total of adults who have participated to near 500.

"That's what sealed the deal with us as far as sustainability goes, and I honestly think it was a happy accident," said Keith Boggs, Stanislaus County's assistant chief executive officer. "It was starting to get a little hard after the newness of the program wore off and we were asking a big time commitment — almost an hour-and-a-half a week."

Now, up to three county employees manage scheduling the twice-weekly meetings, with 40 percent of students having three mentors switching off, 30

percent with a pair of mentors and 30 percent maintaining a one-on-one relationship. They meet twice a week for 40 minutes with a student from grades three to five who have low grades, truancy problems or have otherwise been identified as needing help. The program was also opened up to employees from the city of Modesto, members of the local Rotary and Lion's Club, a bank branch and California State University Stanislaus, among the seven partnering organizations. All mentors must pass an FBI background check.

Stanislaus County has one of the highest dropout rates in the state, at 23.6 percent, so getting an additional role model in at-risk students' lives is crucial to stemming that tide. Every participating student gets 40 minutes of time with a mentor twice a week.

"That third-through-fifth-grade window is great, because you can really reach the kids and have their attention," Boggs said. "It's before hormones, peer pressure, distractions from middle school and lockers, all that stuff gets in the way. You can develop a relationship."

When more than one adult mentors a child, they keep a journal to clue their partner in to how their student is doing and provide some details and continuity. Before they meet with the child in the library, mentors can catch themselves up.

"If you come in on Friday and check the journal and see that the last entry on Tuesday, Rebecca was upset because she couldn't find her cat, you can start off where your partner left off, talking about little Scruffles," Boggs said.

"Then you write on Fri-



A Stanislaus County, Calif. staff mentor meets with a student. Photo courtesy of Stanislaus County

day, "They found Scruffles; everything is fine. Rebecca is excited about going to a ball game this weekend."

Six schools participate in the program, and Boggs estimates the aggregate time mentors have spent with students in the program's 17 years to be close to 25,000, with many coming since the participation boom in 2010.

Another benefit of the team-based approach has been bonding among the mentors.

"Our teams of three transcend their departments," Boggs said. You might have an elected official and a middle manager and an accounting clerk, so they end up getting to know each other, where sometimes they might have never crossed paths. They might not even work in the same building."

The program runs on a \$1,500 annual budget, much of which goes to an annual dinner to both recognize mentors and attempt to engage parents of participating students. **CN**

Bright Ideas features noteworthy and award-winning programs

BEHIND
— THE —
SEAL

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD.

Seal Created in: 1957
By: Adelaide M. Haspert

Baltimore County needed a seal, and fast. So fast, that the County Council passed an emergency resolution to adopt a seal on April 2, 1957. Council members wanted something proud and historic to appear on all official letters and stationery. The resolution asked for entries to be solicited from citizens of Baltimore County, including students and teachers.

The search for the noblest design was announced immediately, and the council agreed to reward the winning designer with a \$100 savings

bond. More than 33 designs were submitted, and each artist received a certificate from the County Council. Only one design, however, could win the contest.

The winning design, by Adelaide M. Haspert, a Towson resident, featured the Calvert and Crossland Coats of Arms, and seven stars representing the county's seven magisterial districts. The official Common Seal was approved by the County Council and enacted into law on June 10, 1957. Today, it continues to serve as a proud symbol of Baltimore County.

The winning design featured the Calvert and Crossland Coats of Arms, and seven stars representing the county's seven magisterial districts. George Calvert, Baron of Baltimore, whose mother was from the Crossland family, settled what became the state of Maryland.



MONEYMATTERS%

Why You Should Care about the Federal Reserve

By Joel Griffith

general program manager
NACo-FSC

The Federal Reserve Bank of the United States (Fed) has a discernible impact throughout the entire economy. However, this impact is rarely recognized in full. Congress has delegated management of the nation's monetary system to this central bank with a dual mandate: 1) stable prices; and 2) full employment. The Fed uses a number of tools to achieve these aims, which include adjustment of the amounts of monetary stock (money), purchases of specific asset classes for the Fed balance sheet and influencing interest rates.

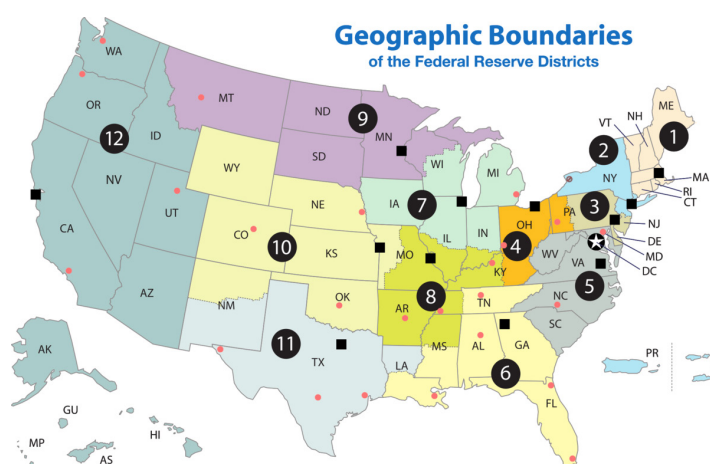
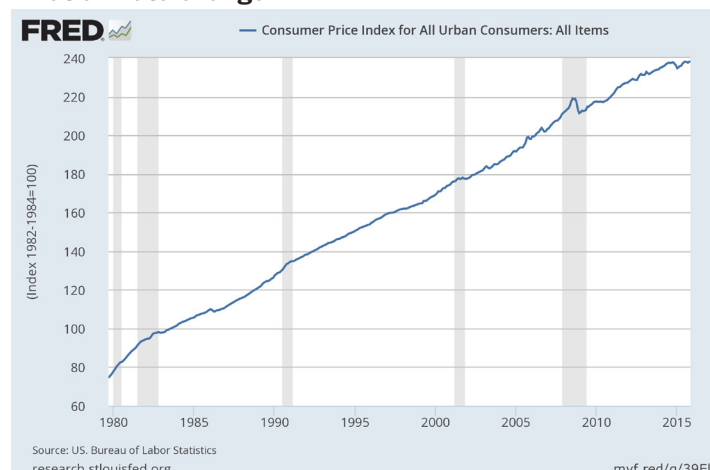
The United States of America prides itself on being a free market economy. In large part this is true. This nation enjoys a prosperity, abundance and level of opportunity exceeding that of any other similarly large nation in the history of mankind.

The ability of individuals to use their skills and capital to engage in voluntary trade, mostly free of confiscation or hindrance by the state or fellow citizens, has produced this abundance.

But the indirect — and sometimes direct impact — of the Federal Reserve on economic conditions cannot be ignored.

Perhaps the most important manner in which the central bank affects daily life is the steady increase in prices over long spans of time. As the supply of money created by the Fed increases at a rate higher than the absolute growth of the economy, prices in general will increase. Simply put, relatively more units of currency are chasing each unit of economic output. Much of this inflationary result is masked by short-to-medium term fluctuations in commodities such as food and energy. Other inflationary aspects are mitigated by im-

Inflation Rate Change



provements in technology or production efficiency. But over the long run, the trend of higher prices is clear.

Of course, this inflationary effect does more than just increase prices for consumers and producers. It punishes savers and rewards debtors by eroding the value each year of every dollar saved while diminishing the real value of debts incurred. For instance, the purchasing power of \$1 declines to just \$0.74 after a decade of 3 percent annual inflation. For unsophisticated investors, this serves to erode years of delayed consumption placed in savings accounts rather than equity markets.

And who is the winner in this scheme? None other than the federal government at the present. Washington, D.C. benefits in two primary ways. First, consider that the federal deficit has exploded over the past four decades — now eclipsing 100 percent of GDP. Inflation effectively cuts about 2 percent of

the accumulated deficit off the top each year.

On a more than \$18 trillion federal debt, this represents a nearly \$400 billion annual boon to the government. Ultimately, this is an enormous hidden tax on the populace and hits all wealth strata. As Nobel Prize-winning economist Milton Friedman put it, "Inflation is taxation without legislation."

Secondly, the Federal Reserve further reduces the borrowing costs of the federal

government by purchasing government bonds. Artificially heightened demand, courtesy of the Fed, pushes the price of these bonds up. Of course, interest rates on bonds are inverse to the price of a bond. As a result, interest costs on the federal debt are lower than otherwise. Once again, enormous cost savings accrue to the federal government to the detriment of the private sector.

The Federal Reserve also affects interest rates across the broader economy primarily through targeted asset purchases, adjustment of reserve requirements and control of the interest rates charged by banks on overnight loans of federal funds. The Fed conducts these activities presumably with the intent to achieve the congressional dual mandates. However, this meddling is not without risk. History is replete with examples of the damage caused when governing powers attempt to set price controls. And the most important commodity to a well-functioning free market economy is capital.

Like other goods, the cost of money (the interest rate) provides important signals to market participants about the level of demand for capital by specific businesses and sectors. Manipulating these costs — presently by pushing that cost lower through low interest rates — impedes the ability of the market to determine which

sectors truly can most efficiently use that capital. All things being equal, a business being willing to pay a relatively higher interest rate on borrowed capital would be expected to generate more economic growth than another business being willing to pay a lower rate.

For the good of the economy, capital should flow to those segments most able to profitably put such capital to use. In addition, the interest rate demanded by lenders in a free market will reflect the perceived risk of an investment opportunity.

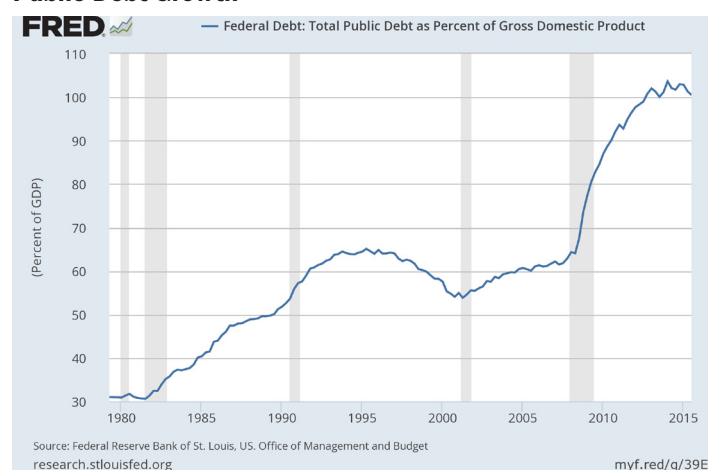
An artificially low rate misallocates this capital—causing it to often flow to ventures, which are more risky than the associated interest rate.

These asset bubbles — in large part enabled by the central bank's attempted management of the economy — have repeatedly occurred. The tech bubble ending in 2001 and the real estate bubble leading into the Great Recession are but two recent examples. Milton Friedman compiled numerous examples in prior centuries and by central banks across the globe in his book *Monetary Mischief*.

State and local governments can mitigate the dangers presented through prudent fiscal management. Treasury coffers may swell from taxable income produced by central bank induced bubbles — including real estate, commodities or equities. By holding the line on spending growth even in the face of temporary influx of funds, governments can serve their constituents without painful cutbacks through both booms and busts. **CN**

Joel Griffith is general program manager for NACo-FSC, supporting FSC's Multi-Bank Securities eConnectDirect for county treasurers. Before joining NACo, Griffith worked as a research associate with The Heritage Foundation.

Public Debt Growth



Cuyahoga County executive shares values, vision



Armond Budish (r) meets with county colleagues and staff.
Photo courtesy of Cuyahoga County, Ohio

By Charles Taylor
senior staff writer

Been there, done that... It could be Armond Budish's motto. His resume reads like a roadmap for the route he's taken from lawyer to speaker of the Ohio House of Representatives to becoming Cuyahoga County, Ohio's county executive.

He's a published author of books, has written columns for the Cleveland's *Plain Dealer* newspaper and *Family Circle* magazine. As an attorney, his practice focused on elder law issues — which were often featured on a weekly TV infomercial he hosted before his election in 2014.

"My passion over the years has been helping senior citizens and their families to cope with the challenges of aging," Budish said in a recent interview. In the year since he took office, he has broadened his focus to all 1.2 million residents of the county on the shores of Lake Erie.

Playing an active role in governing was always in the cards, he said, but with a caveat.

"I made a choice early on that I would pursue these other avenues because I also wanted to be at home with my children as they grew up,"

he said. "It was important to me to be a good dad." He and his wife of 36 years, Amy, have two sons, ages 34 and 29.

Budish is only the county's second elected executive. Voters in 2009 approved a charter, transforming the county's governance from a commission of three co-equal members to its current structure — an executive and 11 council members. It brought reforms sparked, in part, by a public corruption scandal between the late '90s and 2009 that sent a former commissioner and the county auditor to prison.

While much was accomplished on the watch of the county's first executive, Ed FitzGerald from 2010 to 2014, a new form of government doesn't gel overnight, said Councilman Dave Greenspan. He bridges both administrations as an original member of the first County Council. Of Ohio's 88 counties, only one other, Summit, operates under home rule.

Greenspan said Budish faced a "double challenge" when he took office: standing up his own administration and "shoring up a government" barely out of its toddler stage.

See **BUDISH** page 12

In symbolic vote, House passes resolution to repeal WOTUS

by Julie Ufner
associate legislative director

On Jan. 13, the U.S. House of Representatives easily passed a resolution of disapproval (Senate Joint Resolution 22) that would repeal the revised "Waters of the U.S." (WOTUS) rule by a vote of 253-166. The same resolution was passed by the Senate in November by a vote of 53-44.

S.J.Res.22 uses the Congressional Review Act (CRA) to kill the WOTUS rule and prohibits EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers from using any "substantially similar" provisions in future WOTUS rule-makings. The CRA is a rare procedural move that allows Congress to overturn any "major" federal rule through a resolution of disapproval and requires a presidential signature for enactment. The CRA has only been used once successfully — in 2001 to overturn a Department of Labor ergonomics rule. NACo has no official position on S.J.Res.22.

The bill will now be sent to the White House for review. But the Administration has already indicated it would veto S.J.Res.22, and at this point, neither chamber can override the expected veto. That returns the game to the courts over the next several months. Court decisions questioning the WOTUS rule may give momentum to movement on Capitol Hill.

In December 2015, the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals heard oral arguments on whether it has the authority to hear the case—its decision is expected within several months. In the meantime, the court temporarily halted implementation of the Waters of the U.S. rule nationally until its jurisdiction could be determined.

In a separate development, the U.S. Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation denied the Department of Justice's request to consolidate other WOTUS lawsuits filed sepa-

rately in district court against EPA and the Corps.

These developments only increase the complexity because it remains unclear whether challenges to the rule will ultimately be heard in circuit or district courts. This will likely lengthen the timeframe of the rule's judicial proceed-

ings and highlights the need for a legislative fix.

Twelve House Democrats and 241 Republicans voted in support of S.J.Res.22. Only one Republican and 165 Democrats voted against. To see how your House member voted see this story online at www.countytynews.org. **CN**

PROFILES IN SERVICE

KATHIE GANNON

Vice Chair
Resilient Counties Advisory Board
Commissioner
DeKalb County, Ga.

Number of years active in NACo: 10

Years in public service: 16

Occupation: retired, founding executive director of Georgia CASA

Education: B.A., political science, Marquette University; social work administration, University of Georgia; and many years of continuing education

The hardest thing I've ever done: Shortly after I started my first campaign, my mother's cancer resurfaced for the final time. I went back and forth between Georgia and Michigan with much stress at both locations.

Three people (living or dead) I'd invite to dinner: My mother, my husband (someone needs to cook) and Ann Richards.

A dream I have is to: be a grandmother while I can still take the kids on field trips.

The most adventurous thing I've ever done is: kayak a river with small rapids by myself.



My favorite way to relax is: sip wine, nibble chocolate and read a good book.

I'm most proud of: my sons.

Every morning I read: I read at night—newspapers, work papers and junk novels.

My favorite meal is: traditional Thanksgiving dinner.

My pet peeve is: people who lie.

My motto is: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

The last book I read was: *Gray Mountain* by John Grisham.

My favorite movie is: *Gone With the Wind*.

My favorite music is: '70s rock.

My favorite president is: John F. Kennedy.

My county is a NACo member because: The opportunities to learn and advocate for issues and services that help the people of DeKalb County. Being our watchdog in Washington is another huge benefit. Thank you, NACo.



You'd be surprised to learn that I:
tap dance.

Budish guides young government to next level

From **BUDISH** page 11

Passing his first two-year budget last month was among Budish's first big tests. At one point last year, the county was staring down a potential \$68 million budget hole.

"The biggest challenge by far has been the financial condition of the county government," Budish said. "When we first walked in the door we were told we had a \$12 million surplus, but after we started digging, which was our first order of business, we discovered that in fact we had a significant deficit."

Greenspan said the deficit wasn't because of cash flow or current expenditures but was due to commitments

made under the prior administration. A \$100 million economic development fund and \$50 million to demolish blighted properties were to be supported by bonds.

"Armond made the decision for the county over the next two years not to issue any more debt unless that debt was supported by a dedicated revenue stream," said Greenspan, a Republican who chairs the council's finance and budgeting committee. Budish is a Democrat.

The councilman credits Budish's ability to tap into the experience of the council members, nine of whom are in their second term under the home rule government. "The continuity of understanding the complexity of

"If he were just interested in money, he wouldn't be in office, he'd be practicing law,"

—Michael Solomon

what we do and how we got from January 2011 to today, a lot of that knowledge rests with council," Greenspan said.

By charter, job creation and economic growth are a "fundamental government purpose" of the county. Budish brought some of his state legislative experience to bear in his new job. In the House, he had served on the

finance committee, and he was "extremely involved" with the state budget as speaker, and subsequently, minority leader.

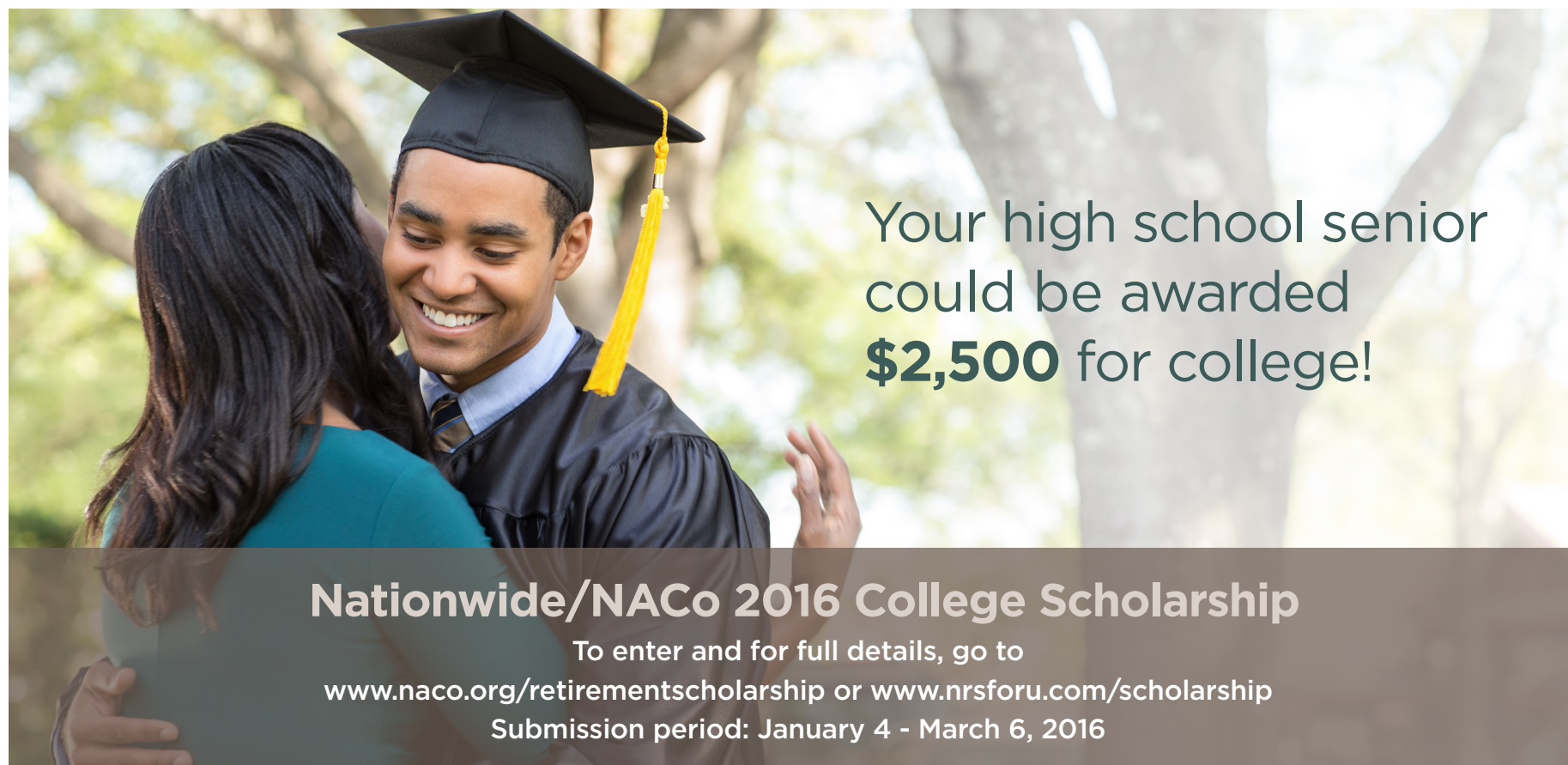
On a personal level, it's not money that motivates the man. "If he were just interested in money, he wouldn't be in office, he'd be practicing law," said Michael Solomon, his former law partner. "Because he's a good lawyer and you can make a good living as a lawyer..." He also calls Budish a hard worker and "entrepreneurial," citing his colleague's idea for the TV infomercial. "He comes up with these ideas that other people might say, 'Why do you think you can do that?' And he does it."

Budish's Jewish faith informs his approach to life

and work — especially the concept of *Tikkun Olam* (repair the world). "The way I was brought up," he said, "we were brought to believe that we all have the opportunity and an obligation to repair the world.... It's a very important goal for me, and I try to fulfill that all the time."

As he begins his second year in office, Budish appears to be having the time of his life, according to Sharon Sobol-Jordan, his current chief of staff.

"He waited a long time to be a public servant, and he loves it with a capital 'L,'" she said. "He comes to work every day with a smile on his face. He is having more fun now than any man should be allowed to have at work." **CN**



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www.naco.org/retirementscholarship or www.nrsforu.com/scholarship
 Submission period: January 4 - March 6, 2016



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NEWS FROM ACROSS THE NATION



ALABAMA

If you're at least 18 years old and have **no law enforcement** experience, you could run for sheriff of **ELMORE COUNTY**... for now.

The County Commission and Sheriff Bill Franklin are working to change that, the *Montgomery Advertiser* reported. Commissioners recently endorsed Franklin's proposal to add more qualifications for the job, a move that must be approved by the state Legislature.

Under the sheriff's proposed bill, candidates for office would need to be at least 25 years old, have resided in the county for one year and have a four-year college degree in criminal justice or a related field.

The Legislature will take up the measure during its session that begins Feb. 2.

FLORIDA

BROWARD COUNTY commissioners passed a new law to **prevent human trafficking** and encourage the public to report the crime. It enforces recent state legislation.

The ordinance requires that signs with specific information on human trafficking be posted in adult entertainment venues such as strip clubs, and in massage parlors

that are not owned by health care professionals.

A state law that took effect Jan. 1 mandates the posting of human trafficking awareness signs in public transportation areas, rest areas, airports, train stations, emergency rooms and specified business establishments. That law authorized counties to pass ordinances to enforce the posting requirement.

IDAHO

No more gun shows in **ADA COUNTY** for a while. County commissioners have enacted a moratorium after two **accidental discharges at gun shows** at Expo Idaho in the past three years, according to the *Idaho Statesman*.

In a letter to a promoter of several shows at the facility, the commissioners wrote: "Notwithstanding our support of Second Amendment rights, we are concerned about the safety of patrons and vendors in our facilities during, and in preparation for, gun shows, including the ones you produce."

Four people have been injured by accidental gunshots at gun shows in the county since 2013. The county paid \$100,000 as part of a settlement in the 2013 incident, in which a man suffered eye injuries from shrapnel from accidental gunfire.

MARYLAND

BALTIMORE COUNTY Councilman David Marks has proposed legislation that could **fine renters and landlords for noisy parties** that disturb neighbors.

The county is home to Towson University, and the measure is aimed incidents involving college students who rent private homes off-cam-

pus, *The Baltimore Sun* reported.

Penalties for landlords range from a warning to a \$1,000 fine and revocation of their license to rent. Party hosts would face a \$500 fine and 20 hours of community service, and higher fines for repeat violations.

Marks said he hopes it might have a deterrent effect. "If landlords are managing their properties and renters are behaving appropriately, then the police will never be called and these sanctions will never be used."

MICHIGAN

Already reeling from a tainted water crisis, **GENESEE COUNTY** is now dealing with a rash of **Legionnaire's disease** cases, 10 of them fatal. Between June 2014 and November 2015, there were 87 cases of the disease reported.

About half of the people who became ill were connected to the Flint water system, which has been the source of lead poisoning. But state health officials say no causal link has been established.

MISSISSIPPI

The Gulf Coast Broadband Initiative has a new member. **HARRISON COUNTY** supervisors have joined a group of counties and cities that are working to bring affordable **high-speed Internet service** to the region.

Twelve cities and three counties will eventually be part of the project, according to *The Sun Herald*.

CALIFORNIA

By a 4-1 vote, the **NEVADA COUNTY** Board of Supervisors passed an "urgency ordinance" to immediately **ban outdoor marijuana cultivation** and restrict the number of medicinal plants grown indoors, *The Union* reported.

The ordinance was rec-



Sheriff Herman T. Jones visits with preschool kids to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Photo by Martha Lutz

KANSAS

SHAWNEE COUNTY Sheriff Herman T. Jones read from the book, *This Is The Dream*, to kids at the Precious Blessings preschool in Topeka on Jan. 13 in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. Jones gave the school a copy of the book and handed out Junior Deputy stickers to the children.

The project would create a fiber ring across coastal southern Mississippi that could promote economic development. The redundant network would benefit existing and future businesses.

NEW YORK

MONROE COUNTY Executive Cheryl Dinolfo has proposed an **Office of Public Integrity**. It would have to

independently review county operations and finances, the *Democrat and Chronicle* reported.

The ethics director could report findings directly to law enforcement when necessary. While Dinolfo's legislation doesn't say so, she

See **NEWS FROM** page 14



ommended by Sheriff Keith Royal and allows only civil penalties such as fines. Five hours of public comment preceded the vote; most of it against the measure.

In California, it's legal to grow and use marijuana for medicinal purposes.

MORE NEWS FROM...

From **NEWS FROM** page 13

wrote in a letter to county lawmakers that the director also would manage the county's whistleblower hotline. The director could "examine all county operations independently," conduct audits of county departments and address complaints from county residents, the legislation says.

Lawmakers would likely hold a public hearing in February and vote on the legislation in March.

PENNSYLVANIA

● Underpaid for **911 service fees** by \$6.7 million, **CUMBERLAND COUNTY** is joining a lawsuit targeting telecommunications companies to recover that money.

The county will join with Phone Recovery Services and the Philadelphia law firm of Dilworth Paxson to seek a return of money. Other counties, including **DELAWARE** and **DAUPHIN**, have already sued. The suit will cost the county nothing up front, and will cost nothing if the company loses the case. Phone Recovery Services' fee will be 40 percent of any damages collected, PennLive reported.

Phone Recovery Services' analysis estimates 22 telephone service providers have been misrepresenting the types and number of phone lines that pay 911 fees, under billing customers on 911 funding fees.

● **YORK COUNTY** com-

WASHINGTON

A group supporting **vaping** has sued the Tacoma-**PIERCE COUNTY** Board of Health over the agency's new countywide restrictions on electronic cigarettes.

The regulations, which the board approved unanimously in November, took effect Jan. 1 and made e-cigarettes subject to the same restrictions state law places on smoking in public places.

Under the regulations, vaping

products cannot be used in public places or work sites, except for limited sampling in stores that sell the products. The county rule also requires vapor product sellers to buy a license to operate.

The *News Tribune* reported that the suit asks a judge to roll back the restrictions before they put many vaping-related enterprises in the county out of business.



missioners approved a major expansion of its substance abuse treatment center. **ADAMS COUNTY** also uses the facility, which includes detox, residential rehabilitation and discharge planning services for adults who are dealing with substance abuse, chemical dependency and co-occurring mental health disorders.

The entire construction budget for the project is \$3.2 million, and in the end, the number of beds should at least double to 48, though other options could take the total to 85, according to the *York Daily Record*.

WISCONSIN

The **MANITOWOC COUNTY**'s Clerk of Court office has been **inundated with inquiries** from locals and people from around the world who want to see the transcripts, exhibits and other documents in a 2007 murder case featured in the television series *Making a Murderer*.

Chief Clerk Lynn Zigmunt told the Associated Press there are more than six banker boxes of material. She has assigned an employee to handle the requests each day and assembled a guide to the pertinent documents.

Zigmunt said she expects the requests to wane in the future because someone who has purchased the documents will likely put them online. **CN**

(*News From Across the Nation* 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 cbn@naco.org.)

Bundy 'go home,' Ore. county officials say

From **REFUGE** page 3

Counties (AOC), who has been on loan to Harney County to deal with local, national and international news media inquiries. The county is holding weekly community meetings to inform residents and listen to their concerns.

In a loud, clear voice, most members of the community of 7,500 have told the militants who took over the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge on Jan. 2: "Go home!" Grasty included.

"I'll get you in my pickup. I'll drive you wherever you want to go, I don't care if it's Utah, I'll take you there," Grasty told an uninvited Bundy at last week's community meeting. "But go home, will you? We've got families; we need to move on."

That includes the families of 16 employees of the refuge, who were relocated and reassigned to other jobs during the standoff," according to Kevin Foerster, who manages all of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's refuges in Pacific Northwest and Hawaii. "We're aware of threats that have been made to federal employees," he said.

An unnamed spokesperson for refuge employees wrote in an open letter to friends and supporters, "We study, watch our kids play basketball, worship, commune, and interact with our fellow Harney County citizens — not as a 'we vs. they' — but as an 'us.'"

Still, Grasty said disagreements have turned friend against friend, family member against family member in some cases.

On Jan. 19, environmentalists from as far away as Portland in Multnomah

County — some 300 miles away — staged demonstrations urging the militants to decamp. Grasty sent them a message of thanks but cautioned, "This group thrives on attention and the more attention they get, the longer they'll stay."

"I look forward to working with any environmental organization that wants to find real solutions, rather than locking up large swaths of land through lawsuits or by administrative fiat," he said. "I invite every group demonstrating today to join us at the table to work on solutions that benefit the land and the community."

Whatever the outcome, he said it's clear that counties and the federal government have their work cut out for them. He recently met with a "policy person" from AOC, the state association, to work through ways to "drive this issue on up to the very secretaries of Interior and Ag."

"I want to have a sit down with them, and I want to talk about the lessons learned," he said. "If we don't start listening to each other — counties listening to the feds, feds listening to counties — this is going to happen again (somewhere)."

The governor expressed similar sentiments to the media in Salem. "The residents of Harney County have been overlooked and underserved by federal officials' response thus far," she said. "I have conveyed these very grave concerns directly to our leaders at the highest levels of our government.... Federal authorities must move quickly to end the occupation and hold all of wrongdoers accountable. The spectacle of lawlessness must end, and until Harney County is free of it, I will not stop insisting that federal officials enforce the law." **CN**

VIRGINIA

Employees of **BEDFORD COUNTY** are the only people barred from entering the county administration building with a firearm, but a proposal may allow county employees to bring **concealed weapons** to work.

Such a change would still require proper permitting, WDBJ News reported.





More than 40 years of public service, working daily with elected and appointed officials, and being an appointed one myself, more than qualifies me to write a children's book! And so it has happened. *Evie and the Magic Telescope* was born and is now available at booksellers such as Amazon.com, BarnesandNoble.com, Powells.com and more.

In the book, Evie is a very smart and beautiful girl — 8 or 9 years old — who, like all of us, worries about what she will be when she grows up (The real-life, HR Granddaughter Evie, who inspired the book, is “an adult 5 year old”). I often continue to have thoughts about what more I want to do, learn and achieve as I continue to “grow up.” She also confronts issues like peer pressure, dealing with a bully and a lack of confidence, and communication skills necessary to find her life's passion.

Of course, being a grandpa also required me to highlight in the book the advice and experience she gains by spending time with her grandparents.

The book is classified as juvenile fiction — for ages 7 to 12. However my intention was to include in the book advice and approaches to life, career and joy. These are just as characteristic of adult business success and service to others as they would be to a child growing up. I want to share with you some of what Evie learned as she emerged from being “Evie the Shy” and “Evie the Worried” to become “Evie the Confident Explorer and Hunter of the Sky,” which was to become her lifetime passion.

Grandpa and Grammie gave Evie five pieces of advice. This advice is what this

Evie and the Magic Telescope

particular HR Grandpa has learned and taught to others over more than four decades.

The first bit of wisdom is to always keep expanding your knowledge, learning diverse information from science, history, psychology, arts and more. This way you can become as much of a “Renaissance person” as you can possibly be. People with such diverse knowledge generally are going to be more popular and more likely to be confident, communicative and successful at other things they do in life. They will likely see a broader picture of whatever is going on around them and be a more strategic thinker.

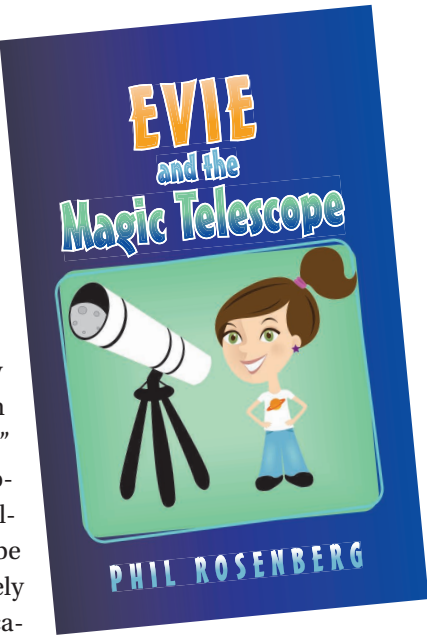
Linked to this “life helper” advice is the idea of imagination — to dream and to work hard to achieve.

The second piece of advice is to continually be on the lookout for ways to expand your network of friends and colleagues. They are people who will be available to help you grow as a person, solve problems and enjoy life. It becomes your goal and responsibility to also help them.

Having your own “army” provides incredible resources to you beyond what you will find in a staff meeting, watching TV or practicing any other endeavor. These will be resources, that can be brought to bear when you need help or just advice.

Third is the extremely important concept of not walking by something wrong. Rather than “just put up with it” or ignore a problem, determine an effective action to improve a situation and act on that better idea. Perhaps calling on members of your army can produce the assistance you need to solve the problem.

The next lesson Evie learns from her grandparents is the importance of living a life of service to others. This can mean doing charity work.



The HR Doctor's latest publishing venture explores the path to confidence for a young girl.

Certainly it can mean teaching. But perhaps fundamental is the idea of being a positive role model to help others, especially young others.” This “Service above Self” model (i.e., the slogan of Rotary International) exemplifies the larger idea of “... better to give than to receive.”

Finally, she hears grandpa tell her about how important it is to laugh and enjoy the opportunities life presents. Fun is, as one anonymous wise person said, the greatest discipline of all.

It places our worries, especially those over minutia, into a better perspective. It contributes to our physical and emotional health and it leads to more positive relationships at home and at work.

If you can put all of these lessons to work as a young child, public administrator, or senior citizen, your days will be enriched.

Your life will be more successful and you will create a legacy that will last long past the time when you cease to exist biologically.

Of course it helps to have included in your army some technological and state-of-the-art “friends.” In Evie's case, this meant visiting an observatory and meeting a

computerized, powerful telescope.

Angelina, the telescope could take Evie on magical journeys to see things in the universe she never dreamt were there and never dreamt that she might see. This kind of technology was never available until rather recently. It is hard to explain, how a robotic friend like Evie's telescope can change the way we think and act about nature, science, religion and relations with other people.

How can looking up at the sky and experiencing the beauty of Saturn's rings, the remnants of a supernova or a galaxy have the kind of profound effect it had on the character of Evie, or for that matter on me? The best way to answer that is non-verbal. Just watch a child look through a beautiful telescope at Saturn and share their expressions of wonder!

So it was for Evie at the end of her adventures that experiences open up minds. For us, we can imagine all that we can accomplish as public servants who can make our communities better.

Ironically, when we expand our own consciousness and knowledge, we also expand our ability to make a difference in the world and in a child's future.

That was Evie's great discovery and that is what changed her from shy and worried to a confident Explorer. **CN**

WORD SEARCH

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

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS FEATURED COUNTY IN 'WHAT'S IN A SEAL?'

Created By: Charles Taylor

ADELAIDE HASPERT (Designed county seal in 1957)
CARROLL COUNTY (West adjacent county)
CECILUS CALVERT (2nd Lord Baltimore, the county's namesake)
DUNDALK (Unincorporated community in county)
GOUCHER COLLEGE (Private, liberal arts college)
HARFORD COUNTY (Neighboring county to the east)
KEVIN KAMENETZ (Current county executive)
OWINGS MILLS (Census-designated place)

PENNSYLVANIA (Forms county's northern border)
PIEDMONT (County's geography ranges from the Piedmont Plateau to the Atlantic Coastal Plain)
SPARROWS POINT (Site of former steel manufacturing plant)
SPIRO AGNEW (Former county executive, U.S. vice president)
THIRD (Third most populous county in the state)
TOWSON (County seat)
YORK (Contiguous county in Pennsylvania)

2016 ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

CELEBRATING 46 YEARS OF INNOVATION

DOES YOUR COUNTY HAVE **AN INNOVATIVE PROGRAM** THAT
IMPROVES COUNTY GOVERNMENT AND INCREASES SERVICES
TO **COUNTY RESIDENTS?**

For 46 years, NACo has recognized outstanding efforts in county government through the Achievement Awards Program. Awards are given in 21 categories including Criminal Justice, Health, Human Services, Information Technology and many more. For more information on this year's awards cycle and to begin your application visit:

www.naco.org/achievementawards

QUESTIONS? CONTACT

awards@naco.org

IMPORTANT DATES:

Submissions Open:

February 1, 2016 12:00 a.m. EST

Submissions Close:

April 1, 2016 11:59 p.m. EDT

