

# County News

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*"The wisdom to know and the courage to defend the public interest"*

National Association of Counties • Washington, D.C.

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## Inside this issue ...



NACo's Large Urban County Caucus and The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children launch a public awareness campaign against sexual exploitation. See page 2.



Monroe County, N.Y. joins with faith communities to spread the gospel of healthy living. See page 11.



Photo by Joe Dunn

NACo President Bill Hansell (second from left) testifies at the Senate's first Town Hall Meeting on Meth. Fellow panelists pictured here, include (l-r): James C. Backstrom, Dakota County, Minn. attorney; Hansell; Dr. Robert Brandjord, president, American Dental Association; and Loni Perrin, recovering meth addict. For a report on the Meth Town Hall meeting, see page 3.

## Bush budget request favors defense over domestic spending

By EDWIN S. ROSADO  
LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

President George W. Bush submitted his FY07 budget to Congress Feb. 6, which was met with derision and outright hostility by members of Congress because it is considered to be unrealistic and particularly draconian in an election year.

The budget slashes many programs of vital importance to counties, while substantially increasing defense discretionary spending. It adds money for some programs within homeland security, while reducing others.

Below is a snapshot analysis, from our legislative team, of some of the programs affected by the proposed budget.

### Agriculture and Rural Spending

The budget requests \$21.5 billion in discretionary outlays for the Department of Agriculture, which represents a reduction of \$1.2 billion from FY06.

Under rural development, the Rural Community Advancement Program (RCAP) would be cut by \$102 million down to \$600 million. RCAP is the umbrella program for rural utilities, community facilities and rural business programs within USDA. In addition, the budget would cut assistance to farmers. Specifically, the budget recommends a 5-percent across the board cut in crop payments, and a payment limit cap of \$250,000 for all farmers.

### Community and Economic Development

The administration once again attacked federal community development programs, slashing CDBG formula grants by nearly \$1 billion dollars. The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) FY06 formula amount of \$3.71 billion was reduced to \$2.97 billion, and the Strengthening America's Communities Initiative (SACI) was reintroduced.

Language indicated that while programs such as CDBG and EDA appear in budget documents, the administration intended to develop and implement a common set of

■ See **BUDGET** on page 5

## Budget reconciliation troubling for counties

By MARILINA SANZ  
AND JENNIFER WILSON  
ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTORS

The House voted Feb. 1 to approve the budget reconciliation bill by a margin of 216-214. The bill includes several provisions, particularly in the health and human services arena, that will cost states and counties billions of dollars.

### Human Services

The costliest provisions include reductions in child support payments, new requirements and penalties in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Block Grant (TANF), and reductions in allowable expenditures

under foster care administrative costs.

Child support enforcement efforts took a big hit as Congress eliminated the federal match for incentive funds, despite the fact that states are required to invest any incentive funds back into the system. In California alone, counties could lose \$91 million from FY07-08, according to the Child Support Directors Association. Overall, the Congressional Budget Office expects the change to cost states and counties \$1.5 billion over five years and tagged the elimination of the federal match as an unfunded

■ See **RECONCILIATION** on page 7

## Wi-fi signals wireless Internet revolution

By CHARLES TAYLOR  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Wireless Internet is on the move in urban, rural and suburban counties across the nation, and nowhere more literally than in King County (Seattle), Wash., where 29 Metro transit buses have been equipped with wi-fi access.

"We are in a very high-tech community," said King County Executive Ron Sims, whose county is home to Microsoft and Amazon.com. "Our

sense was that there was no reason for us not to have buses that reflect the community that we're in."

Demand for the service has been so high that it's strained the network. "We knew it would be popular," Sims explained. "We now have a challenge of trying to meet the demand, which is an exciting position to be in."

Short for wireless fidelity, wi-fi is a local area network (LAN) that

■ See **WI-FI** on page 2

## County News

## Quik Takes

**Quality of Life Ratings**  
**Top 5 Counties in the United States**

1. Los Alamos, N.M.
2. Olmsted, Minn.
3. Pitkin, Colo.
4. Douglas, Colo.
5. Loudoun, Va.

Source: American City Business Journal  
(2004 study used 20 statistical indicators to rate living conditions)

# NACo, NCMEC launch new public awareness campaign

By HERBERT C. JONES  
NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING  
& EXPLOITED CHILDREN

NACo's Large Urban County Caucus (LUCC) has joined with The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) to launch a public awareness campaign against sexual exploitation dubbed, "We're here because they're out there." The campaign was created to heighten the awareness of child sexual exploitation and give communities across the United States effective strategies

to better safeguard their children by preventing these crimes.

Throughout this campaign, county officials will be encouraged to convene task forces on sexual exploitation that can include law enforcement, social services, the clergy and members of the community. County officials will be urged to distribute information and begin a dialogue in their communities on preventing child sexual exploitation. Campaign organizers suggest that campaigns should culminate with one major event designed to wrap up the

preceding events.

NCMEC has prepared a tool kit to guide campaign participants through the planning, implementation and subsequent stages of this public awareness campaign.

For more information on the Campaign Against Sexual Exploitation, contact Rae Robinson at 703/838-8376 or via e-mail at [robinson@ncmec.org](mailto:robinson@ncmec.org).

Each year, thousands of children run away from home or are forced out of their homes. The Second National

Incidence Studies of Missing, Abducted, Runaway and Thrown-away Children reports that in a one-year period, more than 1.6 million children left their homes and stayed away at least overnight or were asked to leave by their parents or guardians. Some of these children leave home to escape physical or sexual abuse and neglect. Without legitimate means of supporting themselves or places to stay, many children end up on the streets; some become victims of sexual exploitation and physical abuse.

Child sexual exploitation has effects that may last a lifetime.

Many children will battle depression, post-traumatic stress syndrome, or become sexual abusers; some may even become sexual offenders themselves. This type of victimization often carries with it an enormous social and financial burden not only on the individual victims, but also on an entire community.

(Jones is NCMEC vice president for external affairs.)

## Counties seek economic development benefits in wi-fi

### ■ WI-FI from page 1

communicates via radio waves instead of wires. From Oregon to Arizona, Florida to Wyoming, counties are climbing on the wi-fi bandwagon — partly because wireless technology has made it easier to do, said Christopher Baum, an e-government expert with Gartner, a provider of research and analysis about the information technology industry.

"There's a very good social payback for it," said Baum, who has advised a number of local governments. "About half of the homes in the country are online one way or another, but it tends to be the people who have higher income. So how do you serve the group of people that don't have that income? We've got to solve the access problem. And the counties and cities that are providing access are often doing it for that reason."

Another reason is economic competitiveness, Baum added: "You need to have an educated workforce; you need to have a supporting infrastructure — which is the other big driver behind this — in order to spur private-sector development."

Phil Bertonini, Oakland County, Mich.'s deputy executive and chief information officer (CIO), agreed: "Manufacturing jobs have been going away by the thousands in the last couple of years," he said. "So there's a lot of workers out there who were making a darn good living in the factory that now need to enhance their technical skills."

"We believe there's a great workforce development issue here. And there's also the economic development, as we attract high-tech businesses from the new sectors around the world."

The business models vary from locality to locality; some counties are working in partnership with the private sector, others are deploying wi-fi zones — or hotspots — as purely local

government projects. In some parts of the country, the latter approach has run into opposition from telecommunications and cable providers alleging unfair competition.

A number of bills — pro and con — currently are making their way through Congress to address the issues. Sen. John Ensign (R-Nev.) has introduced The Broadband Investment and Consumer Choice Act, S. 1504. It would preempt local governments from offering broadband services to citizens, unless they first asked a private provider for permission. Existing municipal projects would be grandfathered, but would not be able to expand services.

On the plus side for local governments, last year, Sens. Frank Lautenberg (D-N.J.) and John McCain (R-Ariz.) introduced S. 1294, the Community Broadband Act of 2005. It would specifically permit municipalities to offer low-cost broadband service. If the bill passes, it would overturn all state legislation prohibiting municipal broadband systems.

In Michigan, the Michigan Association of Counties (MAC), working with several counties — including Oakland — was successful in getting the state's Telecommunications Act amended to make it easier for local units of government to offer telecom services. Currently, at least 14 states are considering bills that would limit the ability of localities to offer broadband.

### Wireless signals to blanket Oakland County, Mich.

One of the most ambitious projects in the nation is Oakland County's Wireless Oakland, where the Michigan county is working with a private company to blanket the county's 910 square miles with free wireless Internet, reaching 1.2 million people. Fifteen blocks of the city of Pontiac are already up and running; the goal is to have the entire county completed by the end of 2007.



Photo courtesy of King County

King County Executive Ron Sims logs on to wireless Internet service on a county Metro Transit bus as Metro Project Manager Wayne Watanabe looks on.

It's part of a broader initiative, said county CIO Bertolini, and the brainchild of County Executive L. Brooks Patterson. Wireless Oakland's three-pronged goal is to:

- deploy free wi-fi
- close the county's digital divide by providing free and low-cost computers to low-income and older residents, and
- create a technology toolkit for the county's 62 cities, villages and towns that provides model ordinances and other templates they can use to embrace technology.

For its wi-fi network, Oakland has contracted with MichTel Communications to build and operate the system.

"We do not want to own, operate or maintain this," Bertolini said. "And we also don't want to pay for it. What we want to do, though, is leverage all the assets that governments own in this county and provide them free of charge to the private sector — so towers, light poles, siren poles — everything we own is going to be free of charge to the provider." The county's premise is that residents have invested in the infrastructure as taxpayers and

will now reap the dividend of free Internet access.

Wireless Oakland will "give away" 128-kilobit-per-second access for free (about three times the speed dial-up modems actually deliver), "and then the higher bandwidth services can be sold by MichTel," Bertolini added.

For communities interested in adopting Oakland's model, Bertolini is also giving away the store, so to speak. "That's why we put up our Website ([www.wirelessoakland.org](http://www.wirelessoakland.org)); we're giving away our RFQ and everything. We just put it all out there," he explained, "because we believe we have a business model that's workable."

"We see the Internet as a 'have to have, not a nice to have' any longer. So I believe the business model can be replicated; there are a number of areas that are starting similar projects."

Arlington County, Va. is following a similar strategy, according to CIO Jack Belcher, in terms of working with the private sector. The county — a compact, urban enclave of 26 square miles, across the Potomac River from Washington, D.C. — initially plans to make free wi-fi available in its

public parks, community centers and around county government buildings. It already provides free wi-fi access near its main government center and central public library.

"We really do not want to create a traditional community wireless in terms of a government-sponsored initiative," Belcher said. "Given the demographics of the community — young, mobile people who want to have anytime, anywhere access to the Internet — we're trying to encourage [the private sector] to come in and do it and we're going to act as sort of a facilitator."

### Broward wires Fort Lauderdale's 'downtown campus'

Broward County (pop. 1.6 million) has created a more traditional community wireless zone — designing and installing its own "governmental-university campus" wi-fi area, said Leslie Stout, assistant to Broward's CIO. It's a joint venture involving the county's Office of Information Technology, Traffic Engineering and its Facilities Management Division.

Fort Lauderdale's wi-fi web covers a high-density area that includes two colleges, the main governmental campus and the city's main downtown library. The cost to the county: \$79,000 for start-up and \$100 per month in recurring costs.

"We're getting our feet wet in this area," Stout said. If the County Commission decides to expand coverage, it might consider working with the private sector, she added.

Whether motivated by enterprise or altruism, counties are proving there's more than one way ride the wireless wave.

Oakland County's Bertolini has been asked, "What made us so good-natured that we wanted to provide this service? Its time has come and we need to get involved," he answered.

# Burns, Inouye support local video franchising authority

NACo has praised Sens. Conrad Burns (R-Mont.) and Daniel Inouye (D-Hawaii) for developing a set of principles for the future of video franchising that reflect the need for continued involvement of local governments and fair competition.

As members of the Senate's Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee, Burns and Inouye play important roles in discussions about video franchising reform.

The principles, which were issued Feb. 2, are divided into three sections:

- recognize and reaffirm the role of states and localities in the video franchising process
- promote competition by facilitating speedy entry on fair terms, and

- promote competitive neutrality and a level playing field

"We appreciate the excellent work that Senators Burns and Inouye have done on this issue," said NACo President Bill Hansell. "These principles reflect many of the key ingredients that county officials have been advocating during discussions with many members of Congress and their staff.

"While some in the video industry have suggested that local governments are an impediment to the deployment of new, exciting video services, nothing could be further from reality," Hansell said. "Local governments are eager for wireline video competition."

Specifically, the statement of principles had this to say about

local franchising authority:

"The regulation of video services under Title VI relies upon a type of 'deliberately structured dualism' where state and local authorities have primary responsibility for administration of the franchising process within certain federal limits.

"Because each community may be unique, this framework recognizes that the local franchising authority is uniquely positioned to ensure that video providers meet each community's needs and interests in a fair and equitable manner, and are most effective in seeing that provider obligations are enforced. The federal government has neither the resources nor the expertise to address such issues.

"Consistent with existing law,

state or local franchise authorities should retain the authority to supervise rights-of-way use and recover the associated costs, to require the payment of a reasonable franchise fee, and to require sufficient outlets for local expression and appropriate institutional network obligations."

Proponents of a national franchising scheme for delivery of video services were not happy with the Burns and Inouye statement. Sen. John Ensign (R-Nev.), also a member of the Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee, commented that, "The suggestions from Burns and Inouye don't go far enough to speed the arrival of video competition, because the approach they espouse would require

expensive and time-consuming negotiations with thousands of cable franchise regulators across the country."

Likewise, the new AT&T had a similar response. "We have significant concerns that the principles released today will perpetuate the status quo, forcing new entrants into negotiations with thousands of entities and resulting in thousands of different sets of rules governing broadband deployment. In the end, competition will be delayed and consumer choice unrealized," AT&T spokeswoman Claudia Jones said.

(NACo Public Affairs Director Tom Goodman and Deputy Legislative Affairs Director Jeff Arnold contributed to this report.)

## From the President's PDA



### Methamphetamine Initiative Update

As I have traveled to different state association meetings, almost without exception, there has been something on the program dealing with methamphetamine issues. Partly because meth is one of my Presidential Initiatives,



Bill Hansell  
NACo President

I am often asked to speak or participate in panel discussions. The problems this drug has wrought upon our society are huge and multi-faceted.

I am encouraged with what so many of you are doing on the local and state level to combat this growing problem. I thought you might be interested in knowing some of what NACo had been doing over the past six months to raise awareness and seek solutions to the problem of methamphetamine abuse.

I believe we have made considerable progress raising awareness among the decision makers in Washington.

We began on July 5, 2005 by releasing two NACo surveys at the National Press Club on the impact of meth. The surveys were the *Criminal Effect of Meth on Communities* and the *Impact*

of Meth on Children. The surveys received tremendous media coverage and got the attention of the administration and Congress.

With that attention came invitations to testify on the Hill on three different occasions. The latest was when I testified before a Jan. 23 Senatorial Town Hall Meeting sponsored by Sen. Norm Coleman (R-Minn.) and Sen. Conrad Burns (R-Mont.). It was an excellent hearing, and I was able to state in response to a question by Sen. Coleman exactly what NACo wants Congress to do.

Prior to that opportunity, NACo First Vice President Eric Coleman and NACo Board member Valerie Brown testified at two different hearings. They both did a superb job in representing NACo.

As part of this initiative, I appointed the Methamphetamine Action Group, which is a committee of county officials that will guide and oversee the initiative. It is ably co-chaired by Commissioner Jane Halliburton of Story County, Iowa, and Minnesota Association of Counties Executive Director Jim Mulder.

In September 2005, the Meth Action Group met in Washington D.C. to discuss and refine NACo's strategy to reduce meth abuse. The Meth Action Group adopted an updated work plan and policy guidelines during the meeting. The group will meet again on March 3, prior to the

Legislative Conference.

Two more NACo surveys were released Jan. 18 at a National Press Club. One survey dealt with the impact of methamphetamine on public hospital systems and the other showed the effect on treatment programs. Again we have seen tremendous media coverage and interest in our findings.

NACo has received verbal approval of a \$345,000 grant from the Department of Justice to support research and educational activities on meth. We have also signed up two corporate sponsors of our meth initiative — Target and Netsmart. Each company is giving \$10,000.

Lastly, NACo has asked Tom Siebel, Internet billionaire and founder of Siebel Systems, to speak at a general session at the Legislative Conference. Siebel has recently funded a multi-million dollar meth awareness campaign called the Montana Meth Project. I think you will find his presentation very informative and challenging.

I am encouraged by what has happened in a few short months, for we are certainly having an impact on the issue both in Washington D.C. and on the state and local level. Together, we can make — and are making — a difference.

## Hansell hypes policy at Senate's Meth Town Hall

By JOSEPH DUNN  
ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

NACo President Bill Hansell testified before six senators at the first-ever Senate Town Hall meeting Jan. 23. The event, sponsored by Sens. Norm Coleman (R-Minn.) and Conrad Burns (R-Mont.), addressed the increasing dangers methamphetamines exact on the nation's communities and families.

The Meth Town Hall was broadcast live from Washington and functioned as a national forum where participants could understand the use and widespread impact of the drug, as well as seek ways to inform the public, deter use and examine possible legislative initiatives to further combat the meth epidemic.

Hansell shared the spotlight with fellow presenters: U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales; White House Office of National Drug Control Policy Director John Walters; Tom Siebel, chairman of the Montana Meth Project; and Ashley Smith, the Atlanta hostage and author. Siebel is a software billionaire who has privately funded the Montana Meth Project, which is a multimedia advertising campaign aimed at reducing first-time use of methamphetamine by teenagers in Montana.

In his remarks, Hansell stressed that NACo advocates a comprehensive strategy to combat the meth epidemic. Specifically, he called for Congress to enact the Combat Meth Epidemic Act, restore funding for the Justice Assistance Grant

program to FY05 levels, pass the Meth Remediation Act (S. 2019) and increase treatment funding through the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment block grant.

The Combat Meth Epidemic Act would mirror many state laws that restrict pseudoephedrine products. The bill is currently included in the Patriot Act reauthorization conference report. The Meth Remediation Act, sponsored by Sens. Gordon Smith (R-Ore.) and Max Baucus (D-Mont.) would require the Environmental Protection Agency to establish voluntary guidelines for the cleanup of former meth labs. Similar legislation passed the House at the end of 2005.

Hansell also briefed the senators and other panelists on the four recent surveys that NACo has conducted on the methamphetamine crisis. Particularly, Hansell noted that NACo's research has shown that meth is the top drug threat faced by county law enforcement agencies, that meth abuse has led to an increase in removing children from their homes and is the top illicit drug driving individuals to emergency rooms. In addition, Hansell highlighted the findings of NACo's treatment survey that showed that the need for meth treatment is increasing and many counties lack the capacity to meet that need.

Siebel will speak at the 2006 NACo Legislative Conference on the project. Smith was taken hostage in March of 2005 by Brian Nichols, following an Atlantic courthouse shoot out, and is a recovering meth addict.



# PROFILES

In Service...



## Marge Webster

County Commissioner  
Carroll County, N.H.

Vice-Chair, Justice and Public  
Safety Steering Committee

**Number of years active in NACo:** 19

**Years in Public Service:** 20

**Occupation:** Director of development for a countywide Community Action Agency

**Education:** I have nursing education background. Elliot Hospital School of Nursing and Kansas Wesleyan University

**The hardest thing I've ever done:** As a single parent, raise a son and have him be a happy, well-educated and a successful adult

**Three people (living or dead) I'd invite to dinner:** My dad, Ken Kuipers, Mother Theresa and Jackie Kennedy-Onassis. I know that is four.

**A dream I have is to:** Hope that I can make a difference in peoples' lives and give back "to pay the rent" for having the privilege to have lived on this earth.

**You'd be surprised to learn that I:** Used to race cars.

**The most adventurous thing I've ever done is:** Fly directly over Mount St. Helens in an owner-built, four-seat plane shortly after its 1980 eruption.

**My favorite way to relax is:** Travel.

**I'm most proud of:** My son and his accomplishments.

**Every morning I read:** *Conway Daily Sun* and *The Union Leader*.

**My favorite meal is:** American chop suey, and my second favorite is tuna steak.

**My pet peeve is:** People that are not real.

**My motto is:** "Don't forget who you are, where you came from and what you came to do."

**The last book I read was:** *A Million Little Pieces* by James Frey.

**My favorite movie is:** *Walk the Line*.

**My favorite music is:** Country.

**My favorite president is:** George W. Bush.



## County News invites Letters to the Editor

If you have a compliment, complaint or different point of view, let us know.

Please include a phone number with your letter. Mail, fax or e-mail to: County News, NACo, 440 First St., N.W., Washington, DC 20001-2080; 202/393-2630; [cnews@naco.org](mailto:cnews@naco.org).

# Florida counties team up for 'Prosperity Campaign'

BY ALLISON MALL  
EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

Hillsborough and Pinellas counties, in the Tampa Bay region of Florida, share the same geography and media outlets, so it only makes sense that they would also share cost-saving programs for their residents.

The counties have teamed up for the second year of the Prosperity Campaign of Hillsborough and Pinellas counties, a program which helps low and moderate-income families with tax preparation and, in turn, helps the counties' economy.

The program began in 2004, after Hillsborough County's Living Wage Task Force concluded that millions of dollars were available through the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit (CTC), but were not being claimed by residents. EITC and CTC were enacted by Congress in 1975 and lift more American children out of poverty each year than any other government program.

According to Cherin Stover, Pinellas' project coordinator, only 15 percent to 20 percent of families in the region claimed their EITC before the program began, because they weren't aware that they qualified for it or didn't know how to file for it. The Prosperity Campaign is changing all that.

During the 2004 tax season, the Prosperity Campaign filed returns for families totaling \$10.8 million in returns, including \$2.9 million under the EITC and \$1.5 million under the CTC. An estimated 400 IRS-certified volunteers and county staff in 74 tax preparation sites throughout Pinellas and Hillsborough counties helped more than 15,000 families file their returns.

"Many tax preparers have told me that it is a very rewarding feeling for them to be helping people, for free, with something the people earned but were not aware of," said Kristen Gopman, the program's project coordinator for the Hillsborough County Health and Social Services Department. "Knowing that we are giving people the opportunity to walk out of the site with their rapid refund coming soon is a great feeling."

The most promising aspect of the Prosperity Campaign is not just the cash that families receive from their tax return, it is the hope that it gives to low-to-moderate-income families. The program also offers free financial services about what to do with the money from a tax return. Services addressing issues such as budgeting, credit, debt management assistance, financial planning, home ownership,

paying for education, privacy, fraud and scams, responding to life events, retirement planning, and savings and investing are offered through the program's partners.

"Many people think that owning a home is someone else's dream. We can make it their dream," said Stover while recalling some of the people she had helped during Pinellas County's original Wealth Building Coalition, which the Prosperity Campaign grew from.

The Prosperity Campaign of Hillsborough and Pinellas counties is a coalition of nearly 100 public sector, private and nonprofit organizations. Overall coordination

of the campaign is provided at no cost by the United Way of Tampa Bay, which also provides funding for marketing materials. The total operating budget for the program is \$279,000, and the community benefit of last year's campaign was \$13.1 million.

(For more information on the Prosperity Campaign of Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties, go to [www.prosperitycampaign.com](http://www.prosperitycampaign.com). To find a free tax preparation site in your area, call 2-1-1, or if calling from a cell phone, call 813/234-1234 in Hillsborough County and 727/210-4211 in Pinellas County.)

# Congress sets DTV transition for 2009

BY JEFF ARNOLD  
DEPUTY LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

The public safety community that wants to use the 700-MHz band of spectrum will finally have a specific date as to when it will be cleared so the U.S. government can grant the spectrum to those communities. Congress approved legislation Feb. 1, that sets Feb. 17, 2009, as the hard deadline for ending U.S. analog broadcasts in the 700-MHz band.

The legislation, inserted into the reconciliation bill because Congress expects to make money from the auction of this band, is now awaiting a signature from President George W. Bush, which is expected. NACo fully supported the concept of a hard date and worked with

public safety associations to make it a reality.

In 1997, Congress said that in 2007 broadcasters would have to return the spectrum they were given to facilitate the transition to digital TV (DTV), but TV broadcasters could keep their space on the spectrum if more than 15 percent of the homes in their viewing areas could not receive digital signals. The hard date now eliminates this condition.

The Congressional Budget Office has estimated the value of the DTV spectrum at around \$10 billion. The budget bill also sets aside \$1 billion to aid public safety interoperability and creates a fund to subsidize set-top converter boxes for people who receive TV signals over the air.

## County News

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# Tax cut legislation would affect municipal bond pools

By Alysoun McLaughlin  
ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

Tax cut legislation, recently adopted by both the Senate and House, contains several provisions — outlined below — that would affect local governments.

## Local sales tax deductions

Both bills would extend the option to deduct state and local sales taxes in lieu of income taxes (the House bill for one year; the Senate bill for two). Both bills would also extend the expiration dates on a number of additional tax cuts, including the above-the-line deduction for higher education expenses, teachers' classroom expenses, the work opportunity and welfare-to-work tax credits, and expanded small business expensing.

## Municipal bonds

Municipal bond pools in several states would be affected by a provision in the Senate bill that would require

pools to impose up-front loan commitment fees and to disburse at least half of their bond proceeds within one year.

Counties in several states take advantage of bond pools to share the costs of retaining bond counsel and complying with complicated federal arbitrage rebate requirements.

The requirement for up-front loan commitment fees is designed to discourage abuses that are already violations of current law; however, county officials have indicated that nonrefundable fees would unfairly require counties to commit before the terms of the bond issuance are finalized. The spend-down requirement accelerates a current-law requirement that 95 percent of bond proceeds be disbursed within three years, shifting the burden of managing funds that cannot be spent within a year and eliminating the cost-savings from sharing this administrative burden.

This provision is not contained in the House version, and it has not been determined whether it will emerge from the conference deliberations.

## Conference committee

It may take several weeks for a conference committee to reconcile differences between the two bills,

particularly over a \$20-billion provision in the House bill to extend the expiration of a reduced tax rate on capital gains and dividends, from 2008 to 2010. The Senate bill instead contains a \$30-billion provision to extend the "AMT patch" that prevents an increasing number of taxpayers from becoming subject to the Alternative

Minimum Tax this year. While Senate leaders have publicly committed to working with the House to extend the reduced tax rate on capital gains and dividends in the final legislation, it will be difficult to accomplish both, and conferees cannot increase the overall price tag without subjecting the bill to filibuster in the Senate.

## Bush asks Congress to eliminate state grants for vocational education

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performance measures and goals for all federal community and economic development programs.

At HUD, the administration proposed to submit legislation to alter CDBG's formula distribution by reducing funding to wealthier communities and targeting communities with greater needs. Additionally, the administration proposes eliminating other community development programs such as the Section 108 loan guarantee program, brownfields clean-up, enterprise zones, rural housing and economic development by "consolidating" them into CDBG.

Communities may be eligible for "bonus funding" under CDBG for demonstrating the greatest progress in expanding ownership and opportunity. Similarly, at the Department of Commerce, budget documents stress the need to reform EDA by focusing additional resources on distressed communities.

With respect to housing assistance, the administration proposed to fund the HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) at \$1.9 billion, a boost from last year's level of \$1.7 billion plus \$100 million for the American Dream Downpayment Initiative. Homeless assistance grants would increase from \$1.3 billion to \$1.5 billion.

However, the budget proposal eliminates the HOPE VI public housing revitalization program, reduces funding for the Section 202 elderly housing program from \$742 million to \$735 million, and also reduces funding for the Section 811 disabled housing program from \$239 million to \$119 million.

## Education

The president's budget once again proposes to eliminate the state grants for vocational education (\$1.18 billion) to fund the new high school reform initiative. The \$346-million state grants for safe and drug-free schools would also be eliminated. The grants to local

education agencies for elementary and secondary education would remain at the FY06 level — \$12.71 billion, but there would be an additional \$200 million for areas that are having trouble meeting the No Child Left Behind Act requirements. The state grants for special education would receive \$10.68 billion, a \$100 million increase.

The president's new proposal for the improvement of math education would provide a total of \$250 million in competitive grants, divided equally between elementary and middle schools.

## Election assistance

The administration's budget proposes an increase in funding for the Election Assistance Commission from \$14 million to \$16 million, with most of the increase to be transferred to the National Institute of Standards and Technology for the development of federal voting systems standards (\$5 million, up from \$3 million in FY06).

The budget also proposes \$11 million through the Department of Health and Human Services for grants for polling place accessibility, a slight increase from FY06. The budget does not seek to restore \$680 million in funds authorized, but not appropriated, in FY03–FY05 to fully fund requirements payments to states under the Help America Vote Act.

## Department of Energy

The administration's budget request of \$23.6 billion for the Department of Energy (DOE) is on par with FY06 enacted levels. Under research and development for energy diversification, both solar energy and biomass/biofuels funding levels for research were increased over FY06 levels. The Solar America Initiative request is at \$148 million, an increase of \$65 million, and the Biomass/Biofuels Initiative may receive \$150 million, an increase of \$59 million.

Wind energy in FY06 received \$39 million, in FY07 the administration requests \$44 million, an increase of \$5 million. The FY07

fossil energy budget request is \$649 million, a reduction of \$193 million below FY06 appropriations. The FY07 request for the Weatherization Assistance Grants program would cut \$78.4 million from FY06 levels for a new total of \$164.2 million.

## Environmental Protection Agency

For FY07, the president's budget would give the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) \$7.3 billion, as opposed to the EPA's FY06-enacted budget of \$7.6 billion. There were significant cuts to a number of programs. In the water infrastructure funding realm, the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund (CWSRF) took a major hit while the Drinking Water SRF increased by \$4 million to \$841 million.

Even though the CWSRF was funded at \$886 million in FY06, the administration proposed \$668 million for FY07, a cut of \$218 million. The budget requests nearly \$1.3 billion for the Superfund program, a \$17 million increase over last year's enacted budget. The Diesel Emissions Reduction Grant Program recently enacted under the Energy Policy Act of 2005 is proposed to receive \$50 million.

The brownfields grant program, at \$49 million, remains approximately at the same FY06 funded levels. The budget proposal also includes \$16.8 million for wetland program grants, up from FY06 number of \$15.7 million.

## Health

The FY07 outlays for the Department of Health and Human Services will total close to \$700 billion, an increase of nearly \$60 billion over FY06. The proposal decreases Medicaid funding by \$12.5 billion over five years through regulatory changes.

The budget allots \$1.96 billion for health centers. This is \$181 million more than last year's number. The Substance Abuse and Mental

■ See BUDGET on page 6

## What's In a Seal?

### Blue Earth County, Minn.

The Blue Earth County, Minn. seal with its courthouse represents the history of Blue Earth County. The courthouse is one of the most prominent landmarks in Minnesota. Perched atop a hillside, the courthouse and its Lady Justice are visible for miles.

But the courthouse took some doing to get built.

Although the county was first organized in 1853, it was several years before the county built a new courthouse sufficient to hold the government. Land was surveyed for the courthouse in 1854; 30 years later, in 1884, the decision was made to build a new courthouse.

The result was a great controversy stemming from two concerns: the \$123,000 cost to build the courthouse and the disagreement about the county seat's location. Some county residents believed the courthouse should be in a more central location, like Garden City instead of Mankato.

Passing a \$75,000 bonding bill proved to be difficult, as voters believed the building to be an unnecessary extravagance. Commissioners forged ahead, knowing it was their responsibility to ensure the county had adequate buildings. They built the courthouse piece by piece as tax levies and bonds allowed.

In 1886, the basement was built, but it was not until October 1889 that the Blue Earth County Courthouse was completed. County staff quietly moved in, and since that time Blue Earth County Commissioners have met in the courthouse to direct county business. Because of the lasting animosity, officials abstained from a dedication ceremony for the building.

The courthouse was finally dedicated in 1988, nearly 100 years later.

(If you would like your county's seal featured, please contact Allison Mall at [amall@naco.org](mailto:amall@naco.org) or 202/942-4256.)



# Administration proposes \$35-million decrease in PILT funding for FY07

## ■ BUDGET from page 5

Health Services Administration received a budget request of \$3.3 billion which is a \$67-million decrease from FY06.

The budget proposes to lower reimbursement for Targeted Case Management (TCM) services to the administrative matching rate of 50 percent, saving \$1.2 billion over five years.

To curb the so-called "inappropriate" use of intergovernmental transfers (IGTs), the FY07 budget would cap payments to government providers at no more than the cost of furnishing the services. This is expected to save \$3.8 billion over five years.

The administration also plans to clarify provisions related to disproportionate share hospitals (DSH) and allowable services that can be claimed as rehabilitation services. Despite many cuts, the administration has proposed a new program, that will make \$500 million available annually for grants for adoption of innovative policies to promote insurance among the chronically ill.

### Homeland Security

The president's FY07 Department of Homeland Security (DHS) budget request further reduces aid to state and local governments by more than \$1 billion dollars. Specifically, DHS' State Homeland Security Grant Program is reduced by \$387 million from last year's request, but is \$73 million less than the current fiscal year's enacted levels. Additionally, DHS has greatly reduced funding for the Fire Fighter Assistance Grant Program (\$293 million, down from \$655 million in FY06) and Emergency Management Performance Grant Program (\$170 million, down from \$185), and eliminated funding for Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) and the Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program.

This proposed elimination is deeply disturbing, because in his FY07 Department of Justice budget request, the president has proposed the elimination of several grant programs (i.e., JAG, JBEG, SCAAP) that benefit local law enforcement. Overall, the DHS budget request calls for the reduction in many programs critical to state and local governments, and only slightly increases DHS' Urban Area Security Initiative (\$838 million, up from \$740 million in FY06).

This is consistent with the administration and DHS efforts to focus more funding to the areas with the "greatest risk and threat."

The DHS funding request also

# Administration Budget Proposal

Program	FY06*	FY07*	Percent Change
<b>* Figures in Millions</b>			
<b>Agriculture and Rural Affairs</b>			
RCAP	\$ 720	\$ 600	-16.7%
<b>Community and Economic Development</b>			
CDBG	3,716	2,970	-20.1%
HOME	1,700	1,900	11.8%
American Dream Downpayment Initiative	25	100	300.0%
Homeless Assistance	1,300	1,500	15.4%
HOPE VI	100	0	-100.0%
Sec 202 Elderly Housing	742	735	9.0%
Sec 811 Disabled Housing	239	119	-50.2%
<b>Environment, Energy and Land Use</b>			
EPA	7,600	7,300	-3.9%
Superfund	1,283	1,300	1.3%
Brownfields	49	49	0.0%
Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund	866	668	-22.9%
Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund	837	841	0.5%
<b>Finance and Intergovernmental Affairs</b>			
Election Assistance Commission	14	16	14.3%
HHS Polling Place Accessibility	11	11	0.0%
<b>Health</b>			
Medicaid	192,334	199,445	3.7%
SCHIP	5,775	5,244	-9.2%
CDC	8,401	8,223	-2.1%
CMS	543,605	598,082	10.0%
Health Centers	1,782	1,963	10.2%
Bioterrorism Hospital Preparedness (HRSA)	474	474	0.0%
Ryan White HIV/AIDS Activities	2,063	2,158	4.6%
Rural Health (HRSA)	160	27	-83.1%
Bioterrorism (CDC)	1,632	1,657	1.5%
Pandemic Influenza Activities (CDC)	123	188	52.8%
SAMHSA	3,327	3,260	-2.0%
<b>Homeland Security</b>			
State Homeland Security Grant Program	550	633	15.1%
Urban Area Security Grant Program	765	838	9.5%
Fire Grants	655	293	-55.3%
EMPG	185	170	-8.1%
National Predisaster Mitigation Program	50	150	200.0%
<b>Human Services and Education</b>			
Food Stamps	33,293	33,236	-0.2%
TANF	17,058	17,058	0.0%
Foster Care & Adoption	6,708	6,941	3.5%

Program	FY06*	FY07*	Percent Change
Child Care Entitlement	\$ 2,917	\$ 2,917	0.0%
Child Care Discretionary	2,062	2,062	0.0%
SSBG	1,700	1,200	-29.4%
Head Start	6,786	6,786	0.0%
LIHEAP (block grant discretionary)	1,980	1,782	-10.0%
Home-Delivered Meals	182	181	-0.5%
Congregate Meals	385	384	-0.3%
Family Caregiver Support	162	160	-1.2%
Services & Centers for the Elderly	351	351	0.0%
CSBG	630	0	100.0%
Elem. & Secondary grants to states	12,713	12,713	0.0%
Special Education grants to states	10,583	10,683	0.0%
Refugee & Entrant Assistance	493	510	3.4%
Child Nutrition	13,206	13,902	5.3%
WIC	5,399	5,361	-0.7%
<b>Justice and Public Safety</b>			
SCAAP	405	0	-100.0%
Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative	241	395	63.9%
JABG	50	0	-100.0%
BYRNE DISCRETIONARY	191	0	-100.0%
JAG	417	0	-100.0%
JDPBG	0	33.5	100.0%
COPS	478	102	-78.7%
<b>Labor and Employment</b>			
Career Advancement Accounts	0	3,413	100.0%
Adult Training	857	712	-16.9%
Dislocated Workers	1,461	1,114	-23.7%
Youth Training	940.5	841	-10.6%
Employment Service	716	689	-3.7%
Job Corps	1,557	1,501	-3.6%
Community-Based Job Training Accounts	124	150	21.0%
<b>Public Lands</b>			
PILT	233	198	-15.0%
Refuge Revenue Sharing	14	11	-24%
Secure Rural Schools (Pending Finalization)	296	242	-18.2%
Wildland Fire	1,661	1,698	2.2%
<b>Transportation</b>			
Federal Highway Program	35868	39086	9.0%
Transit-Total	8505	8875.00	0.8%
Airport Improvement Program	3515	2750	-21.8%
Essential Air Service	110	50	-54.5%
Amtrak	1294	900	-30.4%

includes a Secure Border Initiative that would add \$454 million to hire 1,500 new border patrol agents, \$386 million for new detention space to help eliminate the "catch and release" practice and \$100 million for new technology.

### Interior/Public Lands

The administration proposes a decrease of \$35 million to the PILT program for FY07. This year's appropriation of \$233 million would be reduced to \$198 million. Secure Rural Schools will be decreased, although the amount is not yet final. Wildland Fire program funding would increase from \$1.66 billion in 2006 to \$1.69 billion in 2007 and Refuge Revenue Sharing would decrease from \$23 million in 2006 to \$14 million in 2007.

### Department of Labor

The administration proposes to cut the Department of Labor's discretionary budget by 5 percent, to \$10.9 billion for FY07. The administration again proposes consolidation of the basic adults, dislocated workers, youth employment and training funding with Employment Service funding in a block grant to states under a new Career Advancement Accounts (CAA) Initiative, funded at \$3.4 billion.

The FY07 budget includes \$150 million for the Community-Based Job Training program, a \$25 million increase over current levels, and level funding — \$20 million — for Prisoner Re-entry Initiative. The administration proposes to eliminate the Responsible Reintegration for Young Offenders \$49-million program along

with the Migrant and Seasonal Farm workers program currently funded at \$80 million.

### Law Enforcement

The administration has again proposed deep cuts and eliminations in state and local justice programs. This includes the elimination of the Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program (which consolidated the Byrne and Local Law Enforcement Block Grant programs); Byrne Discretionary Grants; the elimination of the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) and major cutbacks in juvenile justice and delinquency prevention programs including the elimination of the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant Program (JAG).

In FY06, JAG is funded at \$417

million while Byrne Discretionary is funded at \$191 million. The SCAAP program is currently funded at \$405 million. The Juvenile Accountability Block Grant is currently funded at \$50 million.

### Methamphetamine

The administration budget request doubles the drug enforcement set-aside in the Methamphetamine Hot Spots program to \$40 million.

Funding was set at \$63 million in FY06, however, that amount included \$43 million in earmarks. Additionally, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration requested \$98 million for the Access to Recovery voucher treatment program in 20 states. Within that amount,

■ See BUDGET on page 7



# Highways receive a boost

■ **BUDGET** from page 5

the administration is requesting that \$25 million be targeted for methamphetamine treatment.

## Social Services

The Administration for Children and Families budget has three significant proposals that will affect counties. First, the Social Services Block Grant would be reduced \$500 million from its current funding of \$1.7 billion.

Second, the budget proposes again to eliminate the \$630-million Community Services Block Grant and consolidate it into the SACI initiative.

Third, the budget proposes once again to allow states to receive an optional capped allocation under the foster care program, which is currently an open-ended entitlement.

The administration is proposing a reduction in the discretionary portion of the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), from \$1.98 billion to \$1.78 and eliminating the discretionary contingency fund of \$181 million. However, the Deficit Reduction Act provided new mandatory funds for LIHEAP of \$250 million for the basic grants and \$750 million for contingency funds for FY07. When all of these actions

are taken into account, there would be \$2.78 billion available for the program, an overall increase of \$621 million.

The Food and Nutrition Services estimates that the food stamp program will have a slight reduction from \$33.29 billion to \$33.23 billion based on fewer participants, but higher food costs. The administration is once again proposing to limit food stamp eligibility for families that receive non-cash assistance under TANF. Child nutrition programs would receive \$13.9 billion, a \$1-billion increase. This increase includes a \$300-million contingency fund.

## Transportation

The administration's FY07 transportation budget requests \$39.08 for the federal-aid highway program, a 9.6 percent increase over FY06 level of \$35.68 billion. Transit would receive \$8.87 billion, a jump in funding of \$370 million. The Airport Improvement Program is cut by 22 percent or \$765 million to \$2.75 million and Essential Air Service is reduced by \$50 million from the current level of \$110 million. The Amtrak request is \$900 million, down by 30 percent from the current funding level of \$1.294 billion.

# Anne Arundel County, Md. launches facility to help with Medicare enrollment

By DAN MILLER  
STAFF WRITER

Anne Arundel County, Md. Executive Janet Owens is quick on her feet when it comes to helping her county's seniors.

Within one week of hearing about Anne Arundel seniors' difficulty in navigating through Medicare Part D, Owens found, staffed and opened a facility devoted to helping Medicare recipients through the process. The Medicare Part D Assistance Center allows county seniors to come in, free of charge, and work with professionals from the Department of Aging and Disabilities.

"In just one week, we are seeing firsthand the real urgency of the situation," Owens said. "This center is addressing the concerns of 60 seniors a day, and no one is walking away without the necessary information to get the coverage that is right for them."

Susan Knight coordinates the county's Senior Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP), a service

that helps seniors make appropriate health care decisions, and has been working at the center since its inception. Knight emphasizes the need for the center.

"It has been very gratifying to see the kinds of help that we've been able to provide to people just in these few days," she said. "It validates the need for a center like this. I'm very pleased that our county was as forward-thinking as it was."

Every day, the center handles 45 phone calls, conducts eight to 10 hour-long appointments and handles approximately five walk-ins. While Knight urges seniors to make an appointment ahead of time, she doesn't turn anyone away.

"They won't leave the counselor's table until they know what's right for them," said Rhonda Wardlaw, Anne Arundel County director of communications.

Knight says that volunteers have been valuable assets to the center.

"A huge benefit at this time is that my volunteers have been with

me for a long time and now that they are needed for a large number of people, they are well trained," she said. "There is no substitute for experience when you are helping people with a program this complicated."

On top of conducting one-on-one appointments at the center, the county has also conducted seminars at churches and senior centers to help seniors understand the new rules.

While Anne Arundel has opened its own facility to help seniors with Medicare Part D, other counties are also stepping up to help their elderly residents.

Commissioners in Montgomery County, Ohio recently approved a program that would help Medicare recipients enroll. The SCRIPTS for Seniors program helps eligible seniors get individualized assistance in order to select the best plan for their situations.

In New Jersey, Somerset, Hunterdon and Middlesex counties have trained counselors to help residents enroll in programs.

# Foster care provision overturns court ruling

■ **RECONCILIATION** from page 1

mandate. However, even CBO's unfunded mandates designation failed to persuade enough congressmen to change their votes.

Another area where counties and states could lose substantial funds involves a change in the TANF caseload reduction credit. TANF has a 50-percent work participation requirement for one-parent families and a 90-percent requirement for two-parent families. However, the required percentage rate can be reduced based on a state's caseload reduction in comparison to 1995. The new requirement would change the base year to 2003 effective Oct. 3 of this year.

Failure to meet the new requirements will result in a 5-percent reduction in TANF funding. According to the Congressional Research Service, 47 states would fail to meet this requirement with the new base year. Two of the three that would meet the requirement, Ohio and Wisconsin, are county-administered states. Overall, states would have to increase their participation rates by 69 percent. The chart shows the new estimated baseline and the needed increase in participating one-parent families for states that have county-administered systems.

There are several factors that will

affect states' ability to meet these new requirements. Considerably more families will need child care, yet the bill only provides an increase of \$1 billion in mandatory child care funding over five years.

According to the Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP), this increase averages out to \$68.97 a month for each new family that must be served. The HHS secretary was given wide discretion to determine how states define allowable work activities and who must participate. If the secretary imposes stricter criteria, then some families who are now complying with the requirements will be out of compliance, which would further lower the state's participation rates.

Additionally, state programs that are used as maintenance of effort for TANF must meet the new federal requirements.

## Foster Care

The first foster care provision repeals the *Rosales v. Thompson* decision of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals and is retroactive to October 2005. This decision allowed states to consider the financial circumstances of the kinship home where the child is living for foster care Title IV-E eligibility purposes, instead of the income of the home from which the child was removed. By so doing, the

case opened up IV-E eligibility to thousands of children.

While this case directly affected only western states, a number of other states filed appeals based on the decision. This provision will reduce federal reimbursements nearly \$400 million over five years. The most affected states are in the western region.

A second foster care provision would codify pending regulations on the use of IV-E administrative and training funds. The bill places limits on the use of administrative costs involving children who are considered to be candidates for foster care. For example, allowable costs for support services aimed at preventing out-of-home placements would be restricted. Costs associated with assisting children living with non-custodial relatives or in institutions, such as psychiatric or medical facilities, would likewise be constrained.

## Health Care

The Budget Reconciliation package recently passed by Congress is expected to generate nearly \$40 billion in mandatory savings over the next five years. A large share of the savings will come from cuts in the Medicaid program.

■ See **RECONCILIATION** on page 9

## Word Search

### Washington State Counties

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Created by Allison Mall

*County News asked...*

# What's Ahead for Your County in 2006?

(Ed. Note: This is the third in a series of reports from NACo member counties on their plans for 2006. If you would like to let County News know your plans, e-mail [amall@naco.org](mailto:amall@naco.org).)

## Atlantic County, N.J.



**DENNIS LEVINSON**  
County Executive

In 2006, Atlantic County will continue its aggressive road and bridge building program, and will develop a Comprehensive Flood Management Program, to identify areas of improvement that are needed to address flooding that is associated with emergency evacuation during coastal storms.

The county will also prepare a feasibility analysis and concept development plan for an Aviation Research and Technology Park and will purchase 500 acres of open space for conservation and recreation purposes.

The Atlantic County departments of Public Safety and Family and Community Development will continue to work to provide services for ex-offenders; and work with the court system to continue full utilization of alternate detention methods.

## Bath County, Va.



**CLAIRE COLLINS**  
County Administrator

The county of Bath will focus on completing the Comprehensive Plan as a guide for community development over the next five years and address sustainable and managed growth emphasizing retention and growth in community economic sectors. Our major capital project will be renovation of our only high school that will occur over a two-year period.

The county will also address planning and implementation for broadband, phased in throughout the community, and stress the need to support entrepreneurialism to retain and grow a younger populace.

## Chesterfield County, Va.



**LANE RAMSEY**  
County Administrator

In November 2005, Gov. Mark Warner announced the privatization of Virginia's Information Technology program, with Northrop Grumman as the company named to lead that effort. Northrop Grumman indicated it would build a major facility in Chesterfield County, investing more than \$250 million over the next 10 years and creating more than 700 jobs. Assisting Northrop Grumman with this project will be a major economic development priority for the county in 2006, and it is anticipated that this major investment will spawn other technology company moves to the site. The county will focus significantly on economic development in 2006.

The county's major technology initiative for financial and human resources/payroll system, In Focus, will go live in 2006.

Using federal grant funding provided by the Urban Area Security Initiative (Homeland Defense), Chesterfield County has spearheaded numerous projects to enhance the Metropolitan Richmond region's capability to respond to disasters. By July 1, Richmond and the surrounding counties will install emergency

public information radio systems to enable localities to keep residents informed even when widespread power and telephone outages occur.

## Guilford County, N.C.



**WILLIE BEST**  
County Manager

Guilford County is in the process of implementing a new Financial Reporting System, since the current system is about 30 years old. In addition, the county is considering the construction of a new detention facility. The current facility is overcrowded, like so many facilities across the country.

## Claiborne County, Miss.



**JAMES MILLER**  
County Administrator

The collective leadership of Claiborne County is working hard to become the first county in the country in more than 30 years to build a new nuclear power plant.

To that end, the nation's largest consortium of nuclear energy companies (NuStart) has selected Grand Gulf Nuclear Station near Port Gibson, Miss. as one of two sites where it will apply for a combined construction and operating license (COL) for a new nuclear plant.

As we approach the possible building of Grand Gulf II, the County

Board must come to grips with the issue of whether the county will be adequately compensated for the demands this project places on public service, and other socio-economic impacts of this next generation of nuclear energy systems.

## Hart County, Ga.



**JON CAIME**  
County Administrator

Hart County has re-issued a one-cent sales tax and has numerous multi-million dollar projects planned including: potable water line construction, road construction, the purchase of fire trucks and equipment, economic development/capital investments and the construction of a recreation park.

Unemployment is the top concern in Hart County. This year it will continue its efforts in promoting economic development, and plans to hire the first full-time economic developer and continue or enact several strategies to promote job growth.

## Larimer County, Colo.



**FRANK LANCASTER**  
County Manager

County officials will be putting together a ballot issue for the November 2006 vote to ask voters for a sales and/or property tax increase

to fund criminal justice programs and facilities. The Criminal Justice Advisory Committee has been working for several years to create efficiencies in the criminal justice system and now we will go to voters and ask for funding to do what can't be done through efficiencies alone.

Larimer County has several facilities projects on tap. It'll build a 4-H youth building at the Fairgrounds and Events complex, and a new county offices building is slated for the Loveland, Colo. campus.

The county also has numerous ongoing county projects to increase recycling, use alternative fuels, and manage parks and open lands.

## Humboldt County, Calif.



**LORETTA NICKOLAUS**  
County Administrative Officer

Humboldt County, a community of 130,000 on northern California's Redwood Coast, is looking at 2006 as a "rebuilding year." After several years of drastic state budget cuts, the county was able to stabilize its finances in 2005. New multi-year agreements have been signed with all of the county's bargaining units, a new budget format was unveiled and the county is beginning to grapple with deferred maintenance and capital project needs. These factors have combined to allow the county to focus on improved services to residents in the year ahead. Unfortunately, for many of our residents, the early part of the year will involve literal rebuilding, as the county recovers from a New Year's storm damage that was the worst to hit the area in nearly a decade.

## Bayfield County, Wis.

(PHOTO NOT AVAILABLE)  
**MARK ABELS-ALLISON**  
County Administrator



# State flexibility in Medicaid expected to save \$1 billion

## ■ RECONCILIATION from page 7

The most problematic provision for counties concerns Medicaid's Targeted Case Management (TCM) services. A provision in the budget reconciliation bill, which clarifies the services included in TCM, could devastate many county programs.

For example, should a county use any mental health block grant dollars to finance case management services, for its Medicaid population, the Medicaid program could be relieved of any obligation to finance TCM services in their entirety.

Medicaid administrators expect to save money by ensuring that Medicaid dollars are not paying for any portion of a service that is also being paid for by other federal dollars and makes specific reference to foster care. This could be mean tremendous cost-shift to county governments.

Premiums and cost-sharing provisions will account for nearly \$2 billion in reduced federal spending — allowing higher co-payments for non-emergency services provided in an emergency room and increased cost-sharing for non-preferred drugs.

While the bill does protect certain mandatory populations from increased co-payments and premiums, there are no beneficiaries exempt from cost sharing for non-preferred prescription drugs. The bill also makes premiums and co-payments "enforceable," meaning that providers or pharmacists could deny services if a beneficiary cannot pay. Coverage

could also be terminated for failure to pay premiums for 60 days.

NACo supports minimal cost-sharing, however it is concerned that premiums and cost-sharing can create barriers to coverage, which in turn, could lead to additional uncompensated care costs.

## Flexibility for States

Allowing states flexibility in their Medicaid benefit packages is expected to save more than \$1 billion in federal spending. States will now

be allowed to replace the existing Medicaid benefit package for certain groups with "benchmark" coverage. This benchmark coverage, similar to State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), would include the standard Blue Cross Blue Shield plan offered under the Federal Employee Health Benefits Plan (FEHBP), health coverage for state employees, or the health coverage offered by the largest commercial HMO in the state. A major concern with this new flexibility is the potential that services traditionally covered by Medicaid would be excluded by the new benchmark plans.

Nearly one-third of the Medicaid savings in the bill come from changes in prescription drug payment policies, which will change the way state Medicaid programs pay pharmacists for prescriptions.

The average wholesale price (AWP) pricing mechanism will now be switched to the average manufacturer price (AMP). The AMP is shown to be significantly lower than the AWP. Using the AMP will decrease Medicaid revenues to pharmacists by lowering payments for drug ingredient expenditures.

Federal savings are also achieved by increasing penalties on individuals who transfer assets for less than fair market value to qualify for nursing home care.

In addition to increasing the "look-back" period (the time in which officials can look back in a person's financial history to determine Medicaid eligibility for long term care coverage) from three to five years, the start date of the penalty period was also changed from the date of the asset transfer to the date of Medicaid application. The CBO estimated that 15 percent of new Medicaid nursing home residents will be ineligible for Medicaid coverage for approximately three months because of the penalty and look-back provisions.

This is a major concern for county long-term care providers who will likely be paying for these stays with no federal assistance.

Another burdensome requirement of this legislation revolves around new documentation requirements for determining Medicaid eligibility. This provision will require most applicants (as well as current beneficiaries) to document their citizenship.

In addition to creating a hassle for county clerk offices, many low-income individuals will be denied or delayed Medicaid coverage until they can obtain the proper documentation from the appropriate agency.

Provider tax reforms are also included in the reconciliation bill.

Provider taxes related to managed care organizations (MCO) will be expanded to the entire MCO provider class, not just Medicaid

managed care providers. To qualify for federal reimbursement, a state's provider tax needs to apply to all MCOs.

## How They Voted

Thirteen Republicans crossed party lines to vote against the budget reconciliation bill. Two Republicans, Ernest Istook (Okla.) and Gary Miller (Calif.), plus one Democrat, Earl Blumenauer (Ore.), did not vote.

The 13 Republicans who crossed party lines were: Jim Gerlach (Pa.); Sam Johnson (Texas); Walter Jones (N.C.); Steven LaTourette (Ohio); Jim Leach (Iowa); John McHugh (N.Y.); Bob Ney (Ohio); Ron Paul (Texas); Jim Ramstad (Minn.); Robert Simmons (Conn.); Christopher Smith (N.J.); John Sweeney (Conn.); and Heather Wilson (N.M.).

Most of these members, represent states where counties have major responsibility in child welfare child support, TANF, Medicaid or a combination of these programs.

## TANF work requirements

(for where all or some counties administer TANF)

State	No. of 'New Participating Families' Needed
California	60,700
Colorado	1,200
D.C.	2,500
Maryland	6,300
Minnesota	6,000
New Jersey	3,800
New York	10,400
North Carolina	2,900
North Dakota	500
Ohio	0
Virginia	2,500
Wisconsin	0

Source: Center for Law and Social Policy

## Kent County, Del. to celebrate opening of educational center

### ■ 2006 from page 8

Bayfield and Ashland counties in northwestern Wisconsin are working with the University of Wisconsin to save the Ashland Agricultural Experiment Station. After budget cuts forced the College of Agriculture to reconsider continued funding for the northernmost station in the state, local groups rallied. After a host of meetings, the Fields, Waters and Woods Eco-Development Research Center was conceived.

The group is currently lobbying the university and state for a long term lease on the site to further the university and state mission, by way of a non-profit organization, continuing the nearly 100-year tradition of research, demonstration and education projects. Focus areas are intensive grazing, grass-based dairy, agro forestry and hazelnuts, native

seed production and community gardens.

## Kent County, Del.

(PHOTO NOT AVAILABLE)

DAVID BURRIS

Levy Court President

Kent County Levy Court, working in cooperation with the Delaware AeroSpace Education Foundation (DASEF), will celebrate the grand opening of DASEF's Innovation, Technology and Exploration Center (ITEC) in February. Located at Kent County's Big Oak Park in northern Kent County, ITEC will provide an interactive experience with emphasis on the appreciation and understanding of the natural world and beyond, and the integration of human ingenuity with the ecosystems of the earth.

## Announcing the Annual Smoke-Free County Challenge!

### Collect Your Pledges Now



To protect children from the harmful effects of secondhand smoke, NACo and the National Organization of Black County Officials are challenging counties to collect the most signed Smoke-Free Home pledge cards.

The cards ask the signer not to smoke, or allow others to smoke, around children. Exposure to secondhand smoke causes serious health effects in children, including bronchitis, pneumonia, ear infections, worsened asthma and even sudden infant death syndrome.

Participating counties will collect pledges from March 1 through May 31 of 2006, and the winning counties will receive special recognition.

Counties can sign-up for the challenge anytime until March 31.

For more details contact Justin Carmody at [jcarmody@naco.org](mailto:jcarmody@naco.org) or 202.942.4279.

# Counties band together to form regional brands

By DAN MILLER  
STAFF WRITER

While two heads may be better than one, three counties in Maryland have decided that in the case of economic development, one head is better than three.

In response to the base realign-

ment and closure process (BRAC), leaders from Harford, Baltimore and Cecil counties have united to create a new brand for their area called the Chesapeake Science and Security Corridor.

Based on the idea that the counties can attract more business by

working together rather than competing, corridor's sales team plans to market the region for its access to transportation, schools and location, among other features.

"It's an opportunity to showcase this region for the exceptional quality of life that it has," said Vernon Thompson, Cecil County's director of economic development. "It's important to try to do that in a systematic, coordinated and cooperative way."

Thompson expects a massive influx of jobs within the next five to six years due to BRAC's moving numerous military activities to the Aberdeen Proving Ground in Harford County. He says that each county brings something different to the alliance, such as Cecil County's land availability.

In order to sell the region, the

counties have tied together their Web sites and have begun doing face-to-face marketing with various contractors. The coalition pools information about the region's industrial, land availability and workforce resources.

"Rather than have someone have to navigate through each individual system, we thought it would be better if we joined together and formed a best-in-show atmosphere," Thompson said.

The idea of regional branding plays a statewide role in North Carolina. Jane Smith works with regional branding in her role as co-chair of the North Carolina Partnership for Economic Development.

"That's the whole idea with regionalism, you can't just market the whole state because there's so much variety," Smith said.

North Carolina's General Assembly created seven regions within the state, which range from 11 to 23 counties. The partnerships harness local, state, public, private, nonprofit and educational resources and leadership, and specialize in various areas. Smith emphasizes the program's vision of statewide consistency with regional flexibility.

The state has a recurring appropriation for the partnerships and funds them using a tiered formula based on levels of economic distress. North Carolina is the only state to have a comprehensive regional economic development infrastructure with dedicated funding and legislated organizational structure.

The end goal of the regions is to increase the tax base, promote job growth and promote information sharing between counties.

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## NACo conference attractions include day trip to world-class Brookfield Zoo



Cook County's Brookfield Zoo is one of the largest and most respected zoos in the country.

Cook County is hard at work organizing day trips and leisure activities for NACo 2006 conference attendees and their guests. The list of stellar recreational and educational opportunities is growing. One must-see destination is Cook County government's very own Brookfield Zoo.

Brookfield Zoo is widely acclaimed as one of the United States' largest and most respected zoos. The zoo, which is owned by the Cook County Forest Preserve District and managed by the Chicago Zoological Society, houses a vast range of animals and exhibits, as well as first-class education and wildlife conservation programs.

From its bear grottoes and children's zoo to its butterfly garden and new baby dolphin, Brookfield Zoo

offers more than 200 wild acres of sights and sounds that showcase the rich diversity of animal and plant life that share the planet with us.

Highlights include Habitat Africa's savannah and forest areas, the seasonal butterflies exhibit, featuring free-flying beauties from around the world, a world-renowned children's zoo, and the Seven Seas display, featuring performances by the zoo's always-engaging dolphin population.

One of the zoo's newest exhibits is the Regenstein Wolf Woods, offering unforgettable viewing opportunities of Mexican gray wolves in a setting that features a stream, ponds, earth mounds, fallen trees, a wetland and man-made beaver dams. Five alcoves along the lightly forested Wolf Woods Trail provide visitors

views of the animals digging, playing, chasing one another or resting atop a denning mound.

Visitors can also view the wolves via the Viewing Building, a structure covered with grass and plantings that offers another spectacular view of the wolves through a 40-by-80-ft. window along a wall that curves out toward the wolves' habitat.

The zoo's newest babies are also always a popular attraction. Recent additions to the zoo's family include a mongoose pup, a brand new bottle-nose dolphin and baby Bakari, the newest member of the zoo's gorilla troop.

Look for more news in this column about special trips and activities in Chicago during this August's NACo 2006 Annual Conference.



**FOCUS ON ACHIEVEMENT**

**Monroe County N.Y. Program Spreads Gospel of Healthy Living**

By CHARLES TAYLOR  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

*Ed. note: With Black History and American Heart months occurring in February, County News takes a look at what one New York county is doing to address black Americans' health disparities.*

For Pam Miller, the choice was simple: accept her hereditary legacy

or try to fight back.

"My brother has diabetes, my mom has diabetes," said Miller, 41, a Monroe County (Rochester), N.Y. resident. "There's risk of heart disease in our family; there's risk of stroke in our family. And I'm like, 'OK - I'm not going to get any of that.'"

Thanks to Monroe County's Healthy Living Program, a partner-

ship with the University of Rochester Medical Center, she's well on the way to lowering her risks. Miller lost 13 lbs. during the 12-week program and has substantially changed her eating habit habits. "I wasn't a big vegetable or fruit or whole-grain person. After taking the program, I have nothing but [whole] wheat bread, wheat English muffins, wheat bagels," she said with a laugh.

The Healthy Living Program is a free exercise and education program geared mainly toward black Americans and offered, most often, in churches. It was begun five years ago with \$300,000 in funding from Monroe County (pop. 735,343). Since then, it transitioned from county funding to being paid for by grants and corporate contributions — many from health-related companies.

Faith communities were chosen because the county had success, years earlier, working with churches through a state-funded Healthy Heart Project, said Carol Podgorski, vice president of Monroe County's Board of Health and head of the University of Rochester Medical Center's (URMC) wellness program. Last October, the program was recognized by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) with one of 10 Innovation in Prevention awards.

The program is an outgrowth of a community health assessment Monroe County did in the mid-'90s that found significant health disparities between the county's black and white populations — with black Americans at-risk for a host of chronic conditions — ranging from diabetes and heart disease to high blood pressure and stroke, Podgorski said.

National statistics support the county's findings. Black Americans are 1.5 times more likely than non-Hispanic whites to have high blood pressure, according to 2001 data from HHS's Office of Minority Health. Blacks are 50 percent more likely than their white adult counterparts to have a stroke and nearly two-and-a-half times more prone to be diagnosed by a physician as diabetic, compared to non-Hispanic white adults.

The Healthy Living Program is offered at 18-20 sites per year. It was devised by the county's Healthy Living Partnership, a coalition of more than 20 public and private sector organizations. Subgroups of the partnership worked on the exercise program and the healthy living curriculum, respectively.



Photo courtesy of Monroe County

**Healthy Living Program participants exercising at a senior center in Rochester (Monroe County), N.Y.**

While the program has been offered at community centers and work sites, it has had its biggest successes in churches, where session leaders often use bible verses to help motivate participants — lending new meaning to the phrase "bless your heart."

When the program was offered at Miller's church, she jumped at the chance to participate. The idea of learning and working out with friends and church members was just the push she needed to continue weight-loss program she had already begun. Miller, who graduated Jan. 23, recalled one of the scriptures they used, from the Book of Hebrews that said, in essence, those who have been tempted can help those who are being tempted.

"A lot of us had the same issues," she said of her friends at Faith Temple Apostolic Church. "So we got to vent some of the issues, and you weren't ashamed or afraid to talk about what was going on in your life, because you already knew these people."

Added Dr. Nancy Bennett, deputy director of Monroe County's Public Health Department, "We really need as communities to support programming that is based in natural social institutions in the community that people can access through the places they go naturally."

Podgorski said, "The feedback has been phenomenal. The pastors have loved it. What we know is that it empowers people. Its main function, really, is to move people along the stages-of-change continuum."

Apparently it's doing just that. Following up with participants after six months, Podgorski said, "Exercise falls off a little, but it's still much higher than baseline. But where we

make our greatest gains are from teaching people to read food labels. We continue to find gains after six months, in consumption of fruits and vegetables, reduction of salt intake, reduction of fat intake and increase in fiber intake."

One side benefit of the Monroe County program is that it's creating an army of believers who are spreading the gospel of healthy living. Podgorski said the university's Lifetime Wellness Center got a grant to train African Americans to become nationally certified exercise instructors, "to keep the programs going." Thus far, 28 blacks and three Latinas have been certified. They, in turn, are being hired by some churches who want to continue or start fitness programs.

For communities interested in developing such programs, Podgorski said they should "find other people in the community who are passionate about it — pastors or group leaders, people who are open minded about the idea. It can definitely be done as a volunteer effort."

"There are a lot of people in the African-American community who really do want to know that change is possible and really do understand that they don't have to live with the chronic illnesses that their family members before them have gone through."

*(For more information about the Healthy Living Program, visit [www.urmc.rochester.edu/MCH/Wellness/HLP.htm](http://www.urmc.rochester.edu/MCH/Wellness/HLP.htm). Dr. Bennett's PowerPoint about the program, presented at the 3rd National Prevention Summit in Washington last October, is available at [www.healthierus.gov/stepp/2005slides/B2/Bennett.ppt](http://www.healthierus.gov/stepp/2005slides/B2/Bennett.ppt))*

**web watch**

■ **New Best Practices Pubs Available at NACo Web site**

NACo's Research Division has compiled several new *Best Practices* guides, which can be downloaded free-of-charge by NACo members. The new publications focus on community and economic development, affordable housing, the environment, health and human services. Sign into the Members-Only section at [www.naco.org](http://www.naco.org).

■ **PERI Opens New E-Training Center**

The Public Entity Risk Institute (PERI) has opened a new E-Training Center aimed at reaching a broader population of small organizations, such as county governments, with critical risk management training. The program features 16 courses on a range of key risk management subjects that are all available, initially at no charge through PERI's Web site. The line-up of risk management training courses includes law enforcement liability risk, construction safety and fleet safety fundamentals. Visit the PERI Web site at [www.riskinstitute.org](http://www.riskinstitute.org).



■ **Site Offers Unbiased Information on Political Candidates**

The Cambridge, Mass.-based Web site On The Issues offers non-partisan information for voters, so they can decide based on issues rather than on personalities and popularity.

Located at [www.ontheissues.org](http://www.ontheissues.org), the site has information about the candidates for the 2006 mid-term elections.

■ **ONDCP-sponsored Web Site Offers Meth Resources**

[Methresources.gov](http://Methresources.gov), a site sponsored in part by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, provides a broad range of information on meth-related topics. The site lists meth-related conferences across the country, publications and research, information on programs, funding options and training opportunities.



*(Web Watch is compiled by Dan Miller, staff writer. If you have an item you would like featured, please e-mail it to him at [dmiller@naco.org](mailto:dmiller@naco.org).)*



## NEWS FROM THE NATION'S COUNTIES



### ► SPOTLIGHT ◀

Thanks to the **Pittsburgh Steelers'** Super Bowl win over the Seattle Seahawks, **ALLEGHENY COUNTY** Chief Executive Dan Onorato has some made-in-Washington State goodies coming his way.

For losing their friendly wager, **KING COUNTY** Executive Ron Sims will be mailing Onorato a Microsoft Xbox core system (from Redmond, Wash.) plus Xbox Live Premium Gold Pack, 360 media remote, two memory units, wireless controller, play and charger kit plus teen-rated games. Children's Hospital in Pittsburgh will be the ultimate beneficiary.

Sims is also sending smoked king salmon and Beechers Handmade Cheese — a gourmet cheese made at the Seattle's famous Pike Place Market using milk from a King County dairy.

"Just like the Seahawks, our wager offers the best of the Northwest," said Sims, congratulating the Steelers on their win and thanking the Seahawks for "an incredible season."

Allegheny County and King County have a number of similarities: Both are among the largest U.S. counties, with 1.3 million and 1.8 million residents, respectively. Both counties include solid, urban core cities — Pittsburgh and Seattle — and both operate under the executive/council model of governance.

### ARIZONA

**Court hearings** could be on the **YUMA COUNTY** programming grid if officials approve a plan that includes \$50,000 to broadcast them on the county government channel.

Advocates of the broadcasts, which could begin as early as 2007, say that televising the hearings will allow more people to see how the judicial system works and make the courts more accessible to the public. The Board of Supervisors will review the plan in mid-February, according to the Associated Press.

Not all cases would be broadcast, such as the ones that could possibly taint jurors in related cases or instances where participants could be unnecessarily hurt by the case being broadcast.

### CALIFORNIA

**ORANGE COUNTY** officials have selected a famous New York landscape architect to design what will become one of the nation's largest **urban parks**. Ken Smith, best

known for his work in New York City, describes the park as the "project of a lifetime."

Made from the runways of the closed El Toro Marine base, the park will feature a canyon that plunges 70 feet deep and stretches more than two miles. At the park's center, the planned canyon will widen to accommodate a lake, a lodge, hot-air balloons, an air museum and an amphitheater, according to the *Los Angeles Times*.

Officials say the park will not require a tax increase. Funding will come from fees and taxes collected from surrounding development. The park will be in the middle of a 3,700-acre development by building company Lennar Corp.

### COLORADO

Steve Hogan, a city councilman from Aurora, is trying to revive a proposal to turn the city of almost 300,000 people into a **new county**.

According to the Associated Press, he proposed an ordinance at a special meeting to make the city a unified county, like Denver and Broomfield.

"I believe that the city of Aurora deserves to control its own destiny as it relates to serving the citizens," he told the AP.

In order to make the change, city and statewide voters need to approve the idea, which could appear on the ballot as soon as 2008.

By becoming a county, Hogan said, Aurora would run its own human services, elections offices, courthouse and jail while gaining control over transportation, homeland security and other funding spent in the city. Voters in the city, which occupies parts of Adams, Arapahoe and Douglas counties, rejected Hogan's proposal in 1996.

### MICHIGAN

Despite forecasting a \$140,000 deficit, the **ST. CLAIR COUNTY** Library System is facing a **surplus** of between \$50,000 and \$75,000. Now, library officials are hoping to restore funding to some areas that have been scaled back.

Library Director Jim Warwick attributes the extra money to higher interest revenue from its savings, under-spending and an increase in late fees, according to *The Times Herald*. This is the third surplus in a row for the library.

The library has reduced branch hours, staffing and programming due to a decrease in state and county funding in recent years. The library wants to ask voters to okay a tax hike later this year to support operations.

### MISSISSIPPI

**STONE** and **MARION** counties will receive an additional \$8 million in federal funding for post-hurricane **recovery reimbursement**, legislators say.

Sen. Trent Lott (R-Miss.) told the Associated Press that the money is intended to help the counties pay for expenses incurred by debris removal.

Marion County received approximately \$5.9 million in addition to the \$2.6 million previously granted, while Stone County received more than \$2 million. Both counties currently have debris that pose public health and safety threats.

"Like most south Mississippi counties, these governments incurred significant costs associated with Katrina clean-up," Lott said. "Particularly with the removal of unprecedented amounts of vegetation and man-made debris."

### NEW YORK

**SENECA** and **CAYUGA** counties should be held harmless, regardless of how a **land claim against them** by the Cayuga Indian Nation is resolved, according to N.Y. State Rep. Sherwood Boehlert.

The Indian nation has asked to have its land in the counties taken into federal trust for its own use, free from taxation and local jurisdiction, the *Finger Lakes Times* newspaper reported. The Nation's application affects nearly 14 acres in the town of Seneca Falls, and land and business operations in Cayuga County.

"The one area of universal agreement was in the hold-harmless agreement that the counties should not be penalized for the lack of deeds or misdeeds by the federal government," Boehlert told the newspaper, after a meeting with officials of both counties.

David Dresser, chairman of the Seneca County Board of Supervisors' Indian Land Claim Committee, said, "We had a thorough discussion of the issues. We've opened important dialogue with the congressman. He will be following up with us and we with him."

Boehlert has not taken a stand on the Nation's application, but supports its right to make its request to the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

### NORTH CAROLINA

**ONSLOW COUNTY** Sheriff Ed Brown is asking officers to use his **crowded jail** only for people who pose a serious threat.

Brown said in a memo he wants as many people as possible to be released on unsecured bond after they're charged, according to the Associated

Press. The memo was "just a reminder that this is the way we should be doing business," the wire service reported.

On Jan. 24, the jail had 226 inmates, nearly twice its official capacity of 118, but was down to 198 by the end of that week.

"We were at a capacity that I considered needed to be addressed," Brown said. "I wanted to make sure that we weren't filling the jail with people that could be released on an unsecured bond."

Meanwhile, the county and Jacksonville City Council are discussing expanding the jail in downtown Jacksonville. Onslow County proposes adding 25,000 square feet to the jail. Jacksonville officials oppose the expansion, AP reported.

### OREGON

**DESCHUTES COUNTY** commissioners have approved a resolution to establish a **Home Rule Charter** Committee, for which four citizen volunteers have been solicited. After they are selected, central Oregon's three senators and three representatives will appoint four additional members. The eight committee members will then appoint a 9th member to the committee.

A timeline for the committee to reach a recommendation will be decided after the committee is established. Committee staff support will be provided by the County.

After investigating alternative charter options for the organization of Deschutes County government, the Committee may decide to submit a proposed charter to the voters of Deschutes County at any primary or general election.

### PENNSYLVANIA

Agriculture officials have been dealing with a bird problem of Hitchcockian proportions in **LANCASTER COUNTY**. In an effort to disperse **more than 50,000 crows**, USDA officials spread poisoned bait. As a result, "They moved over a block and sat down and didn't want to come over," Harris Glass, state director of the USDA Wildlife Service, told the Associated Press.

Local officials say that huge flocks of migrating crows during the past decade have pecked at roofs, and soiled sidewalks, cars and crops with their droppings. In Manheim Township, Jim Martin, the town manager, said 30 to 40 buildings have sustained damage of about \$3,500 per site.

### VERMONT

Grand Isle, La. Mayor David Camardelle visited **GRAND ISLE COUNTY** recently to thank the

community for raising more than \$41,000 to help its namesake southern city **recover from Hurricane Katrina**. Fundraisers included a barbecue, silent auction and concert. Grand Isle County also donated a police car and ambulance to the Louisiana city.

Camardelle said of all the help his city has received — including from FEMA and major corporations — "The one that really cut to the heart was Grand Isle, Vermont," reported Burlington's *Free Press*. Hard hit by Katrina, Grand Isle, La. is located south of New Orleans; about 600 homes were destroyed, and many of its 1,500 residents have yet to return.

### VIRGINIA

The **FAIRFAX COUNTY** Board of Supervisors is asking state lawmakers for permission to arrest landlords who violate local rules on the number of **unrelated persons who can live in a single-family home**, reported *USA Today*.

The county wants to punish landlords who violate the local ordinance with up to one year in jail. Groups such as the ACLU argue that measures to address overcrowding are being targeted at Latino immigrants.

"Our focus is on health and safety," T. Dana Kauffman, a Democratic member of the board of supervisors, told the national newspaper. "I've seen crawl spaces turned into bedrooms... We've had people tap into gas lines."

In the growing national debate over immigration, cities and counties in New York and Georgia are also cracking down on landlords who permit several unrelated people to live in a single-family home.

### WASHINGTON

Real estate is booming in western Washington. **SKAGIT COUNTY** led the pack last year, where single-family **home values appreciated** 26.9 percent. Mason and Thurston counties saw 24.55 and 23.31 percent appreciation, respectively.

In descending order, these counties round out the top 5: Grays Harbor County, 22.79 percent; Kitsap County, 20.83 percent; and Pierce County, 20.04 percent, the Associated Press reported.

While King County has been driving the region's real estate boom, its 15.43-percent increase ranked in the bottom third for price increases last year. The median price of a single-family home in King County last year was \$374,000; the median condo price is \$214,000.

Sparsely populated Kittitas, Lewis and Grant counties were the only ones to post lower appreciation last year than King County.

RESEARCH NEWS

# Smoke-Free Laws Catching On

New Jersey is the latest. It will soon be followed by Washington D.C., and Montana's law will be enacted later. These are the most recent jurisdictions that have outlawed smoking in bars, restaurants, or workplaces (either in one, two or all three categories), a trend that is sweeping the nation.

Recent statistics from the American Nonsmokers Rights Foundation show exactly how widespread these regulations have become. As of Jan. 3, 2,120 municipalities have local laws restricting smoking. Of these, 124 have outlawed smoking in bars, restaurants and workplaces altogether.

In addition to local laws, 15 states have laws banning smoking in at least one of those places. In total, there are more than 6,000 municipalities covered by some smoking restrictions, affecting nearly 40 percent of the entire population. In general, the number of local clean indoor air laws has increased tenfold over the last 20 years.

These numbers are staggering. And they continue to grow, as many localities and states are exploring the option of passing smoking bans or placing the issue on ballots. These places are facing the same concerns and debates from citizens as those localities and states who have already passed such legislation.

The main objection comes from the local restaurants and bars, claiming that the smoking bans would drive away business. In each locality, there are stories about businesses being forced to close, cut back hours or lay off workers because of the loss of business.

In New Jersey, this was an especially noteworthy argument because there is a casino exemption in the smoking ban. This exemption has triggered the threat of a lawsuit from the state restaurant association, saying that the ban and exemption violate Equal Protection under the Constitution.

Maryland, which has banned smoking in workplaces and is now debating a general ban in all public spaces, is also facing the same fight by the restaurant association. The association argues that the ban would restrict an individual's and business owner's right to choose.

Another common argument among opponents of smoking bans,

especially those passed at the city or county level, is that customers can just go to the next town or county where there is no ban. The enforcement and uniformity of laws has been an issue for these groups.

Colorado is expected to pass a statewide ban, where 47 cities and counties have their own restrictions, creating state uniformity in the area.



In total, there are more than 6,000 municipalities covered by some smoking restrictions, affecting nearly 40 percent of the entire population.

This was a main issue in Hennepin County, Minn. Late last year, the county decided to re-evaluate its no smoking ordinance, which totally banned smoking in all bars and restaurants. Neighboring Ramsey County had a more relaxed ban, allowing smoking in places that serve more liquor than food as well as private clubs and restaurants with sufficient ventilation systems.

The Hennepin County business owners believed their county's tighter restrictions were causing customers to take their business to Ramsey, and claimed statistics showed that their restaurants and clubs lost both revenues and jobs under the ban.

In addition, opponents claimed that enforcement of the ban is difficult, since it would drain police resources away from more important duties, or the police would not uniformly enforce the ban because of other obligations. In other words, enforcing a no-smoking ban would be low on the list of priorities.

But the proponents of such smoking prohibition laws believe

the statistics are on their side, both in terms of the public health and the impact on businesses in the area.

An Associated Press article cited a study performed by a biophysicist researcher, which showed that "smoky bars and casinos have up to 50 times more cancer-causing particles in the air than highways and city streets...at rush hour." Employees of these establishments are at a much greater risk. The study also showed that the air pollution virtually disappears once smoking is prohibited. Studies by health groups also show that cases of heart attacks decrease when a ban is implemented.

Many economic studies of the impact of smoke-free establishments claim that the potential loss of jobs and income is a myth. Tax data in a number of states and localities, including New York City, California, and Dane County, Wis. show an increase in taxes paid by bars and restaurants (corresponding to an increase in sales), employment in those places has increased, and the overall number of bars and restaurants has increased.

Montgomery County, Md. issued its own report on the economic impact of the smoking ban on restaurants and bars. The ban was passed in 2003 for all restaurants, bars and workplaces in the unincorporated county, while incorporated districts had the option of passing such a ban.

The results of the study showed no real impact on taxable sales or employment; in fact, employment actually increased in bars and restaurants. The conclusion of this study was that the opponents' cries of losing business were not true.

Opponents of smoking bans have attacked the credibility of these studies, claiming they are conducted at the behest of the government to prove that the smoking bans are not harmful to local businesses. Most local restaurant and bar owners are not swayed by these statistics. But with more and more jurisdictions, both local and state, looking into developing and implementing smoking regulations, these owners might be fighting a losing battle.

(Research News was written by Joseph Hansen, research associate)

NACo ON THE MOVE

IN THE NEWS

• NACo was mentioned on Minnesota Public Radio during the "Marketplace Morning Report." The story focused on an EPA proposal to cut allowable daily levels of microscopic soot particles in half. Jeff Arnold, deputy legislative director, said that counties stand to lose revenue if standards are raised.

NACo OFFICERS AND COUNTY OFFICIALS

• President **Bill Hansell** discussed the meth initiative while at the Idaho Association of Counties Midwinter Legislative Conference Feb. 5-9 in Ada County (Boise). He also moderated a session on meth and spoke on NACo's meth initiative while he was attending the New York State Association of Counties Legislative Conference Jan. 30 - Feb. 1 in Albany County.

• President-elect **Colleen Landkamer** attended the West Virginia Association of Counties Annual Meeting in Kanawha County (Charleston) Feb. 5-7, and spoke to attendees about NACo's legislative successes.



Bill Hansell



Colleen Landkamer

NACo STAFF

• **Paul Beddoe** spoke about the role of local governments in improving forest health to Gov. Janet Napolitano's Forest Health Oversight Council Feb. 9 in Maricopa County (Phoenix), Ariz. Beddoe also represented WIR/NACo at the Idaho Association of Counties legislative conference, Feb. 6 - 8 in Ada County (Boise), Idaho.

• **Erik Johnston**, community services assistant, attended the West Virginia Association of Counties Annual meeting in Kanawha County (Charleston), Feb. 5-7. He discussed the availability of Five Star Restoration Grants and conducted a workshop on the benefits of the program.

• **Larry Naake**, NACo executive director, **Steve Swendiman**, FSC managing director/CEO, **Nancy Irish**, FSC director of program management, and **Jim Sawyer**, FSC director of management services, attended the annual meeting of the U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Alliance in San Diego County, Feb. 2-3.

The meeting brought together the 24 members of the advisory board and the 13 members of the board of directors, who set policy and guidance for the purchasing alliance. Naake served as this year's chairman of the board of directors.



Scott Stefan



Chanty Khem



Angelito Lim



Tiffany Black

• **Bert Jarreau**, chief information officer, gave a "How to Do Business with Counties" presentation to Citrix Systems' State, Local Government and Education conference in Orange County (Orlando), Fla. Feb. 2.

• There have been a number of promotions at NACo. In the accounting department, **Angelito Lim** has been promoted to assistant controller and **Tiffany Black** to senior accountant. In the IT department, **Scott Stefan** has been promoted to network manager and **Chanty Khem** to junior network administrator.

(On the Move is compiled by Dan Miller, staff writer, and Allison Mall, editorial assistant.)

What's NACo up to? ... Find out online ...

[www.naco.org](http://www.naco.org)

## THE H.R. DOCTOR IS IN

# Wall of Wonder

*A Guest Article by Elyse Rosenberg, an HR Daughter*

In 2006, both my father and I celebrated birthdays that marked new decades in our lives. We commemorated this event by inviting family and friends to a joint 90th birthday party (Dad turned 60 and I turned, well, the remainder). As my birthday approached, I found myself examining where I was in my life and asking "now what?"

I shared these thoughts with a friend and fellow public servant. She responded by e-mailing me a list of accomplishments and traits that she keeps about herself to look at in her dark moments. It was a very impressive list. It reminded me that we all, in our own lives as well as in our organizations, take too little time to look a long ways back and admire the path that we have trod.

One of my greatest opportunities working in county government has been undergoing training as a facilitator. Broward County has a group of several dozen trained facilitators who can be called to assist any county agency with strategic visioning and planning, process analysis, problem

resolution and other activities.

One of the tools we use is called a "Wall of Wonder." It encourages participants to build a giant timeline charting the seminal events in the history of the organization and then invites the group to step back and "wonder" at all they have accomplished. It is a great way to help put the forward-looking activity of goal-setting into perspective, as well as to teach newer staff members about the history of the organization.

I recently changed jobs in my county and have joined our Environmental Protection Department. This group began its organizational life as a separate board and, since joining the county, has undergone many reorganizations and name changes. Having just reached five years of service, I sit in awe of those who started working here the year I was born — or before. This is a reality that is difficult for some people in my generation, who tend to job-hop.

I took over my current position from a 30-plus-year veteran of the agency and, while I had the luxury



Photo courtesy of the HR Doctor

HR Daughter Elyse Rosenberg and the HR Dad, Phil Rosenberg.

of almost a month to transition beside him, I am overwhelmed by the amount of institutional memory he took with him. Despite his willingness to share, I only managed to absorb a tiny fraction of what he knows.

For my own edification, I hope to guide my agency through the process of building a "Wall of Wonder" so that I can better understand what gave rise to the department as it exists today. Why not include something like that in an orientation package? As scintillating as it is to read the administrative code and other enabling legislation, new hires can also benefit from getting a historical perspective on their new employers in the form of a visual history.

As a facilitator, I have seen many visioning, planning and goal-setting processes on both a macro and micro level. These processes are important but are plagued by at least two faults.

First, we develop new goals before we have achieved, or perhaps even begun work, on the previous goals. It seems that government employees often barely have time to develop a work plan to achieve a set of goals when we are presented with another set of goals.

This phenomenon can result in a watering down of staff enthusiasm about the process and can result in confusion about what the real direction may be.

Secondly, the vision is often lost in the day-to-day implementation. These goals are all noble and extremely well-intended, but long-range visions need to be digested into tactical bites that can be translated into budget requests

be "no." We don't circle back to the original strategic goals of many years ago because we know they probably were not achieved. That is not always a bad thing. My answer at age 10 to "where will you be in 20 years?" was not anything like where I currently am. I'm not quite U.S. Ambassador to France, but that's okay.

It is still worthwhile for me to examine the 20-year journey I took since then and why I am not, in fact, currently living in a fabulous Paris compound. What factors changed in my environment? In what ways did I change? What are the results of those changes and am I unhappy with where I am now?

As we enter a new year and, in my father's and my case, a new decade, perhaps one of our resolutions should be to be more mindful of history when planning our future. I encourage long-term public servants to record their experiences to pass on to those of us who will inherit your mantle. I look forward to encouraging my dad to do the same — maybe a memoir as one of my birthday presents? It's cheaper than an iPod!

Happy Birthday, Dad! I look forward to our 91st and, remember, I still better only see 29 candles on my cake!

*Elyse Rosenberg*  
The HR Daughter  
[www.hrdr.net](http://www.hrdr.net)

## FINANCIAL SERVICES NEWS

# New Contract Offers Better Savings on Office, Classroom Supplies

By STEVE SWENDIMAN  
MANAGING DIRECTOR/CEO, FSC

U.S. Communities has just launched a new office and classroom supplies contract through Office Depot that offers an increased savings on a greatly expanded number of products. Fairfax County, Va. reports increased savings of 10 percent, or \$1 million, on the new contract. Similar savings opportunities are now available to public agencies nationwide.

Some of the key features of the new contract are:

- 1,000 new classroom products
- 850 high-use core list classroom products, a 70 percent increase
- overall core-list pricing has been improved by 3 percent to 12 percent
- the addition of low-cost copy and print services

- new 800-page catalog of promotional products
- seasonal order entry system, to facilitate school deliveries
- increased discount for frequently ordered items from 63 percent to 70 percent, and
- office supplies core list has been expanded from 300 to 500 items.

U.S. Communities was formed in 1996 to provide competitively solicited government contracts to all local and state agencies and non-profit organizations in the United States.

By combining the buying power of the more than 87,000 state and local governments in America, the program is able to achieve substantial pricing discounts, implement best purchasing practices and offer substantial benefits to all levels of government.

## NOTICES

### ■ Conferences

• The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration, in partnership with Therapeutic Communities of America, is having a conference called The Road Home: National Behavioral Health Conference on Returning Veterans and Their Families, in Washington, D.C. March 16–18. This conference will give federal, state and local public and private service providers evidence-based information and approaches that can help veterans and their families build resiliency to prevent and to treat mental health disorders, including Post-Traumatic Stress Disorders (PTSD), substance abuse disorders, suicide and/or co-occurring disorders. Register for free online at [www.samhsa.gov](http://www.samhsa.gov).

### ■ Forums

• A forum on Complexity Science and Public Policy will be held in Washington, D.C. March 9. The keynote speaker is John Holland, world-renowned complexity scientist of the Santa Fe Institute and the Center for the Study of Complex Systems at the University of Michigan. Mitch Waldrop, author of *Complexity*, will moderate the panel discussion. The forum will be in Room HC-5 in the U.S. Capitol Building from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, visit [www.catalystdc.org](http://www.catalystdc.org) or call 202/265-8280.

(If you have an event or publication or conference that you would like to be featured in Notices, please e-mail it to [amal@naco.org](mailto:amal@naco.org).)



## JOB MARKET / CLASSIFIEDS

### ■ CHIEF OF POLICE —

#### NEW CASTLE COUNTY, DEL.

**Salary:** \$92,344 – \$143,255, DOQ.  
New Castle County, Del. (pop. 500,250) is located near Philadelphia about midway between Washington, D.C. and New York City. The county covers 494 square miles. Topography varies from the rolling hills and forest covered "Chateau Country" in the north to farmland and tidal marshes in the south.

The chief of police is a non-merit system position which is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the county executive. The chief receives day-to-day supervision from the public safety director and is responsible for directing and managing the overall activities of a large, full-service police department which employs 357 sworn personnel plus civilian support staff.

Requires a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university plus supplemental police training combined with significant and successful experience at the chief (or second in command) level in a law enforcement agency with 300 or more sworn personnel. Master's degree or senior police executive training, such as the FBI National Academy or the Southern Police Institute, preferred. Must hold a current Delaware Council on Police Training certification or be able to secure it within six months of appointment. Must be able to pass a county pre-employment physical examination. Must be a proven manager, strategic thinker, team player and strong leader with exceptional communication skills. Requires the ability to work effectively with associates, governmental and private officials and agencies, and the public to promote an ongoing commitment to providing excellent customer service. Must value diversity and strive to achieve greater diversity throughout the police department. For additional information, please visit New Castle County on the Web at [www.nccde.org](http://www.nccde.org).

The position will remain open until filled. We are anxious to complete this search. Please send your resume immediately to: Robert E. Slavin, president, Slavin Management Consultants, 3040 Holcomb Bridge Road, Suite B-1, Norcross, GA 30071. 770/449-4656, [slavin@bellsouth.net](mailto:slavin@bellsouth.net), 770/416-0848 (fax). An equal opportunity recruiter/employer.

### ■ CITY AUDITOR — CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLA.

**Salary:** \$145,000 – \$160,000, DOQ.  
Known as the "Venice of America," world-renowned Fort Lauderdale is located in an oceanfront setting on Florida's southeast coast. It is the largest municipality in Broward County (pop. 1.4 million) and serves as the region's governmental, cultural and business hub.

Fort Lauderdale functions with a City Commission/City Manager form of government. The city commission, comprised of a mayor and four commissioners, appoints the city manager, city clerk, city attorney and the city auditor. The current city budget is more than \$400 million which supports 2,566 full-time equivalents. In addition to all typical municipal services, Fort Lauderdale operates

a municipal auditorium, a baseball stadium, the International Swimming Hall of Fame, a general aviation airport, a trash transfer station, two parking garages and seven miles of public beaches.

The city auditor position was created in 2004 through a city charter revision. Accordingly, the city auditor is to provide oversight and guidance for the installation of internal controls, procedures, and financial compliance as to assets, liabilities, revenues and expenditures for transactions of the city. Additionally, the city auditor is to provide oral and written reports of financial analysis and information pertaining to the operational requirements of the city charter, ordinances, rules and regulations, budget and policies of the city commission. The charter requires that the city auditor have an active Florida license to practice public accounting and have sufficient experience in governmental accounting and auditing. The auditor is viewed by the commission as a member of the team comprised of the other commission appointees and, while maintaining his/her independence, is expected to work as a cooperative and collaborative team member.

**Salary range:** \$145,000 to \$160,000, plus excellent benefits. The beginning salary is open and negotiable depending on qualifications.

The position will remain open until filled. We are anxious to complete this search. Please send your resume immediately to Robert E. Slavin, president,

Slavin Management Consultants, 3040 Holcomb Bridge Road, Suite B-1, Norcross, GA 30071. 770/449-4656, [slavin@bellsouth.net](mailto:slavin@bellsouth.net); 770/416-0848.

An equal opportunity recruiter/employer.

### ■ DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES — THE WASHINGTON SUBURBAN SANITATION COMMISSION

**Salary:** DOQ.

WSSC is seeking an accomplished director of human resources to provide strategic leadership and management of the people function in one of the nation's 10 largest water and wastewater utilities. WSSC employs a workforce of 1,500. The director reports to the general manager/CEO and manages a staff of 20 HR professionals. Responsibilities include planning, organizing and directing the HR function in the areas of employment; compensation and benefits; employee and labor relations; policy; training; and HRIS. Will provide assistance to the general manager and senior management team in people management—developing and maintaining a high-performing work organization. Will develop and implement HR policies, programs and practices that will attract, develop and retain the best qualified employees, ensures that HR is strategically aligned with WSSC's strategic plan and vision/direction of the general manager. Requires 15 years of progressively responsible professional experience in HR of which five (5) years must have been as head of a HR department for a large organization. Must have state-of-the-art, best practices knowledge of strategic

HR, compensation/benefits programs, performance management, succession planning, and employee relations in addition to all other functions in HR. B.A. degree in HR, public administration, labor relations or related field. Certification as a Senior Professional Human Resources (SPHR) must be obtained within two years of employment. M.A. degree in HR or related field and public sector experience, preferred. Interested candidates should e-mail resume to Pat Hall Jaynes at [patjh@thehrsour.com](mailto:patjh@thehrsour.com).

### ■ DIRECTOR, PUBLIC INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS — JOHNSON COUNTY, KAN.

**Salary:** DOQ.

Johnson County, Kan. is a vibrant residential and business community with a national reputation for excellence in educational, residential and cultural opportunities. It is a diverse and thriving urban county located in the southwestern Kansas City metropolitan area. With more than 500,000 residents, it is the fastest growing county in Kansas (average annual growth rate 10,000 people). According to a recent study, American City Business Journals, Inc. ranks Johnson County seventh out of 3,141 counties for best quality of life and sixth among most educated.

Johnson County government is seeking an experienced public information and communications professional to oversee the creation, integration and strategic direction of the county's communications efforts. The director of public information and communications will develop and oversee a countywide approach for creating and managing the Johnson County government image and coordinating internal and external activities in conjunction with staff from the various county departments. The position reports directly to the county manager. Duties:

- Provide leadership to the county in the areas of public information and communications support for public information, employee recruitment, community relations and overall image enhancement. Collaborate and partner with county leadership to ensure that organizational efforts in these areas are effectively managed and coordinated to enable the county and its departments to achieve their strategic goals and objectives.
- Effectively coordinate the internal and external promotion and representation of Johnson County government, working with central and departmental public relations and communications staffs.
- Monitor applicable best practices and industry trends to refine information and communication strategies at the local, regional and national levels.
- Create and manage the strategic brand identity of Johnson County government to target audiences.
- Establish countywide standards for brand management to ensure maximum organizational benefit from these activities.
- Oversee the creation, development and budgetary management of the county's public information and communication

plans, including analysis of return on investment, in support of the county's strategic goals and initiatives.

- Lead ongoing research efforts for the county, including data collection and analysis.

Requires a bachelor's degree in business, public administration, communications or a related field; master's degree is preferred. The successful candidate must have seven years of progressively responsible public information, public affairs, communications, or directly relevant experience in increasingly responsible positions, including management of budget and staff, and three years of experience in a managerial or supervisory role. Must have a proven track record in building coalitions to achieve measurable goals; brand development experience.

Interested applicants should apply online at <http://hr.jocogov.org>; fax 913/715-1419; or mail to Johnson County Human Resources; 111 S. Cherry, Suite 2600, Olathe, KS 66061. EOE M/F/D.

### ■ HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR — MECKLENBURG COUNTY, N.C.

**Salary:** DOQ.

The position is responsible for leading and directing Mecklenburg County's strategic human capital management function. This includes providing consultation and human resources services to ensure the organization has the human capital to meet its current and future business needs. The primary focus of this position is to plan, direct and evaluate human resources services that are provided using a shared-services business model. Human resource services include workforce planning, recruitment and selection; job classification; compensation (pay and benefits); employee relations, and employee and organizational development. This position also administers human resource policies, and advises executive management on policies and practices to comply with state and federal employment laws and other related regulations.

This position also oversees the organization's human resource information system that enables significant employee and manager self-service in the delivery of human resources transactions. This position manages people, processes and products, consistent with the county's customer service standards of ethics,

courtesy and respect, communication, service quality, and timeliness.

Successful candidate will have at least a bachelor's degree in human resources administration, business administration, public administration, industrial/labor relations or related field. Master's degree preferred in business administration, public administration or related. A generalist is preferred. Experience should include at least six years in human resource management or business management involving human resources administration, including at least three years in a management or executive role.

Interested candidates should apply via the county's employment opportunities page at [www.charmeck.nc.us/Departments/Human+Resources+County/Home.htm](http://www.charmeck.nc.us/Departments/Human+Resources+County/Home.htm) and send a hard copy resume to: County Manager's Office, ATTN: HR Director Selection Process, PO Box 31787, Charlotte, NC 28231.

Deadline for applications is March 17.

### ■ PURCHASING AND MATERIALS MANAGER — CITY OF CHANDLER, ARIZ.

**Salary:** \$65,889 – \$92,569, DOQ.

The city of Chandler is looking for a candidate to direct and manage the functions of the Purchasing division. This position requires 5 years experience, prefer 7 years experience, in a professional capacity involving the procurement of a wide variety of materials, equipment, construction, contractual and professional provider services, with considerable experience in day-to-day supervisory or managerial capacity in a government setting procurement office; a bachelor's degree in purchasing, business administration or related field; and a CPPB, CPPO or CPM desirable. Salary: \$65,889 to \$92,569. Apply by March 17. City application forms available through the Internet or apply to: Human Resources 55 N. Arizona Pl, Suite 204, Chandler, AZ 85225. 480/782-2350. [www.chandleraz.gov](http://www.chandleraz.gov), e-mail: [jobs@chandleraz.gov](mailto:jobs@chandleraz.gov). EOE/ADA.

(If you would like information about advertising your job openings in County News and County News Online, please contact Allison Mall at 202/942-4256 or [amall@naco.org](mailto:amall@naco.org).)

## Job Market - Classified Rate Schedule

- **Line Rates:** \$7 per line, NACo member counties; \$10 per line, others.
- **Display Classified:** \$50 per column inch, NACo member counties; \$70 per column inch, others.
- **Billing:** Invoices will be sent after publication.
- **Mail advertising copy to:** Job Market, County News, 440 First St., N.W., Washington, DC 20001.
- **FAX advertising copy to:** Job Market, County News, 202/393-2630.
- **E-mail advertising copy to:** [edassist@naco.org](mailto:edassist@naco.org).
- **Be sure to include billing information along with copy.**
- **Estimates given prior to publication are approximations only and do not necessarily reflect final cost.**

For more information, contact the Job Market representative at 202/942-4256.



NATIONAL

# COUNTY GOVERNMENT WEEK



# 2006

April 23 - 29

Sponsored by the  
National Association  
of Counties to raise  
public awareness  
about the roles and  
responsibilities of  
counties.



# Protecting Our Communities



We make home possible™



Counties Care for America